

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECESS MEETING**

January 18, 2023  
10:00 AM



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



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## **MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: February 15, 2023**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:04 a.m.**

**ROLL CALL:** Nikki Peterson, Chief Deputy Clerk to the Commission

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****23-0024 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing item #23-0030 for separate consideration as requested by Commissioner Hall. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**23-0025 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Rosewood Centennial Commemoration Day." **(Hall)**  
January 14, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Cleo Orange Remembrance Day." **(Hall/Arrington)**  
January 17, 2023

**Commissioners' District Board Appointments****23-0026 Board of Commissioners**

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Pursuant to House Bill 595 (2015), there shall be seven Fulton County appointed members, with one such member appointed by each member of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County.

Term = Each member of the board of trustees appointed by a member of the board of commissioners shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing member of the Board of Commissioners and for the same term as the Commissioner making such appointment.

Terms below expired: 12/31/2022

Joseph Piontek **(Hausmann)**

Nina Radakovich **(Morris/Barrett)**

**Commissioner Barrett nominated Nina Radakovich for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.**

**23-0027 Board of Commissioners**  
**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Terms below expired: 12/31/2022  
Joseph Piontek (**Hausmann/Thorne**)  
Nina Radakovich (**Morris/Barrett**)

**Commissioner Thorne nominated Joseph Piontek for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**23-0028 Finance**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Finance Department - 21RFP1108C-MH, Financial Advisory Services in the amount not to exceed \$19,500.00 with Raymond James Associates, Inc. (Atlanta, GA.) to provide financial advisory services relative to the County's short term financial borrowing options for 2023 This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective February 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0029 Finance**

Ratification of December 2022 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0030 Information Technology**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing, Department of Information Technology, City of Atlanta, SP-S/DAIM/2210-1230127, On-Call IT Services, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 with uWork.com, Inc. d/b/a Covendis Technologies, Inc., (Atlanta, GA). Effective upon BOC approval until December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER HALL**

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

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

**23-0031 Community Development**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Community Development, 22RFP026A-CJC, Housing Rehabilitation Program in the amount of \$864,254.61 with Meals on Wheels, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide housing rehabilitation services including general program administration, marketing, customer relations, applicant screening and qualification, project management, contractor oversight and reporting. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024. 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Infrastructure and Economic Development****23-0032 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 2,614 square feet to Fulton County, Georgia, from Fairfield Springs, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the North Springs Project at 7300 Roswell Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30076. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0033 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 269 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia from Comcast Cable Communications, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Comcast. Alpharetta Project at 324 Maxwell Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0034 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 13,501 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Verizon Wireless, LLC., for the purpose of constructing the Verizon Roswell 1 MEC Project at 10500 Old Alabama Connector Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30076. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0035 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the transfer of approximately 4063.66 square feet of County-owned real property from the rear portion of Fulton County real property located on 9665 Dogwood Road, Roswell, Georgia to the Georgia Department of Transportation for the purpose of constructing the GA 400 Express Lane Project in the 1st District, 2nd Section, Land Lots 536 and 537, Fulton County, Georgia; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0036 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution approving a Water Utility Easement Agreement between Fulton County and the City of Atlanta for the purpose of connecting water services to the proposed Fulton County Animal Shelter on Fulton Industrial Boulevard; to authorize the Chairman to execute Water Utility Easement Agreement and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve all documents as to form and make modifications to protect the County's interest prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**RECESS MEETING AGENDA****23-0037 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Recess Meeting Agenda as amended by revising item #23-0051 as requested by Chairman Pitts; adding item #23-0063 as requested by Commissioner Arrington; and moving up items #23-0049, #23-0061 and #23-0044 to be heard after item #23-0041. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**23-0038 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Recess Meeting Minutes, December 21, 2022

Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, January 4, 2023

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

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

**23-0039 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "DREAM and Public Works Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Coy Dumas, Jr. Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**

\*Presentation of "ARC Green Communities Award." **(BOC)**

*\*Added during the meeting*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****23-0040 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 30 minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed thirty minutes at the Recess Meeting.** In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Similarly, written comments (that were timely submitted) not previously read, may be read at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

**17 Speakers: Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp (Sadie G. Mays); Beth Laxton (Sadie G. Mays); Lauren Waits (Item #2023-0041); Patrise Perkins-Hooker (Sadie G. Mays); Kevin Muldowney (Elections); Sarah Pedro (Elections); Julie Allen (Elections); Ric Ross (Arts Funding); James Caldwell (Arts Funding); Lisa Nicole Cloud (Arts Funding); Jason Frazier (Elections); Lucia Frazier (Elections); Matt Rowenczak (Elections); Clay Jones (Elections); Rev. Lydia Meredith (DFCS); Stephanie Owens (Arts Funding) and Oronike Odeleye (Arts Funding)**

**2 Zoom Speakers: Rob Cunningham (Elections) and Ben Howard (Senior Services)**

**8 Emailed Comments: Kathy Whitehouse (Elections); Vimal Barot (Animal Services); Radhika Tulpule (Animal Services); Dana Davis (Animal Services); Susan Ortiz-Villajos (Elections); Alexa Finke (Elections); Michele Sarkisian (Elections) and Myrian P. Richmond (Sadie G. Mays)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****23-0041 County Manager**

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

**23-0042 External Affairs**

Presentation of 2023 Legislative Session Update. **(PRESENTED)**

**23-0043 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

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

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

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

**23-0044 Finance**

Review and approval of the FY2023 Final Adopted Budget and FY2023 Budget Resolution. **(APPROVED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the FY2023 Final Adopted Budget and FY2023 Budget Resolution as amended. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Pitts, Thorne, and Ellis

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the FY2023 Final Adopted Budget and FY2023 Budget Resolution as amended. The motion failed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Thorne, and Ellis

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

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to call the question on the substitute motion to approve the FY2023 Final Adopted Budget and the FY2023 Budget Resolution. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**23-0045 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of a Resolution amending the cost to be charged to municipalities who authorize Fulton County to conduct any or all of their municipal elections; and for other purposes. **(HELD)**

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

**Yea:** Hall, Arrington, Thorne, and Ellis

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

**Did Not Vote:** Barrett

**23-0046 Information Technology**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Information Technology, 22RFP315692K-BKJ, Design, Development and Implementation of Employee Intranet Site in an amount not to exceed \$1,106,000.00 with Svanaco Inc., DBA Americaneagle.com (Des Plaines, IL), to create an internal-facing employee intranet portal that focuses on employee services and communications. Effective upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed and shall continue until the sooner of (a) a period of 18 months; (b) Final Acceptance; or (c) the Agreement is terminated as provided in the contract. 100% grant funded from ARPA. **(HELD)**

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

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts



**23-0047 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC99999-001-SPD0000164-0002, Natural Gas Services Provider for Firm Accounts not to exceed \$700,000.00 with Scana Energy Marketing, LLC (Atlanta, GA), to provide natural gas services to all County facilities including the Fulton County Jail Complex. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**Health and Human Services**

**23-0048 Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County, Georgia and Forsyth County, Georgia for water main and sewer line relocations associated with the McGinnis Ferry Road Improvement Project, P.I. 0004634, in an estimated amount of \$1,323,000.00. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Justice and Safety**

**23-0049 Sheriff**

FY23 Proposed Budget - Fulton County Sheriff Patrick Labat. **(PRESENTED)**

**23-0050 Juvenile Court**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Juvenile Court, SWC 99999-SPD-SPD0000202-0002, Media Buying and Advertising Services in the amount not to exceed \$115,000.00 with Jacob's Eye, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide configure and develop a website and provide ongoing maintenance service. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2023. **(HELD)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****23-0051 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to change the membership of the Commission on Elder Affairs to allow appointees from the Atlanta Housing Authority and the Fulton Atlanta Communication Action Authority; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Thorne

**23-0052 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners requiring that all funds returned to Fulton County from a Tax Allocation District (TAD) shall be placed in a multiyear Facilities Capital Projects Fund to be used to support Fulton County's facilities capital programs and projects; requiring that an amount equal to the final annual increments being distributed to a TAD be placed into the multiyear Facilities Capital Projects Fund on an annual basis at the end of Fulton County's participation in that TAD; and for other purposes. **(Ellis) (APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**22-0883 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article II (County Governing Authority), Division 1 (Generally) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances relating to budgetary controls for members of the Board of Commissioners by reducing the travel/conferences budget for members of the Board of Commissioners, and for other purposes. **(Ellis) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED 11/16/2022) (HELD)**

**HELD AS REQUESTED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN ELLIS**

**Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**

**23-0053**

**Board of Commissioners**

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

Members of the Administrative Committee shall hold office for a term of four (4) years or until their successors have been duly qualified and appointed. Positions 2 & 3 shall be appointed by the BOC at its regular January meeting or as soon as practical. Such members shall hold office for a term of one year.

Term = 4 Years

Term = 1 Year (Positions 2 & 3)

Terms below expired: 12/31/2022

Commissioner Natalie Hall (**Position #3/BOC**)

Commissioner Lee Morris (**Position #1 Chair/Designee/BOC**)

**Chairman Pitts and Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Commissioner Abdur-Rahman for a Full Board appointment to replace Commissioner Morris to a term ending December 31, 2023.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0054 Board of Commissioners****ATLANTA BELTLINE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS (APPROVED)**

The following persons shall serve on the Board of Directors of the corporation: (a) the Mayor of the City of Atlanta (as a representative of ADA); (b) the Chair of the Community Development and Human Resources Committee of the Atlanta City Council (or its successor) (as a representative of ADA); (c) the President of ADA or a person with general business or legal experience (as a representative of ADA); (d) one (1) person with general business experience appointed by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors of ADA (as a representative of ADA); (e) one (1) community representative to be selected in a manner to be determined by the City Council of the City (which appointee shall in all cases be ratified by the Board of Directors of ADA); (f) two (2) members appointed by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors of Beltline Partnership, Inc.; (g) one (1) representative appointed by the Atlanta Board of Education; and (h) one (1) representative appointed by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Each director shall take office as of the effective date of his or her appointment and shall continue in office until his or her successor has been duly appointed or elected and has qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, or removal, or, in the case of any elected official or positional appointee, until such person no longer holds the elected office or position entitling such person to membership on the corporation's Board of Directors.

Term = 4 years

Term below expired: 7/12/2022

Commissioner Lee Morris (**Fulton County/BOC/Ellis**)

**Chairman Pitts and Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Commissioner Hall for a Full Board appointment to replace Commissioner Morris to a term ending July 12, 2026.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0055 Board of Commissioners****ATLANTA-FULTON WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION (APPROVED)**

There shall be a management commission of the joint venture (the "commission"), which shall consist of (7) seven members, (3) three from Atlanta and (3) three from Fulton County, with each member having one vote. Membership shall include the Mayor of Atlanta, the President of the City Council of Atlanta, and one councilmember appointed by the president of the city council and approved by the mayor; the Chairperson of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and two commissioners selected by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and one person employed by neither Atlanta nor Fulton County who shall be known as the "independent member" of the commission.

Term = Members remain on the Water Resources Commission until replaced, deceased, resign from their position, or their term of office expires.

Chairman Robert L. "Robb" Pitts (**Chair**)  
Vice-Chairman Liz Hausmann (**BOC-2**)  
Commissioner Bob Ellis (**BOC-1**)

**Chairman Pitts and Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Commissioner Thorne to replace Commissioner Hausmann for a Full Board appointment.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0056 Board of Commissioners****AUDIT COMMITTEE (APPROVED)**

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2022

Commissioner Lee Morris (**BOC - Commissioner**)

**Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Chairman Pitts for a Full Board appointment to replace Commissioner Morris to a term ending December 31, 2024.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0057 Board of Commissioners**

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

Trustee position #1 is the Chairman or designee. Trustee positions #2 and #3, members of the Fulton County Commission, shall be designated or elected at a regular January meeting for one (1) year or until their successors have been appointed and qualified. Trustee Positions #4 and #5 are members of the Board of Trustees by virtue of their County position; hence their terms expire when their positions with the County terminate. Trustee Positions #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12 are held for four (4) years, after serving the initial staggered terms prescribed in the enabling Resolution.

Term = 4 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2022

Commissioner Lee Morris (**#1 - Chair/Designee**)

**Chairman Pitts nominated Commissioner Barrett for a Full Board appointment to replace Commissioner Morris a term ending December 31, 2023.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0058 Board of Commissioners**  
FULTON COUNTY FACILITIES CORPORATION (**APPROVED**)

The initial Board of Directors of the Corporation consists of the Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, the Director of Finance, the County Manager, and two (2) Fulton County Commissioners.

Terms: 2 years until the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors or until a successor shall be elected and qualified.

Term below expired: 11/3/21  
Commissioner Lee Morris (**BOC #2**)

**Chairman Pitts and Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Commissioner Barrett for a Full board appointment to replace Commissioner Morris to a term ending November 3, 2023.**

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

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

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

**23-0059 Board of Commissioners**  
INVEST ATLANTA (ATLANTA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY) (**APPROVED**)

Term = 4 YEARS

Term below expires: 4/1/2023  
Commissioner Lee Morris (**BOC**)

**Chairman Pitts and Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Commissioner Barrett as Fulton County's appointee to the Atlanta Development Authority d/b/a Invest Atlanta to an unexpired term ending April 1, 2023.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0060 Board of Commissioners****OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) TRUST (APPROVED)**

This Trust was established by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners by resolution Agreement January 16, 2008 (#07-0997). The Trust shall be held, managed and administered by the Trustee in trust in accordance with the provisions of the agreement. The Trust is intended to comply with and be a tax-exempt governmental trust under Section 115 of the IRS Code.

Term = 1 year

Commissioner Lee Morris (**Position 1/Chair Designee**)

Term below expired: 12/31/2019

Commissioner Liz Hausmann (**Position 2/BOC**)

**Chairman Pitts and Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Commissioner Thorne as the Chairman's Designee to a Full Board Appointment to replace Commissioner Morris.**

**Chairman Pitts and Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Commissioner Hall to a Full Board appointment to replace Commissioner Hausmann to a term ending December 31, 2023.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****23-0061 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Reparatons Task Force Update & Funding Request (**Arrington**)  
**(DISCUSSED)**



**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**23-0062 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

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

**ADDED TO THE MEETING**

**Items Added to the Agenda**

**23-0063 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Tax Allocation Districts. (**Arrington**) (**DISCUSSED**)

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve by adding item #23-0063 to the Recess Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECESS MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2023  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning. I'd like to welcome everyone to this meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County. Today is January 18, 2023. It is 10:04 a.m. Madam Clerk -- Madam Deputy Clerk today, please -- Deputy Clerk; is that correct?"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "That's correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Chairman Robb Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Present."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Commissioner Dana Barrett. Commissioner Natalie Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr."

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

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman."

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

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

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

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Madam Deputy Clerk. I got to get used to saying that."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **23-0024**. Adoption of the Consent Agenda - All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Recess Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have received one item to be removed from today's Consent Agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To be removed?"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "To be removed."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "For separate consideration, 23-0030 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- what page, what page?"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "-- page 3."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "23-0030, Information Technology: Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing for on-call IT services in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000. This was requested by Commissioner Hall."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else? Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Just to be clear: I wanted to make sure I was listed as present."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "So noted."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else on the Consent Agenda?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'll entertain a motion to approve as amended. A motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please, vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "And the vote is open. The motion passes unanimously."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "On page 4, Recess Meeting Agenda, 23- -- I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item that was requested to be added to today's Recess Meeting Agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What is it?"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "23-0063, Discussion for Tax Allocation Districts. This is requested by Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. What's the emergency, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Based upon the Board of this Commission, a letter was sent to Invest Atlanta, they have ten days to respond to that letter. I think they are supportive -- Invest Atlanta and the City of Atlanta -- are supportive of the closure of some of the TADs including Princeton Lakes and Atlantic Station; but as I cautioned us at the time, we need to have a discussion with our partners before we start just pulling out of things -- out of things. And so, they would like to have a discussion. I'm going to propose that we ask staff to hold off on that until staff can have a further discussion with them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Let's don't get into the merits of it now. So, the emergency will be then they have to respond within ten days --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- to something."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I'll accept that as an emergency. That will require a supermajority vote of five. All right. I'll entertain a motion to add."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, so I would make the motion to add this; and again, I got a call from Courtney English in the Mayor's office, they --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- all right. We good. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman motion to approve adding it; seconded by Commissioner Hall. Let's vote, please. It requires five affirmative votes."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Continue Madam -- Deputy Clerk."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**23-0037**, Recess Meeting Agenda. Adoption of the Recess Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have received an item to be revised on the Agenda, 23-0051 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- please, give me the page number first."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 7."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "It's a clerical correction; changing the word communications to community, so the item will now read: Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to change the membership of the Commission on Elder Affairs to allow appointees from the Atlanta Housing Authority and Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority and for other purposes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, anything else? What I would like to -- Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I just had a question: We have an Agenda item at the very end on the Reparations Task Force, but I know there's a budget ask involved; do we want to talk about it before --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- when we get to that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- the budget, okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, what I'd like to recommend, if there are no objections, that we -- it's my object goal today is to approve the budget today. And what I'd like to do is allow as much time as possible. So I'd like to take the budget and all items related to the budget first, and then have the other items later because sometimes we lose our quorum on these long meetings. So, any objections to moving the budget up; and that item that Commissioner Barrett just mentioned, and the Sheriff and others probably want to speak to the budget as well. So, if there's no objections, Madam Deputy Clerk, we'll take the budget and all things related to the budget first."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "So noted."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioner Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just as a point of clarification: And what are -- just so we're not confused -- what are those items that we're going to be bringing up?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "There's a --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- some of these arguably could apply and some of them; arguably couldn't."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Where is the -- there's a -- the Sheriff has some things. Isn't he on here? On page 6, that last item, 0049, and what was the other one? Is your mic on?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "It's item 230 -- no, I'm sorry. It's -- here it is. It's 23-0061 at the bottom of page 12; that's the Reparations Task Force funding request."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Page 12. All right. On page 12, 0061, for those two. Any others that relate to the budget?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yes, potentially, you know, components of it, but maybe not, certainly not all of it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which page, Vice Chair?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "On the first page. I don't know that 004 -- 41 had portions of the Operational Report on page 5 -- portions of the County Manager's Operational Report might be informative."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just the financial pieces, it's not the health and other pieces. I don't know, maybe we could -- maybe we could pace through that before --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, no problem."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just at least those portions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On the Agenda as amended, motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please, vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "And the vote is open. Motion passes unanimously."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "23-0038, Ratification of Minutes. Recess Meeting Minutes, December 12, 2022; Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, January 4th, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please, vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "And the vote is open. Motion passes unanimously."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "23-0039, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. First proclamation recognizing 'DREAM and Public Works Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

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

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Just two."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just Two? All right. It's 10:13. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you have something you wanted to add? It will be three."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Come on down, everyone. We're having some microphone problems, but like my mama taught me, make do with what you have. So, can we have people come around and spread out a little bit on this side, too? I see all of you on the stairs; we want to make sure that everyone is in this great honor. Thank you so much, Joe. Come on over. Come on over, everybody. All right. All right. It is an honor to present this proclamation and it is a Full Board supported and sponsored proclamation. And the proclamation reads: WHEREAS, Fulton County experienced a severe winter weather event during the holiday weekend in December of 2022 that caused major water and plumbing emergencies across the County. And WHEREAS, the department of Real Estate and Asset Management, DREAM, has two employees, Benjamin Wright, a Central Fulton Building Maintenance supervisor and Patrick Ent, a greater Fulton building maintenance supervisor along with Department Director, Joe Davis, that worked through the entirety of both county holiday periods responding to facilities, issues at 16 buildings. And WHEREAS, their response included securing the effected plumbing and fire sprinkler systems facilitating necessary repairs in conjunction with contractors and providing daily access to restoration contractors. And WHEREAS, public works has a total of 14 employees that worked through the holiday weekend and repaired two major water main leaks, one on Marietta Street in Alpharetta and the other on Haynes Bridge Road in Johns Creek, as well as answered over 130 calls from residents with frozen pipes. Staff assisted homeowners with turning off water to their homes to minimize damage to their properties. And WHEREAS, the public work



employees are Angelo Adams, Grady Cochran, Garfield Cook, Michael Crawford, Barbara Jennings, Jeffrey Johnson, Sean Michael, Michael Pendley, Ryan Rucker, Tracy Samples, James Smart, Josh VanHorn, and Brent Wheeler. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the men and women from the DREAM and Public Works departments for their tireless professionalism and dedication to the safety and welfare of their fellow citizens. And does hereby proclaim Wednesday, January 18th, 2023, as 'DREAM and Public Works Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Thank you all for your service. Thank you all."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Thank you, Commissioner Hall, and thank you to the rest of the Board for this wonderful recognition. Oftentimes, what DREAM does goes unrecognized, unlauded, and these people that up here in front of you do a thankless job each and every day. Things that you don't actually see happen, but when things go wrong, you see and experience it all. While two stood out above the rest who sacrificed their entire holiday time away from their families, none of us, including myself, could do anything without this entire team in front of you; and I thank God for them each and every day. So, thank you all for this recognition."

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** "And from the Public Works side of things: I certainly echo what Joe Davis said on the DREAM side. One of the paramount things that Public Works employees love to know -- love to express to others is, if we do our job right you don't know we're there. And over the Christmas holiday, I certainly think that these gentlemen and ladies did their jobs right. So, I certainly appreciate all of that, and I understand that even some of them got to see Santa fly overhead when they were working Christmas Eve, so."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Anyone else? All right. Thank you for your service. This is what I call heart work, when you're out there and you're just doing your job in the middle of tragedy and helping others. Thank you so much, and let's take this picture."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Next proclamation -- next proclamation. Next proclamation is recognizing 'Coy Dumas, Jr. Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Please, everyone join us, MARTA. Yeah, come on in. TJ, please. Thank you. Yes. All right, it's quiet. All right. Well, Mr. Dumas, what I heard about your years of service with MARTA, I had to do something to show an honor to you, and this is with Full Board support and sponsorship. And I was just telling my colleague, Commissioner Arrington, 50 years of driving for MARTA and no accidents is a blessing. Yes, and God was definitely with you every time you boarded that bus. And so, it's an honor to present this, and the proclamation reads: WHEREAS, Mr. Coy Dumas, Jr., is a native of the Adamsville's community of Atlanta, Georgia; and in 1972, joined what was then called Atlanta Transit as a bus operator. And WHEREAS, Mr. Dumas has run routes solely in West Atlanta over the past 50 years, and currently

operates route 853 out of the Westlake Station on the Blue Line. And WHEREAS, MARTA officials estimate that Mr. Dumas has carried approximately 2.8 million passengers -- yes, on his bus since he began his career in transit 50 years ago. And WHEREAS, Mr. Dumas boasts a spotless driving record over his career and has never had a traffic accident having driven over 2 million miles across the City of Atlanta. And WHEREAS, MARTA's most veteran bus driver, Mr. Dumas, wears operator badge No. 1 and has been a mentor to countless bus operators over the past five decades. And he leads the mentorship program out of the Perry Bus facility. And WHEREAS, Mr. Dumas was honored by the MARTA Board of Directors with a MARTA bus wrapped with his photo in commemoration of his unprecedented 50 years of dedicated service and counting. And the bus is right outside for anyone who wants to see it. It's on Street, so, please go take a picture and tag the County Board of Commissioners -- as he has made no plans to retire -- what? NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the -- and I have to say this because his wife is so loving, and the same way she's standing by his side, she's been with him for 44 years, yes. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Coy Dumas, Jr. for his outstanding example of service, dedication, and professionalism over his half-century career with MARTA; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, January 18th, 2023, as 'Coy Dumas, Jr. Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Commissioner Hall. I just wanted to personally say, as a Commissioner who was newly divorced mother with small kids on the 56 Adamsville; I know this man very well. Plenty of days he talked to me about life, about religion, about being a good member of the society. Plenty of days, he saw me struggle with three kids, bags, park the bus, help me get off the bus, make sure I had everything in tow. This is what I call a gem of Fulton County. He has been exemplary all these years, and I want him to know that I would not be a Commissioner here today if it wasn't what he poured into me on those bus trips. Thank you."

**COY DUMAN, JR., RECIPIENT:** "Wow. I'm not much for speech making. All I can do is say thank my heavenly father, thank Commissioner Hall, thank the Board of Commissioners, and thank my beautiful wife, Theresa, my queen of queens as I always recognize her as. I can't say enough about how she gets up with me at 2, 2:30 in the morning. I don't know if she's kicking out of the house or she just wanted to make sure I get there. But she's always done that ever since, fix my breakfast make sure I'm straight. She's the boss. And I understand that, and I'm not ashamed to say it. But once again, thank you for the love and the honor. Appreciate it. Thank you."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Recognition of the ARC Communities Award presented by Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "One other person, Joe Davis. What I wanted to do on behalf of the Chairman and the Board; Fulton County has earned a gold level Green Community's Certification from the Atlanta Regional Commission. County leadership was recognized Wednesday, January 11th, 2023. The Green Communities

program was developed in 2009 to recognize local governments with initiatives and policies that promote sustainability in the region. Fulton County earned this certification because of our initiatives such as sustainability, resilience plan, LEED, LEED certified buildings, solar panel installation, water public awareness program, community gardens, and recycling practices. This certification is valid for four years and will be renewed in 2026. We have gold status for the work on behalf of Joe Davis and his team and others. So we just, as the Board would like to recognize the great team that allow us to get gold status. Move this. And Commissioner Hall, I'm I missing anybody? I want to make sure I have everybody."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Chief Deputy Clerk."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 5, Public Hearings, **23-0040**, citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing online by registering on the county website [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses, 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 agenda will not exceed 30 minutes. In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended, and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 17 speaker cards. Will the first five speakers please --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "When you're speaking -- when you have 15 seconds remaining, I'll simply say 15 seconds and that's your clue to begin to conclude your remarks. It is 10:34."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Will the first five speakers please come down: Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, Beth Laxton, Lauren Waits, Patrise Perkins-Hooker, and Kevin Muldowney."

**MARSHALYN YEARGIN-ALLSOPP, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning and thank you, Commissioners for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Marshalyn Yeargin- Allsop. I'm a medical doctor and a member of the Board of Directors at the Sadie G. Mays Health and Rehabilitation Center. I'm also the great-niece of Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin E. Mays. As a physician, I realize the great need for facilities like Sadie G. Mays. The vast majority of the residents of Sadie G. Mays are low income and Medicaid eligible. Many nursing facility do not accept Medicaid patients because of the low reimbursement rate. Sadie G. Mays is one of the few nonprofit, skilled nursing facilities serving low income Fulton County residents. My Aunt Sadie had a vision for

what we could accomplish for our poor, sick, and aging neighbors 75 years ago. It's up to us to keep the vision alive. Please increase the annual grant for the Sadie G. Mays Health and Rehabilitation Center to 1.2 million, which is only eight percent of their 15 million annual budget. Thank you very much."

**BETH LAXTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Beth Laxton, and I'm the Executive Director at Sadie Mays. I've been in this position for about a year and a half. Before that, I was on the Board of Directors for over ten years. Sadie Mays serves a critical role in our community. We have provided services to the ill and elderly of Fulton County for over 75 years. Part of our mission statement reads, 'we aim to meet the ever-changing needs of individuals entrusted to our care'. We take this statement very seriously. Of the past 75 years, the needs of the people that we serve have changed drastically. We serve people with complex physical and mental needs. Our nursing home today is not the same nursing home that Fulton County started funding in 1968. For Sadie Mays to continue serving our residents and future residence, we need more support from our partners at Fulton County. We work hard every day to provide the best care and facilities for our residents. However, it's hard to do with the low rate of Medicaid reimbursement, our ever increasing salaries to attract and retain staff, and the high costs of food, supplies, and equipment. In fiscal year 2022, we had a shortfall of over \$27 per patient day for each Medicaid resident we took care of. That totaled \$1.2 million. We're requesting that Fulton County increase our annual grant to \$1.2 million to make up the actual cost of patient care for the indigent, ill, and elderly citizens of Fulton County who reside at Sadie Mays. And I'm grateful for how Fulton County has supported us in the past. I look forward to your continued support. As our mission statement reads, 'we want to continue to be able --

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

**BETH LAXTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to meet the ever-changing needs of the individuals entrusted to our care'. Thank you for your consideration."

**LAUREN WAITS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Lauren Waits. I was born in DeKalb County, but I have been a 20-year resident of Fulton. I think I made a very wise choice. I am here on my own recognizance, but I have served as the coordinator for the Fulton County Democratic Party on the vote review panels and valid duplication. I want to report personally what a great experience we had with our GOP colleagues. We worked in bipartisan pairs intimately with the absentee ballots. I want to thank the Commission for your support for the Board of Registration and Elections. We have seen them do a terrific job in a very challenging circumstances adopting wise policy. I want to ask your support for the budget for the Election's today; and also caution: the Carter Center said, and I wanted to quote them in the review, we did not see any indications of fraud, dishonesty, or intentional malfeasance in the 2020 Election results in Fulton County. They do go on to say that their needs to be more careful planning, ensuring that processes are strictly followed, we are eager to -- my team of 25 people, and I think I can even speak for the 25 GOP members are eager to continue to

work together to make election integrity and voter protection true in Fulton. We do expect that 2023, you may see lower turnout, but we will all be working hard on the inside to learn and practice our skills so that we are even stronger in 2024. Thank you so much."

**PATRISE PERKINS-HOOKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Patrise Perkins-Hooker. I am a Fulton County resident of Key Road. I just wanted to say, thank you for what you have done for Sadie G. Mays, or we wouldn't probably be here for 75 years. I am one of the board members of Sadie G. Mays, and as we celebrate our 75th anniversary, what I wanted to tell you is that we were the facility that Fulton County created to take care of seniors, and people who are infirmed, who needed rehab, and did not have the financial wherewithal to do that. We took over the Happy Haven project that was owned by Fulton County and we started running it when Fulton County ran in to problems. We then proceeded with the county's help to relocate to a facility that Fulton County donated the land, and entered into a contract to help support the operation of this facility for the mission that we were created for. And that mission was to be Fulton County's facility to handle these types of patients. You have letters from -- you received a letter from former judge, Council President, Marvin Arrington, Sr. who stayed there when he had a medical issue that required rehabilitation. I've also been authorized by Reverend Durley to let you know that this is a place that he supports because of its commitment to service to the community. We're not asking for our whole budget. We're asking for what Fulton County agreed in 1968 to do, which is to cover the gap between Medicaid, Medicare, and expenses that we have not been able to raise through the community. We would appreciate the funding of 1.2 million and then we would appreciate you continuing to provide significant amounts of money --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**PATRISE PERKINS-HOOKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- in the budget to take care of us. Thank you very much for your time and attention."

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Kevin Muldowney, Fulton County resident. Nadine Williams has pretty much been on a one-year interview. This could have been a great time for her to excel, but she has not displayed any ability that would warrant her promotion to full-time director. During her tenure as interim director, we have seen the shutting out in various locations of the public observers during the opening and closing of the polls, in direct violation of Georgia law. One observer, Margaret Williams, summoned police on an observer, and has since been promoted to an Election's trainer. No verification of new voter registration using the national change of address database, no cross-reference of existing voter registration, no cross reference with the GIS database to determine if an address corresponds to an actual residence. Shamir Marshall has confirmed that this work is not performed unless a formal challenge is filed. Requiring early voting Election workers to work 19 straight days for 12 hours per day, clearly discouraging quality, conscientious workers that want

to do their part in necessitating a lot of overtime expense. This has been pointed out many times to no avail. Early voting for the runoff, which has only about 40 percent of the available voting days, also had about 30 percent voting locations, a recipe for disaster. The incompetent management decision led to lines of two to four hours in many locations, especially on the north side of the county. We do not need Richard Barron 2.0. We needed to find a director that will give Fulton voters the improvement in election process -- “

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “-- 15 seconds.”

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** “-- and not repeat the problems of the past. Thank you for your time.”

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Next five speakers: Sarah Pedro, Julie Allen, James Caldwell, Rick Ross, Lisa Nicole."

**SARAH PEDRO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I believe the quote is attributed to Einstein and I'll paraphrase: To continue doing the same thing and expecting different results is the very definition of insanity. Changing the name of something without changing the process is the very definition of doing the same thing and expecting different results. It's time to change Election leadership in Fulton County. Being a leader means having the courage and humility to accept that things might not be working and to make the hard choices to remove people not doing their jobs professionally and courteously. As a poll watcher, I witnessed angry people with chips on their shoulders being unnecessarily dogmatic and antagonistic; and I'm referring not to the voters, but to the poll workers. Fulton has been at the center of so much controversy, and it's not just the Election's either. We need a leader who can restore dignity and respect and trust to this county and change course. The last thing we need is one county of a hundred and 59 counties dragging this great state down. My second comment relates to another issue. I don't believe spending taxpayer money on determining ways to spend more taxpayer money is a good allocation of time and resources or tax dollars; and that, I'm referring to the Reparation Task Force. Thank you for your consideration."

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Julie Allen. Welcome to the Board, Ms. Barrett. You are my Commissioner, thank you. While visiting the Fulton County Courthouse on January 9th and 10th, I was required to wear a mask. Because of that, I'm here to bring your attention to the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, UNESCO, October 19, 2005, Article Six Consent, 'Any preventive diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention is only to be carried out with the prior free and informed consent of the person concerned that no human being could ever tell another to take a test, wear a mask, or have an injection without violating their inalienable human rights. They can ask and have to accept the negative answer without disadvantage or prejudice. To answer the question, did the masks work? Seroprevalence data shows that nearly everyone in the United States was exposed to

SARS-CoV-2, so clearly masks did not work. I'm leaving you with data from more than a hundred and 75 comparative studies and articles on mask ineffectiveness and harms. It's your duty to put an end to the tyranny of masks in Fulton County and all other mandates. In December, I reported on the debacle under Nadine Williams' leadership that occurred in North Fulton voter suppression and Runoff Election. Wait times of a hundred and 20 to a hundred and 80 minutes in North Fulton cities with only 10 polling places total was unacceptable. While the City of South Fulton alone had four polling places with consistent wait times of zero to 15 minutes. Nadine Williams has failed to demonstrate the leadership and skills required to be hired as Fulton County Election's Director. I'm here to remind you that it is unacceptable for the Fulton County Board of Election's to pay criminal attorneys, Donna Samuel and Amanda Palmer of the high-power Garland, Samuel, and Loeb law firm. They were paid with taxpayer dollars to halt a motion to unseal and inspect absentee ballots that has now been overturned.

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

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "All citizens of Georgia have a right to know whether or not counterfeit ballots were injected into the Fulton County Election results, how many were injected, where they came from, and how we can prevent it from happening again in future Elections. A full inspection of Fulton County's a hundred and 47,000 absentee ballots will be needed. Thank you so much. And I'll be leaving some documents for you. Thank you for your concern."

**RICK ROSS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Board. My name is Rick Ross. I'm the founder of the Music Education Group. It's a nonprofit organization which I founded 17 years ago. The mission of this organization is to teach students life skills and career development through music, film, and digital media. As we know, Atlanta is the number one city, which is in Fulton County, is the number one city for arts and music; 6,500 arts and musician in this city, 1,200 music festivals, 42 museums, and 29 film festivals reside in the City of Atlanta. When I started this organization, it was based on the need for music education for kids who wanted to be in the entertainment industry. We know that there is a shortage of funding for the arts in school, so we wanted to provide this opportunity for our young people outside of the schools. And as of today, we have probably served about 3,000 to 5,000 kids coming through this program. So we need more funding to operate these type of programs throughout the city and the county. It is very important. We know that kids love to be -- you know, love music. They love entertainment. They love fashion. And, you know, we want to continue to provide these opportunities for our young people in safe environments where they can come and be creative. And, you know, we just thank you all for your continued support for this -- for these causes. Thank you."

**JAMES CALDWELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, everyone. Thank you again. My name is James Caldwell, and I'm the Executive Director of the music education group. I just want to reiterate what Mr. Ross said in Atlanta and Fulton County. We are the creative hub of the entire world. Our challenge is to make sure that

the next generation of content creators that are coming from Fulton County have access to the creative tools that they're going to need to be able to be successful in our industry. Our schools can't necessarily afford to keep up with the rapid changes in technology that are driving all of these really cool creative tools. And so, I just wanted to say thank you all again for your funding this year. County Manager Anderson had an opportunity; thanks to an invitation from Commissioner Arrington to see some of our programming being demonstrated. Our main hub is the Dunbar Multimedia and Technology Center. Thanks to your funding we were able to serve 100 additional young people. So as we continue to say, hey, what are we doing for our young people? I want folks in this room to know that Fulton County's funding is actually being actively put to great use to make sure that our young people have really cool, safe creative spaces that they can express themselves. Thank you to Chairman Pitts. He had an opportunity to come out and work with one of our teams. This young man is 15 years old, and I also want to state that these facilities are not toys. This is an industry-standard hardware and software, and we want to make sure that our young creatives have access to these tools. Without your support, they would not be able to have that access because again, it's extremely expensive. Thank you also to Commissioner Hall. She had an opportunity to come to one of our master classes. This took place at For You Recording Studios.

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

**JAMES CALDWELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you again for your funding, because we were able to hire ten of our young people this past summer with your funding to operate our five summer locations as student engineers. Increasing this funding will only help with this cause. Thank you."

**LISA NICOLE CLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Lisa Nicole Cloud. Hello, Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Arrington. I am a Fulton County resident. I have been raised in Fulton County, went to high school in Fulton County, went to college in Fulton County. And currently, I'm an entrepreneur, but also a fashion designer. And I wanted to speak this morning to the work that is being done with the funding for arts and culture in Fulton County. As a designer, it can sometimes be difficult to really succeed in the industry because it is such a cash intensive business. I've been blessed to be able to show in all the major fashion weeks as well in France and around the world, but that has not always the case for emerging designers. I want to thank the Fulton County Commissioners for approving budget and funding for FACE, which is fashion, art, culture, and education. Because I do believe it is going to do a lot of good work for emerging designers as well as for elevating the reputation of fashion in Atlanta. As former speakers have said, Atlanta has a reputation for being, you know, the mecca of television, now music, also film. And it's time for the fashion community to also have an elevation in its reputation. So recently FACE has been shown in Miami. It is really starting to get a lot of traction. It's well known in Miami at Art Basil and now this season in New York City at New York Fashion week, FACE will have a presence. So, I just want to thank you for the funding that you have given. It is making a difference, and



I hope you will continue to fund the initiatives of FACE. Thank you so much. We appreciate it."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Next speakers: Jason Frazier, Lucia Frazier, Matt Rowenczak, Clay Jones, Stephanie Owens, Lydia Meredith, and Oronike Odelaye.

**JASON FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. My name is Jason Frazier from Roswell. The last time I was up here, I notified you of five, just five folks that -- that I had identified that were double registered and given credit for double voting in the same election. Now, those people were just five. I have plenty more, but I'd like you to take a look at those first. We'll go from there. If you care about election integrity, you'll get to the bottom of it. Now, those people were given credit for double voting in that one election where fraud could have never happened, but that's not the only time this has happened. Even in the most recent election, there were people that were double registered that asked for double absentee ballots. I was able to stop one of those. Another person was given credit for voting under the same ID, both in person and absentee. I don't know how that's even possible, but that's what the voter history file shows, or the absentee ballot file shows. Furthermore, I know you're looking at promoting Nadine to full-time director today. Well, she was there whenever I turned in my first 17,000 voter challenges last year. So she was aware of the problems in the voter rolls. And these problems have continued. I turned in 10,000 voter challenges in the last month. So now I'm up to 27,000 challenges, and I've got another thousand in queue that I give them on Monday as I'll give them a thousand more every Monday for the next little while. Those are people in P.O. boxes, in storage centers, fake addresses, people missing names like Mr. no-name, no-name that I gave you last year, but more recently it's people missing first names or last names. But I don't know how we're ever going to have change if you continue to have the same people in charge of our elections, the same chair that's in charge of elections that is very much against the things that I'm doing. She's been difficult to work with, nobody's responding to my e-mails, that's why I'm coming here to try to get support from you guys to look at these people that are possibly double voting."

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

**JASON FRAZIER: PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "The elections department ignores my e-mails, they don't respond, they don't tell me if this is garbage data that I'm getting from the Secretary of State's office or if there really is a problem, but we should be looking into this. Thank you."

**LUCIS FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Lucia Frazier, Roswell. The State Performance Review Board really dropped the ball on helping us make our elections more secure, so I read it with a fine-tooth comb. They're not being as hard on Fulton as they should be, and any real progress will probably be squashed. I appreciate what improvements Fulton has done for our election so far, but it only amounts to lipstick on a pig. The report makes no mention of chain of custody. I am still not

comfortable leaving the precinct on the last night of early voting wondering if the ballots and the memory cards get picked up and transported securely. The process of tabulating the in-person absentee votes has never been discussed or announced or done in view of the public. The report also makes no mention of voter rules. It, quote, says "do not see any evidence of fraud or large systemic issues that affect the 2020 Election. Yet having greater than 25,000 challenges that were already accepted as errors by Fulton County is a systemic issue; and there is fraud. You've been given a person with two registrations and two votes. You've been given many of those examples. And I haven't heard any plans of any change that will address this issue from the Election's department. The equipment issues, I'm not comfortable with the BMD and scanner algorithms are translating our votes as we enter them. The BMD algorithms that miswrite the 2D barcode and scanner algorithms that misread the 2D bar code, it can happen and it did happen in DeKalb County, and that was proven in May '22 by a hand recount using the text, the actual words on the paper ballots. I haven't heard Fulton Election's acknowledging this event or provide a plan to the public for a check and balance system. We really need an elections leader that can think outside of the box. We really need an engineer as an election director. True engineering experience that includes --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- in manufacturing plants. That's the ultimate experience. Manufacturing plants: that's the ultimate experience. We would have process flow diagrams to show to the public to show exactly how Election's work and all of it would be transparent. Thank you very much."

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Matt Rowenzcak, Fulton County resident. Let's talk about integrity. Not just a tagline, not just a cheap talking point, but true integrity. We all know Richard Barron certainly didn't have it. The recommendations by the Board of Elections to make Ms. Williams the permanent Election's Director is unfortunately expected, but also a continued embarrassment. The Board of Elections has lost all credibility. They are either highly partisan and incompetent or both. I'll give you some examples: Ms. Cathy Woolard was a paid lobbyist for Fair Fight the day before she became the supposed nonpartisan chair. Ms. Crawford potentially interfered in the most recent election by driving up to Mr. Fraser's poll manager having a private conversation with him and likely in an attempt to cast doubt on him and prevent him from working in the election. Or, Mr. Johnson, who voted to now remove three dozen fake addresses on the same street from the voter rolls that were confirmed by this county's own GIS department as fake addresses. Or we can take Dr. Ruth, Ms. Crawford, and Mr. Johnson who all, during the primary, recertified the primary last year with no documentation. No numbers in front of them. Almost every single one of the Board of Election's has violated their oath. So their recommendation, you know, is somewhat laughable for Ms. Williams to be the director. Secondly, for your own credibility, please don't reference the state's report on this

county's performance unless you've read it. It's laughable. It's almost entirely subjective."

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

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "So last, I e-mailed all of you many of the issues that were given to Nadine after the Primary, many of those resurfaced during the General Election. Many of you know Ms. Williams is not qualified and she certainly hasn't proven herself. Let's not repeat the same mistake and hire another Richard Barron. Thank you."

**CLAY JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I don't see my timer, so should I start?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**CLAY JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay. I'm Clay Jones. I'm a Fulton County resident for 38 years. Sorry for the -- for the cold here. I'm just here today to share my experience with the ineffective manner of which recent elections have been run. Specifically, regarding open records requests, Georgia code 50-18-71, I just want to read it real quick: All public records shall be open for personal inspection and copying except those which, by order of the court or the state or by law are specifically exempted from disclosure. And then Subsection B 1(a), agencies shall produce for inspection all records responsive to requests within a reasonable amount of time not to exceed three business days of receipt of a request. All I can share is my experience and some of my peers. I made a request on November 20th, 2022 for -- via the appropriate means for open records regarding the 2020 Elections -- 2022 Elections, I'm sorry. I still haven't received anything. I did receive a response, so it was received. I followed up with a message just asking when they would be giving me a response and there was no response. Also, I have a peer that submitted an open records request six months ago, and it has not been responded to. So, I just wanted to highlight my experience with the ineffective manner in which 2022 Elections have been run. Thank you."

**LYDIA MEREDITH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Happy New Year, Commissioners, and thanks for your public service. As always, I extend a special greeting to our Commissioner Chair, Robb Pitts and to my Commissioner, Commissioner Hall, for District 4, where I live and do business. I'm here again advocating to increase the 13 percent ceiling and adding the matter to the voting agenda of the Board of Commission at its next meeting. I continue to advocate for every poor child in every county, in every district of the State of Georgia. Please join Governor Brian Kemp's effort to increase the compensation of DCFS workers to a livable and competitive wage. Kemp's planned increase will not be enough to provide a livable and competitive salary for DCFS staff. As previously mentioned, this is a statewide and countywide issue that needs our attention. I've appeared numerous times, and I will continue to appear for the public record of your response to this issue that will support our children in this state and the

DCFS staff tasked to serve them. Again, I implore you to imagine what it's like for these poor children living in poverty, then imagine their plight being served by overwhelmed, overworked, and underpaid DCFS staff workers, especially in the way that local news televised coverage of the DCFS walk out. Please, please, please add this matter to the next agenda for your vote; child safety doing all we can to protect and promote an atmosphere where children are safe is an urgent matter. Inaction and delayed action cause children to be hurt and harmed. This cannot be our response in the future. In 2023, let's change the local news narrative and be great at helping our children and their families succeed in school and life. Thank you so much."

**STEPHANIE OWENS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners, and all others in attendance. My name is Stephanie Owens. I serve as the Executive Director for NBAF, a proud legacy partner of Fulton County; and it is my honor to stand here today and speak on behalf of NBAF's staff and Board of Directors, and artist community that are represented here behind me; and we just wanted to take the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your continued partnership with NBAF over the past several decades. We are very grateful to be entering into our 35th year of providing quality arts programming for Fulton County residents. And none of that would be possible without your partnership and as our founding entity of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, we're very grateful. This past year, 2022, we were able to serve over 600 students through our youth arts education programs. We have Move Dance, which is our health and wellness based initiative that provides dance curriculum for middle school students, as well as our NexGen artist program that provides workforce development opportunities and exposure to the arts and career pathways. We were also able to grow our audience this past year in providing quality programming to thousands of Fulton County residents through our quarterly programs and virtual workshops, and we were able to employ over a hundred artists in this effort, really providing equitable solutions to black artists to grow their businesses and contribute to the economy. And so, your commitment to the arts has made a tremendous impact. Last year's, I think \$2.3 million in funding is why we're able to stand here collectively today. And so, we just wanted to share some success stories with you, and we look forward to how we will continue to grow together as you all approve an even more record-breaking number in support of the art and artists in this community. Thank you so much."

**BERNIE CALDELA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Bernie Caldelay [Phonetic.], I'm the new artistic director of NBAF. And as part of my artistic vision for the program -- for the organization, I have been charged with charting a path back towards reimagining and relaunching our biennial arts festival. To that end, your continued support is more important than ever. The funding we see -- that we received is helping us to pivot to larger festival-like programs that help to engage our mission to excite and engage audiences for generations to come. In 2022, with your support, NBAF curated four quarterly events to help position the organization at the forefront of arts programming in Fulton County and provide exposure for black artists across multiple artistic disciplines. Through our artistic project -- artist project fund, NBAF was able to

distribute \$40,000 to 20 emerging metro Atlanta artists to help them in the completion of an artistic project. In addition, we hosted 12 virtual career development seminars with local subject matter experts to the arts -- sorry, I'm nervous this morning. In addition, we hosted 12 virtual career development seminars with local subject matter experts to help the artist project fund cohort develop their creative careers, and we have some of those cohorts in attendance with us today. We also awarded three emerging artists with our \$10,000 arising emerging artist award package to fund their careers and their practice, and we have two amazing artists, Natrice Miller and Lana Ross here with us as well in support. So, I just wanted to thank you again for your support of NBAF and artistic partners that you fund. It helps us to continue to serve the artists and the community that is so dear to us, and we look forward to continuing to make an impact with your partnership in 2023, so thank you."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "That's all the speakers. And we have five on Zoom."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Five on Zoom? Okay."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Okay. Good morning, Commissioners. The first person to speak is Rob Cunningham."

**ROB CUNNINGHAM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Rob Cunningham from Milton, Georgia. I'd just like to say, first of all, public trust is America's currency. Of 100 percent honesty and transparency should be opposed by no one in government. Our ultimate power as citizens is our vote; and any form of voter abuse ought to be looked at as a crime. As the fiduciaries of public trust, you are all expected to lead, which means telling citizens what they need to hear, not what they want to hear or what is popular. There's three absolute failures we could point to, just as an example of what we need to know and what we need to fix. First of all, there was an admission of no process to validate new voter registrations; 25,000 plus voter challenges have still not been performed. Empty ballots after hours were left in unsealed bags overnight at the Milton, Georgia library. Unfortunately, it's obvious that Nadine has failed her interview to become either a director or a leader just based on these three facts alone. I'd like to personally as a citizen and a voter and a veteran ask each of you to please honor your public oath to serve all Fulton County voters honestly. Thank you for your public service."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. They're four more? All right, quickly. Thirty minutes have expired."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** Greetings one and all. Ben Howard, senior advocate public policy analyst. Why is senior services management recommending only two organizations instead of four to replace the Council on Aging which have representatives from all four quadrants of the county? Why was there no recommendation from senior services management regarding an at-large position which would review and report upon the, "big picture." How did the Atlanta Housing Authority

rise above other qualified organizations in the minds of senior management such as judge the Council on Aging, United Way, the Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Quality Living Services, and others. I propose recommendations from Office of Aging Management regarding the Commission on Elder Affairs, future structures should be set aside until each member of the Commission on Elder Affairs has been given the opportunity to go on record formalizing his or her position relative to the Commission on Elder Affairs Restructuring Process and Format. Stay tuned on this one, folks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next speaker."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Next person to speak is Amanda Brennan. Okay, we'll go to the next one?"

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

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person -- the next person to speak is Cynthia Dunn-Duhart. Okay. They're not responding. The next person to speak is Melissa Fiorillo. With no one responding, that concludes our Zoom comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else?"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "We had five e-mail speakers."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, we'll take the e-mails at the end. But we're way over time. All right, continue Madam Clerk -- Madam Chief Deputy Clerk."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Continuing on page 5, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **23-0041**, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, understanding the desire to get to the budget quickly, I'll provide some summary comments to determine if there is any questions to be answered. You have received the report late last week. Notably in the public health section of this, you'll see a winter surge in COVID cases to over a hundred per day; however, doing wastewater testing as you can see in the report, we estimate that could be four times that amount. Positivity rate now with folks being tested is over 10 percent, it's at 12.8, and hospitalizations have increased over 50 percent since the last meeting at 266, so those are things to note and be concerned about. The Board of Health in our weekly or excuse me, yes, weekly call with them, continues to encourage boosters as well as masking as the best mechanisms for people to remain healthy. We also conform -- confirmed with the Board of Health that they will provide a broader update to the Board quarterly, so we're working on that now with them that'll cover beyond COVID,

restaurant inspections, West Nile suppression, clinic visits, and any other items that would be of interest. The Orca results, as you will see, are included as well. They continue to show a flattening of the curve in terms of the cases being reduced, Alton can discuss initiatives that are included in the report to accelerate that, and those are again critically important. ERAP, or the rental assistance program, has now concluded. As you know, over a hundred million dollars was distributed to over 10,000 households. It was one of the most successful ERAP programs in the country as noted by the U.S. Treasury Department, and Dr. Roshell will be glad to discuss any of the details of that. The ARPA financials continue to be well-managed, 236 million now having being expended. We do continue to maintain 20.7 million in reserve as we monitor the FEMA reimbursement process, which we have seen some progress in. Of course, in terms of the larger financial outlook, that's the focus today. Given the counsel in the last Board meeting about how to allocate the 22.25 million in unallocated reserve, with 10 million to the Fulton County Sheriff's office as well as 10 million in reserve for facilities and 2.2 million -- 2.25 million for BOC priorities, we have very productive meetings, I think, with Sheriff Labat and his team. We found a good path forward. I think addressing largely pay and overtime for 2023 in support of his efforts to recruit and retain talent specifically focused on jail operations. We also responded to questions that you had in the last meeting, and Sharon will highlight these when she goes through the -- through the discussion at different millage rate levels for your considerations, so hopefully that was helpful. And again, I want to provide a specific thanks to not only Sharon, but also Hakeem and Sabrina who will be here this morning for their tireless efforts to make all of this tick and tide, \$1.3 billion budget. Two points of very good news I believe: I want to make sure that you're aware of; one is that the -- in the governor's budget, proposal was start for a Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center. First of 2024, and in Commissioner Tanner's presentation that we watched with great interest yesterday, he referenced it as a number one priority. So we're very pleased with that. We'll continue to, of course, monitor the process and brief legislators, which we did yesterday in two separate incidences, on the importance of this and the impact. But certainly, this is a -- this is a very good sign. More good news on Friday was the notice from the State Performance Review Board that they would not recommend a state takeover of Fulton County Election's, which would hinder the progress that was currently being made. I think while it's been a whole of government to response in terms of making sure that our Elections were both free and fair, but also a good customer experience. I want to thank Nadine Williams and Cathy Woolard for their leadership, but I also want to call out, as I did to you in a note to the Board, Bridget Bailey, Mike Rowicki, and April Pyle, which I have referred to as the gang of three, which had been there every week helping the BRE with both planning as well as follow-up. And then Ken Hermon who did his usual great job in terms of creating HR solutions to some of the staffing challenges; and then Jessica Corbitt, who is always there giving the press the information that they require and need as well as helping Fulton County look good. So again, we'll continue to keep this weekly discipline with the BRE in terms of follow-up and planning as we address the issues in the report and prepare for 2024. So, Mr. Chairman, I think rather than going through each section, if anyone has any questions, then we'll call on either Matt Kallmyer, Alton Adams, or Dr. Roshell to respond."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Are there questions, Commissioners? Any questions? Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, just a few things. Just that I want to clarify on the public health stuff: Y'all will have this other reporting around the health inspections and all that; that will be in this next report?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. We're going to target the Recess Meeting, and I think the second month of the year will be when we'll start it."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. That was mine -- that was really mine. The only question -- I think the rest -- I'm good with the rest of the report, thanks."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question about the COVID cases, because we're hearing from people that the doctors are calling this new COVID variant rebound COVID; and my own team member has experienced it and a team member of another Commissioner has experienced it where they have COVID for a week, they feel fine for a day, like it has gone away, and then it just reemerges again. And then it does it again, and it goes on for several weeks. Can anyone speak to this -- this trend that's happening?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I'm just looking around, I don't see Matt Kallmyer here this morning."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I didn't see him either."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I'll have to get an answer and provide that to you because I don't have that answer."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. And then are we able to go on, are we going to listen to Alton about Orca."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. If there are some questions about that, I would be glad to have him provide an overview."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. All right. So, I notice that we do have page 15, which addresses the hiring progress, but what has been brought to my attention is that there are those who are part of the Orca project who feel that their requests for positions are not being heard. And so, do we have any information on the number of positions that are vacant in each one of these stakeholder areas? And the positions that they have requested and positions that have been created."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Good morning, Commissioner."



**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Good morning."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "On page 15, we actually, on the left-hand side, for each one of the agencies are the total number of positions that were provided initially. So, for example, a DA would be 74 positions and of those 74, 69 of them are currently filled. And if you go down the list, so if you pick, say Juvenile Court, there were 15 positions provided, 12 of those are currently filled. So, every agency has unfilled positions at this point in time and we do, in fact -- if there are requests to move some positions around or to add them, we do those because we know that we need to be nimble. So, I'm not aware of any requests to actually add or to move things around at this point in time. I had a brief discussion with the Sheriff yesterday about one of his positions, but at this point in time, there are no agencies that have 100 percent of their positions filled."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so, I know that you've been working upon the request of this Board and our Chairman with the Clerk to Superior and Magistrate Court and the Chief Judge of Magistrate Court on their issue. And so, where does that stand as far as positions, because I know we're trying to look at the overall process for both of them and figure out how to resolve some issues. But there is a discussion behind-the-scenes about the Chief Judge of Magistrate Court needs positions, has requested them, and nothing has happened."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, actually, Soo Jo, our County Attorney could talk to the meeting she's had, and we actually have a meeting scheduled at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon with Chief Judge Kirk to address some of the short-term needs specifically around what we could change or add to the Orca positions to allow us to address the specific needs she has at this point in time."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And so, does that mean that you already have the funding in place or does it need to be insured that it's in the current budget that we're going to vote on today?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, there is no funding in place for all 17 positions because some of those include HR and IT, and other positions that are redundant with services that are already provided. However, I believe that in her discussions, I'm not going to talk for the County Attorney, but I do believe that in her discussions we identified some very specific positions that we can address right now with Orca funding to address the most pressing needs, understanding that all of those positions will take time to fill anyway, but the most specific ones that can address the backlog, which we want, obviously it's what Orca's is focused on, we can in fact address those by moving around some positions or reclassifying them. So that's the -- that's the genesis of refuted purpose for the meeting that we have scheduled tomorrow afternoon."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's wonderful. And so, do you have a plan in place to address those redundant positions because I know, Mr. County Manager, you know at

one time we consolidated all of those positions back into their departments, but the support continued out to whoever needed them and those were the HR finance IT, you know, those positions. So is there a plan for ensuring that that need is still met even though the positions won't be provided?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That is correct. So, for example, IT has provided via the Clerk and Isaac Standard (Phonetic.) and his team, actually the largest team that we have over on the court side, and I think they do a great job in doing that. We provide HR support via Tisa Grimes, who is assigned 100 percent to Orca-related projects, and so she's available to assist -- she's actually the person who is going to help us get the folks hired. On the HR finance, I do believe we have support there as well. So, we're trying work through it, Commissioner, and make sure that Judge Kirk and Magistrate Court, quite frankly, has the support that they need to be able to move forward. But my understanding is that the most dire need right now has to do with support -- administrative support for some of the judges, and that's where again our county attorney has focused the conversation that she's had with Judge Kirk."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's great. And I know that there's been some talk about the need for some specific positions in the Solicitor General's office as well. So are those being addressed as well?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, I haven't looked at -- I believe the Solicitor has, if I read here right, six positions -- five positions currently available here, and I haven't had a specific conversation with the Solicitor. I will -- I will today, because I will be seeing him after the meeting today and we can talk about that. I'm meeting with each one of the agencies to get a sense for their 2023 priorities so we can align to the extent that we can. So, I'll be talking to him about the specific needs when I meet with him."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Awesome. Thank you so much. Great work."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you, Chairman. I guess there's nobody here to speak on the health -- the health update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Health? Dr. Roshell, can you -- we made -- Dr. Roshell may be able to."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. I just had, for the sake of the citizens that reached out to me. There is a report that came out from the CDC on Friday seeing a linkage -- a possible linkage with the Pfizer booster to stroke, and I just wanted to -- that's not so. I just wanted somebody that can give me an answer on that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Mr. Kallmyer just walked in as well. Dr. Roshell, were you about to respond?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "We certainly can get some additional information about that article. We, of course, don't have any research capacity here at the county, and we will follow up with CDC as well as the Board of Health to get any additional information that may be available regarding the article that you're referencing."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Did you have any more to comment on?"

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I did. I heard the question, but I'll follow Dr. Roshell's lead on that with the necessary individuals. To your question, ma'am: Well, we're only seeing --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- just a minute. Just a minute, Mr. Kallmyer. Hold on."

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I'm sorry, sir. I apologize."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I can --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Are you finished?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. I -- I was just wondering, the XBB 1.5 variant, for a normal healthy person, what are the symptoms?"

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Similar to what we are seeing thus far. It's the same COVID symptoms that I could go down the list of, but I've probably missed a couple that I'm saying for you today. I would reference what the CDC has listed on their website as well as our website and the Board of Health, and the State Department of Public Health. So it's similar to what you would see with influenza like illnesses, is what you would be looking for in those situations. Some people can be asymptomatic as well. So you have to remember that."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And on -- on our messaging to people in November, we were recommending that people carry their vaccine card. Why would someone need a vaccine card?"

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I'm unfamiliar if that was our recommendation come from the Board of Commissioners, if that was something that was done at the state or federal level. I would have to defer to them as to what their recommendations were and why. But I do not remember that being a recommendation that came from this Board -- Body."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Oh, it's just an Instagram post, so maybe somebody just -- from the Board of Health. "

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I can't tell you about that. I would have to defer to Dr. Paxton then if they were recommending that at that particular time."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And then finally, I just have -- I would just like you to speak on -- I've had numerous complaints of people attending jury duty and having to wear a mask -- having a mask mandate in our courts."

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I would have to defer to the court system on that particular situation. I believe that we provide, as well as Dr. Paxton provides, current data as well as her recommendation is what should be done. And from there, a decision is made in that particular area. Mr. Adams, would you like to add anything in particular to that?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Certainly. The masks are required as part of the court order from the Chief Judge of Superior Court. This is a continuation of what was required as part of -- during COVID. And the reason that -- and here again, I'm not going to speak for the Chief Judge -- but one of the reasons that we do that is, unlike individuals who are coming to 141 on their own, we actually summon individuals to come the court as part of -- to be part of a jury. And so, because we are summoning them and they don't necessarily have the ability, I guess, to say, no, the judge initially as part of COVID, believed that it was best to have everyone wear a mask because some of those individuals being summoned may, in fact, have pre-existing conditions or may be of the age where they are particularly susceptible. So that's really the big distinction, individuals who may come to the tax office are coming because they have to do something. Individuals who are summoned to be a part of the jury are coming there because they are required to come, and as a result, they've erred on the side of being conservative in terms of continuing the request to wear a mask."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Yeah, but our schools we're not -- that's a state law, correct?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "No. The actual continuation of it is by the order of the Superior Court of Fulton County."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah, I was just saying like, for instance with our school system, there are no mask mandates and the kids have to come to school. So with the courts, it just seems, you know, hypocritical in that aspect. So, I think -- I met with Dr. Paxton yesterday and she -- I asked her if she'd come speak -- speak on that. But I just have to -- up in the north, we just don't -- northern part of the county is just different, you know, we just don't wear masks."

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I think you'll find Dr. Paxton will advocate always for masks in rooms with large amounts of individuals, especially individuals especially individuals that have health problems. I think that will be constant message as you will hear from our Board of Health."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Well, thank you. I appreciate you coming forward."

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, ma'am. I'm sorry to interrupt you, by the way. I apologize."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Oh, no, no."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. You're going to respond to Commissioner Hall's question."

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Hall, so your question about the rebound -- the only thing that we're been told about rebound infections is the individuals who have taken antiviral medications. We've seen it very publicly with elected officials that have taken it for the president on down to other folks that they've had a rebound infection probably about seven to 10 days after. I've not heard any rebound from people who have not taken antiviral medication, but definitely something if we have a particular situation like that, we can refer to our health team with Dr. Paxton and we can go ahead and do a further investigation on that particular situation."

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

**MATT KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, ma'am."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I had a couple of questions for Mr. Adams regarding the case disposition on page 13, and we did talk about this a little bit yesterday one-on-one, but I'd just like to go through this. We -- you mentioned this at the last BOC meeting that the rate of case disposition is slowing and, you know, so just looking at the math here -- this is only a two-month average because I only have two months to look at -- or three months to look at it rather here. But, you know, we're only processing about 1500 cases per month or disposing of 1500 cases per month right now. At that rate, at the end of 2024, we would still have a significant backlog. And that is, to my understanding, when ARPA money runs out. So I'm just wanting to understand, as we discussed a little bit yesterday, what is an acceptable level of a backlog, and what is the plan to deal with this remaining, I believe it should be about 24,000 cases still remaining at the end of 2024 with my back of the napkin math?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, as we talked about, Commissioner Barrett, this was never going to be linear, right? We drew a straight line and said it would average out. And we didn't -- we didn't celebrate when we were at 10,000 a month. And I don't think we need to necessarily overreact because we're at 1500. We knew that this was going to be bumpy. We started off and built a bit of a cushion because we were able to address a lot of the civil cases very, very quickly. We knew that this was going to slow down; however, as I mentioned before, I'll mention to you, we feel that it will actually increase for a combination of reasons: one, we really are starting to have jury trials at a different level; secondly, we expect expiration of a speedy trial restrictions over the next few months to again accelerate the cases through the system, increase the indictments, increase the pace through the system. Judge Glanville has already met with his bench in anticipation of that. So, I think we're at a -- I'm hoping and expecting that we're at a low point right now. I expect these to accelerate. We need to average about 3,000 cases a month for the remainder of the period to get to zero if we use a straight line math. And so, I feel like we're going to accelerate. It's obviously something we continue to focus on, as I mentioned to you. We meet -- we meet every two weeks with the operating folks in the various agencies, and then we meet with the steering committee, and we provide additional information to our justice partners to help them get a handle around exactly what we're doing in terms of tracking and allocation for resource and the like. So a lot of things that we're trying to work on to increase the pace of it. But here again, we knew it wasn't going to be a straight line, and we anticipate that some of the things that I just mentioned are going to accelerate the case flow for the next -- over the next 18 months."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So just to clarify: Are you saying that with the ups and downs that you're expecting at the end of 2024, we will have gotten through the entire COVID backlog of cases and that's not including the backlog that we came into that period of time with, correct?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "When we -- when we started this project, there was nothing -- we didn't have a playbook. We had to put together the plan, we had never dealt with a case backlog of this magnitude in the middle of a pandemic with restrictions on jury trials, with restrictions on moving individuals from the jail. And so, I wish I could say to you with a 100 percent clarity that based on the models that have been established over multiple situations like this, we feel 100 percent sure of that. We've had to move resources around, right? We didn't realize -- we did not anticipate some of the challenges that we've had in terms of finding additional non-Fulton County spaces and restrictions on being able to have additional court rooms. So, we've had to morph through this. So what I will tell you and commit to you is we're doing everything and using every level we can to move the cases along. But we don't necessarily have the ability to say, hey, you know, we've had to deal with this five times in the past and every time we've been able to get through in 30 months. And so, I feel like we're going to make more progress, but I couldn't give you a number today and say, hey, on the October 1st of 2024, we're going to be at zero. I'm not quite sure we have to be at zero to declare victory in this whole thing because we didn't have a blueprint. What I will tell

you is that I feel pretty comfortable that we're going to be able to accelerate the pace, and that we're going to be doing some things that are going to get us a lot closer to that over the next 18 months."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay, I have a couple of other questions in regards to this, and I try to be quick about it, but as it relates to the hiring progress by department. I mean those two things; the case disposition and the hiring progress seem like directly linked. So if we don't have enough staff in the courts, then that's going to limit our ability to dispose of cases. So my question I think is, what are the challenges in getting these people hired? Are we not offering enough money? Are we not looking in the right places? What's -- why can't we get these people hired?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, we hire people and then they leave, right? Because we suffer from the same attrition, we're a microcosm of what's happening overall; not only in Fulton County, but really the US economy. So we make offers to individuals. Sometimes they show up for their job, sometimes they don't. We have individuals who may join us and decide they want to move to a full-time role elsewhere in the county. And so, here again, you know, we've stood up saying we need to hire 300 people. What we've found is, in some cases, and, you know, we've talked about deputize officers. It may not be as easy as that. We do know that we hire individuals and they leave. And so, we do suffer from some attrition. We've made a lot of progress in the public defender, right? If you look at what we were two months ago, there're about half of where they are today. We made a lot of progress in state court. The solicitor, we've added positions to the solicitor to address some things. So, here again, our -- having 300 people as part of this every single day, all day was aspirational, but the reality is we hire people, they leave, we hire people and they move to other departments. And that's why we have a continual process to make sure we have a pipeline of individuals. So we continue to do that, but I don't think there will ever be a time where we'll have 300 people every single day and those 300 people will be here for 18 months because that's just not the nature of the environment that we're in right now."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I hear you, and I'm sorry for interrupting. I don't think a hundred percent is what I'm suggesting, but I am suggesting we could be doing better. My other question is related to, I believe Mr. County Manager that you said we had 20.7, if I got that right; million ARPA money in reserve? Can you just talk about that and what is that being used for and how would that be used by the end of the term?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Sharon, maybe you want to comment on the -- it's principally for the likelihood that FEMA reimbursements will not be at 100 percent. So we have a number of -- a number reimbursement requests into FEMA, some of which we have received, some of which are still outstanding. Based on Matt's experience and others, the likelihood that some of those will not be approved is the use, the projected use of that 20.7. I'll say it's conservative, but it assures us that we don't have to come back and say, from a general fund perspective, that now we got to cover expenses that we've already expended. And I don't know off the top of my head, but

you may, Sharon -- how much in FEMA outstanding we have, versus how much has been received, or we may have to get that number for you. But that's --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But that's some portion of the 20.7, correct?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, that's the total portion of it -- or that's the reason for having --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "This idea that we may have to cover things that FEMA is not covering is why we're reserving 20.7. And so, what we have -- when will we have an answer as to -- because what I'm not wanting to do is leave 20.7 million that is supposed to help with things, like the backlog of cases on the table, and then it just disappears at the end of 2024. So that's what I'm asking about. So when will we know what else we're going to have to pay for out that money."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, there's not a date certain."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm sorry?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "There's not a date certain from FEMA. So it's really a judgment call as we go along as to which -- when do we declare -- well, it doesn't look like we're going to get this or we got definitive responses from them."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. And I also saw that we have, I guess a \$1.1 million contract that we're supposed to be approving? That's an ARPA money item for an IT ask. And I'm just wondering, is that out of the 20.7, is that something we've already agreed on before I was here and I just don't know about it? Do you know what I'm referring to? It's on the agenda for later."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It's not part of the reserve. It's actually part of what we've already got budgeted for a planned ARRP use. So it's not part of the reserve."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Are we going to still -- I don't know. Are we still talking about that before the budget discussion or no."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** No. Well, we'll get to that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. All right. Then I'll hold my questions on that. That's all."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Ellis? Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'll try to pace through this pretty quick. Just real quick. This is a question for the County Attorney, so. When a judge issues a court order on



something, we don't -- we as the Board of Commissioners do not have the ability to supersede a judge order, correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. So if there are complaints about the mask procedure, then those should be directed to the Chief Judge himself, correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Only the Chief Judge could reverse or amend that order."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So, I guess for clarification of that to the public, the concerns about that should be directed to -- to that since we do not have the ability to adjust that. That's his sole discretion, correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So I just think that's important for the public to understand that, that's, you know, the direction where that comes from, from the Chief Judge. Point of clarification too, I think just in terms of our backlog of cases, Orca, you know, I think this may be a question that Commissioner Barrett was asking, and I apologize if this is not. We captured all the cases that were outstanding at that point in time, and that was what Project Orca started with. It wasn't any residual backlog. It's everything that started here at that point in time, correct?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right. So it's just new stuff that will flow after that, okay. It wouldn't be captured in these numbers. Three measurements which I would like for us to begin to see in here potentially just to consider; number one is an easy one, I think. On the jail numbers, I know that two of the facilities are somewhat small, but if you could put numbers on the, I think, the Annex in Alpharetta just so we can kind of see what those are in terms of just, as opposed to the bar. I think those are only two that don't have them, because they're smaller facilities. So, if you could do that, you know, that will be helpful. And then, if there are a way that we -- as I understand it and from, you know, having some of the preliminary conversations with some of the folks that we had engaged on the jail feasibility study, one of the measurements that they talked about in other jurisdictions that they tend to look at is the percentage of unindicted cases, right? You know I think they had sort of set a threshold for alarm in about 25 percent; is that correct?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Could we begin to see -- begin to see in this report, and I realize some of that may span or not span Orca, but I think it would be a good

measurement, because it does sort of tie into the whole picture, to see if the percentage of unindicted cases in that trend?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Absolutely. We can add that to the jail report."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. And then on -- and similarly, one of the things that I may not agree with everything that Chief Judge is doing in Superior Court or some of the stuff that the posture he's taking, but one of the things that did sort of -- I was excited to hear was his emphasis on getting cases calendared and, you know, kind of forcing the issue about moving progress forward. Is that a measurement that we can somehow capture in terms of, you know, whether that, you know, how many of these are calendared or not? If you don't have an answer, that's fine. But I think that that's something that we could capture from a measurement standpoint to see if there is some sort of appreciable change in that, it might be helpful to see."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Let me take a look at that, Commissioner Ellis. It's not an Odyssey, right? So it would have to be in a totally different system, But it may -- we may be capturing some of that in this new software that we have to allocate nonassigned times in the courtroom. So, I'll take a look at that and see if there's a way to capture it."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. And then, on the public defender stuff where there's conflict counsel, I've see you've included some information on that, that we now get representation. So there are 130 -- 120 folks that are currently incarcerated that, you know, that did not have counsel before and now a third of those do, so it's down to roughly 90 that don't have counsel at this point in time?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "It's less than that, actually. We had a meeting last week with Ms. Ali from the Georgia Public Defensive counsel, and Mr. Kenner, who's our public defender, and we spent some time talking -- and David Summerlin from Superior Court. And we made some changes to the way we kind of work with each other and provide information. So I think it was down to -- I think like 50 individuals, if I remember correctly."

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "Fifty?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yeah, so we've made considerable progress in terms of reducing the number and as we bring on more attorneys and as they take more cases, I think we'll be able to make even -- even more progress."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. And then lastly, just in terms of just, you know, kind of the financial component of ARPA, I guess. You know, hopefully this is from a staff standpoint, as we continue to pace this through, as we get better line-of-sight on FEMA reimbursement, then that would be the point in time when we will come back and talk about how we would utilize those funds differently, right? And, you know, similarly on

the portion that's been allotted of the 75 of this it's been more apportioned to Orca specifically. You know, I guess it sounds like you're sort of doing this already in terms of as the various justice partners are identifying things. We've redeployed some funding, you know, that would have gone towards personnel to address some issues; is that correct?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That is correct, and also changes in personnel, right? So, for example, we've had discussions with different agencies about reclassifying positions because some of the positions we initially thought we don't need we realized we need others. So we do a fair amount of that as the need arises."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I wanted to ask in reference to the individuals, and you may or may not have an answer for this, Alton. If someone comes down for jury duty and they don't want to comply with the mask mandate, what's the procedure for that? Do you know if there is a procedure?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I do not know. I do believe that when the summons is sent out though, it does mention the fact that they're required to wear a mask. And I would assume -- and I'll find out that there may be a mechanism for an individual to say I can't come down, so I'll find out."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Because I know it something in there, and you feel free to correct me -- but I know it's something in there, if you have symptoms or something, they don't even want you to come down. But what I'm trying to get clarification on: one, we do know that if it's the order of the judge, as County Commissioners, we can't do anything about that. But I would be curious as to know if a person comes down and don't want to wear a mask, are they immediately released from jury duty? I think that would -- that would be something that we would need to know. That's what I would like to know."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I will find out and find provide information, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you. Also, what are we doing -- and you may or may not be able to speak to that -- this: What are we doing with our unindicted? I've had several calls and concerns from constituents who do have family members that are sitting unindicted. And so, when I look at these numbers and I look at, you know, what resources the judge have or don't have, do we have any numbers to speak as to how many that we're trying to get indicted or what we're trying to move in that realm of trying to get more people indicted? Would you have any of that information available?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, what I can tell you is that the pre-COVID, about 10 percent of our jail population were unindicted, so roughly somewhere between 200, 275 people. Today that number is closer to 30 percent, if not more. And so -- and I'm not an attorney, perhaps Commissioner Arrington is probably better at talking about this than I am, but my understanding is that when you indict someone and then when you calendar the case, you start a process that then allows that case to progress, and the majority of those cases, they actually don't go to trial. So there is a certain momentum that gets established once someone is indicted and once the case is calendared. And so, if you were to say what's one of the mechanisms, about the only thing that we could do potentially to speed individuals through the system and into the jail, it would be, in fact, to accelerate and raise the level of the calendaring as well as the indictment."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thanks. I just want to talk briefly about this, because I'm familiar with it because I practice law every day. Prior to COVID, there was about a two-year turnaround time on cases being indicted and going to trial. That's prior to COVID, right? And then you have two and a half to three years of COVID and no jury trials on top of that, right? So, you know, we have to be mindful of that, but even more just to take a step back to Commissioner Ellis' point, you know, we need people to just be mindful, the U.S. Constitution and the Georgia Constitution both have separation of powers. It's mandatory. The judicial branch, the executive branch, and the legislative branch. We are the legislative branch. The Georgia Constitution, Article One, Section Two, paragraph three, the legislative, judicial, and executive powers shall forever -- shall forever remain separate and distinct, and no person discharging the duties of one, shall at the same time exercise the functions of either of the others. Shall forever remain distinct. We don't have any control over what happens in any courts. We can't. The only thing we can do is provide them a budget. So, please, be mindful, separation of powers, Georgia Constitution, the United States Constitution, legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch. Cases -- even Commissioner Ellis, you get on the calendar, guess what, if I'm on the calendar for today, I filed a leave of absence, because I can't be in court and at this meeting at the same time. So even if you get on the calendar, if I have a leave of absence in, it's going to get re-calendared. So we got to really understand the systems that we're talking about, right? If you don't have conflict defenders -- you got a case over there now with 27 defendants? Nobody has 27 conflict defenders on speed dial. It's going to take some time. You got to have -- you have to understand the system, you know, and I don't know how to say it any differently, but I am pleased with the progress. I have seen the work that we've done. We've allocated 75 million towards ARPA money towards our judicial system of which, I believe, 30 million or so has been spent, and there's a remaining for allocated, 30 million spent out of 75 allocated for the judicial. There's another 45 million allocated for our judicial system. I'm pleased with the progress, and I'll stop there."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. All right. Thank you, Mr. Kallmyer, Mr. Manager. What was the next item? And, by the way, when the district attorney comes, we're going settle this issue of how many people in our jail are sitting there and not having been indicted once and for all, because when I talk to you privately you say some things to me, I'm the messenger. And I talk to the members of the executive branch, they have a story. I'm going to ask her directly. There's an answer to this question, and it needs to be answered today. What's next?"

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "On page 6, under Justice and Safety, **23-0049**, Sheriff, Fiscal Year '23 Proposed Budget, Fulton County Sheriff Patrick Labat."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And there is one other budgetary item. You wanted to talk about the Reparations request for money as well. And we'll hear from them."

**PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "First of all, good morning. It's still morning. Good morning and I want to take an opportunity if I can to thank each of you for phone calls, texts, et cetera -- I think it's on, thank you -- concerning my wife. She has had a couple of rough days, but that said, she wanted to make sure we remind our constituents of the importance of mammograms. And so, at this point good news is, as of yesterday, the doctor says she is cancer free. And so, I want to take an opportunity to thank each of you on that front. Second, if you will keep in your prayers this morning, I'm not sure if you've heard, a Georgia State Trooper was shot over at the training facility. And so, last I heard, he was surgery and should survive at this particular point. Third, I want to take an opportunity to thank our County Manager who you probably may or may not follow on social media, but if you do, last week at 3:00 a.m., 3:30 in the morning, he joined our team over at the jail in transfer and worked with our law enforcement division as well as the jail division to accompany and work alongside and get individuals here to court. He then went to 91 Rice Street as well as AC/DC to work through some of the logistics of what it takes to get the job done. Now, the important part -- and the reason I bring it up is, if you do follow him on social media, you saw a wonderful picture with our team and you saw, if I remember correctly, you saw Captain Jenkins, but then you saw several several civilians. And that brings us this particular point. Our County Manager and our teams, again I do want to thank Sharon and Alton and Hakeem and Kenneth with respect to really delving into what you suggested is a collaborative effort to make sure we -- we move forward with our requests and then do a job that would do our constituents good in terms of Public Safety. And so, to that end, one of the things that -- you got two memos. You got one from the County Manager and his team, you got one from us late last night or early this morning. The only difference in the memo is five percent that we are requesting for our civilian team, all right? The bottom line is we do not exist if our civilian teams aren't able to help us through these processes. I akin that to your chief of staffs or staff or what that looks like. But let me also tell you, just in case you did not know in the last 90 days, we have lost 32 civilian staff members, right; the question earlier about around the Orca funding and some of the positioning there. In

our own county system, there are better jobs. There are opportunities, and people are taking advantage of that as we continue to go through that piece. But this will represent the largest single investment in Public Safety collectively, of those four things, four items that we've brought forth and three of which we had agreed on in that space in the last 20 years. And so that in and of itself is a good news story for everyone that has worked collectively to make this happen. And so, before someone asks, because I know someone is going to ask what it will cost. In terms of that five percent we're talking about \$870,000 to increase that spend at that point. And I did have an opportunity -- again, not ask, but want to make sure we are completely transparent. I met with Judge Glanville on yesterday, and one of the things that Alton has been charged with going back to find or bring back is the throughput, throughput through and continuous raising of the number of cases we've send and go to court. So, Judge Glanville and I had a very productive conversation about how we rebound from COVID and continue to increase those numbers, so I look forward to that happening as well. That said, again I appreciate you all's time. If you all have any questions that last component will complete our ask for 2023 along with what's outlined in our memo at this point. So if you have any questions, I do again thank each of you, especially our new Commissioners who jumped right in and wanted to make sure, as many of you have in the past, taken a tour. I think it really opens your eyes to what 911 and what our team has to deal with on a daily basis. So, again, thank you all for your collaboration."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Just to clarify: So the number that you worked with the CFO on that I believe they sent us was 10 million, correct? And so, now you're adding an additional 870,000 to that; is that right?"

**PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So, yes. I am -- the short answer is, yes, in as much as the \$5.1 million that had already been restored. And so, it takes us just under somewhere around \$17 million total."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So that part was already addressed in the last BOC meeting correct? And so, this -- the money we're talking about now coming out of the 2.25 million in reserve is now not 10 million even but 10,870,000. Yes?"

**PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "And I'd have to refer to our CFO for specifics."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Is that correct, Sharon?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We'd also need to add in the additional overtime piece associated with that, so our estimate would be closer to 1.2 million."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. All right. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Other questions for the Sheriff? Thank you, Sheriff, don't leave."

**PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Thank you, I appreciate it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What is the next piece? Was it the Rep -- go ahead."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 12, under Commissioner's Presentation and Discussion items, **23-0061**, Discussion. Reparations Task Force update and funding requests sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I want to invite our Task Force Members down. They have prepared a report and have, I guess, some preliminary information for us to consider as we look at our budget."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** "Good morning, everyone. My name is Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, and I am here today with my Vice Chair, Marcus Coleman. I serve as Chair of the Reparations Task Force, and I want to start off by thanking you all for this very historic task force. From what we understand, we are the only county led task force of this kind within the United States, and in the form of Confederacy may I note. But this is a very historic day, and we are here today to report on our findings, and how we have operated as a task force from this moment forward. We have a total of six tenths task force members, and we have eight seats that are vacant. And up until probably about three months ago, we only had four. So we have worked diligently in creating a report for you which we will share shortly. We actually have two researchers that are part of this team. One of them is actually Olivia Reneau; hopefully, she will be walking through the door shortly. She is a Fellow from Duke University. We were fortunate enough to have her in order to serve as a researcher on this team."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Excuse me just one second. Are you going -- what are you presenting today? You're presenting the findings and a request?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** Yes, sir. Thank you, Chairman, yes. And what are we presenting today or actually our findings. We are providing a report and we are proposing that you support our recommendation in order to receive funding to continue our research findings."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, do you have a written report?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** "Yes, we do. So, if we could bring it up, there's a presentation, and you all received a report from me that was forwarded to your attention. If we could bring up the presentation."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Point of order: While they're pulling it up. This was not posted in our agenda stuff, right, that went out to the public? This report? That's a question for our Deputy Clerk. Was this particular presentation -- was it posted in our agenda information available to the public?"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "No, it was not."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Commissioner Ellis, I don't think they had finalized it at the time when I sent it over."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, can you summarize so we can get to the --"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** "Yes. Let me summarize the report for you. So we met from October 21st to January 2023, a total of six members, eight vacant. We established bylaws in 2022, and we made all public -- we made all meetings public via Zoom. And our -- I'm just going to fast-forward here. We actually -- in our study, we actually -- we begin to look at how we are going to organize ourselves. And what we were able to determine is that we would not make any formal recommendations for a request of what restitution looked like today. We understand that before we actually make recommendations, that there needs to be two studies. One is based on quantitative and qualitative data that would be the empirical study. That is the first study, followed by a feasibility study that can support what restitution looks like and how it can be supported. And we end this report that we will be presenting today, thank you. If you go to the page that states case study: We were actually able to look at what resources exist within the county -- you can go back -- I see you're moving too fast. Go back, go back, one more. Keep going. Okay. So if you want to go there, we'll go there. Okay. So we were able to perform three case studies based on primarily resources that exist under Fulton County's control. And I have to say that in order to fully understand what slavery looked like, Jim Crow looked like in the county, and urban renewal, you have to look at the resources that exist within the county. And they are wonderful resources that have helped us in order to create this study and to expand the research. We performed three case studies in this report, one in looking at Bagley Park. Previously, Bagley Park was under the jurisdiction of the county -- okay, yes. Yes, I'm hoping that whoever is presenting -- who is controlling the PowerPoint, if you could turn to the page that actually states Case Study One, Two, and Three. Yes, under research. Thank you. So the first case study was actually looking at Bagley Park. And what we learned is that there were African-American residents were forced off of that property with members of the Buckhead Community claiming that the area was unsanitary; and these residents was forced off of that property. During the time period that these individuals were being forced off their property, they were actually pushed to the east and westside of town where there was already a homeownership shortage during that time. The second case study, we began to look at convict labor. And what we began to learn in looking at convict labor is that it was a continuum of slave labor. First of all, you



actually had legislation that was passed in order to address the labor shortage in Fulton County and the City of Atlanta as the city was actually going through construction, and what we learned is that the same individuals who were the profiteers of race-based slave labor in the city and in the county continued to exploit convict labor. What we began to see is that the convict goods, laborers, and services that were created during the reconstruction and afterwards actually led to the creation of the streets, the bricks for some of the county buildings, schools, and it continued. Then we began to look at Fulton County and slavery; and what we see that from the onset of the county being created as a county, it actually had 20 percent of this population consisted of slave labor. And what we began to see in this, is that the same individuals who were involved in the selling of slaves, one of the most notorious individuals becomes the Commissioner of Public Works with the City of Atlanta immediately after slavery. So we see all sorts of connection with this. We learned that from looking at slavery in Georgia that 45 percent of its revenue was actually based on slave labor goods and services. And then you will see some of this continuum in looking at convict labor. So this is what we were able to gather just during our short period of convening as a task force and now we are at a crossroad. Where do we go to from here? How do we make recommendations with zero support? In order to do this research, it requires funding, and before we can make any recommendations of what restitution looked like, in looking at how do we make people whole, we need support in order to continue this study. That's what we're actually asking today. If you go to the last slide now, in looking at what we are proposing, again, it's going to be two studies that we're looking at. One is an empirical study that is based on empirical and quantitative data. We're looking at three to six researches in order to perform the empirical study at up to \$210,000. And that is from April 2023 up until October the 24th. And we chose this date because November is when want to make the recommendations before your budget is actually approved. Then there will be a feasibility study. We're looking at up to \$30,000, where the recommendations that we propose will be supported by this feasibility study to show how the county can actually support granting restitutions to those who are the descendants of former slaves. Where does the money exist? How can it be paid for? And how do you make people whole? Then there's the administrative support. Again, this task force was supported with zero dollars up until this point. We are in need of administrative support, and then we are also looking at having public meetings, and we're looking at up to \$5,000. That gives you a total up to \$250,000, and I want to turn it over to my chairman. If he would like to make comments."

**MARCUS COLEMAN:** "I'll be very brief. You know, I've have the opportunity to be involved in some pretty monumental things, national issues, and changing of legislation on the federal level and state level. I have never had the headache like I've had until being on this task force. This is a charged-up topic for some. But truth be told, it should not be. Being from Atlanta, I am more than honored and proud to serve on this task force. Dr. Alvarado has done a hell of a job. She spoke about her researcher out of Duke; Olivia is just an excited youth who was happy to be doing this work. I, on the other hand, have been somewhat concerned because today is a good faith day, in many of our opinions. Good faith meaning we've been meeting for a year, and I heard

some -- what's been online -- what's been public and what has not. We have been meeting via Zoom for a year and we would like to come into the chambers and meet. We have taken criticism and we understand that that is part of it. It is just beginning. But as we just celebrated King Day, being in his city and his county, in his home, in his state, comrade and Dr. Bernice King, she spoke eloquently as she always does on King Day. But she talked about the convenient -- the conveniency in honoring her father. But there's an inconvenient part of Dr. Martin Luther King that we forget to honor. You guys are faced with that inconvenient honoring today, as I see the streets riddled with, it begins with me, and pictures of Dr. King and Coretta. We truly have the opportunity to set the tone as a county in this nation. The state of California is reaping benefits because they have come to current times. Other cities across this nation have been celebrated because they are in the here and now, the urgency of now. I close with this, we referenced Dr. King's book all the time when we go from here, community or chaos. Well, hell, I think we are deep in chaotic times. The chaos is here. The research that we're doing on behalf of this county, the four of you who look like me and Dr. Alvarado weren't even thought of about being on that Board. You have the opportune time and an opportune moment. I see two council members that were not here before. I welcome you. I will close officially with saying this: I appreciate some of the attention that you all are giving me, because one of the most disheartening things is when you do this work voluntarily and you come down here in your professional capacity, and you don't have the decency to at least look us in the eyes and in our spirit, it speaks about future votes. So, please don't let this work be in vain, Mr. Chairman. Please don't let this work be in vain. We are in the current time of now, and Atlanta and Fulton County has always led the nation, so how will it look if funding is denied, to thoroughly do a study. If you don't like that figure, you're sure not to like the one that we come up with later. I say that, I say that, so everybody can be out front and no secrets. Let's call it for what it is. This is not an easy topic to discuss here. I thank Marvin Arrington for recommending this. I thank you, Natalie Hall, for cosponsoring this. But let's not do this as a token or as a symbolism. This work is serious, and we need to talk about and be up front right now to avoid the conflict later on. So, please support this funding. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "If I can, I just wanted to ask, I think you talked about you all have a researcher now. We have someone from Duke, and so we haven't been able -- haven't had to incur any research costs up to date, but apparently that research grant runs out?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** "In April."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "In April of 2023."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** "And I'm a professional researcher. I know what these dollars look like. That's a very conservative number. Very conservative number. If you were to look at the 27-page report that we've created for you, there is one page that is a total of 11 items where we look at areas in which we want to explore. The case

study is just three areas in which we're looking at out of 11. And we're only looking at those areas in which Fulton County falls under the jurisdiction of the county. We're looking at voting, healthcare, libraries, the jails, the courts. Everything else is going to fall on the city. So we're looking at what is the county responsible for. And so, we have to work towards making people whole. One -- there's -- at some point in time, if not today -- some point later, somebody's generation is going to have to address this issue. Whose generation will it be? There's been so many moments in history where we were literally at the crossroad in order to make things right, we are here today. We are here today. I don't want to look back at my life and say this was the moment and we missed it. I want to be able to say, I was a witness of this historical moment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, anything else? Commissioner Abdur-Rahman? It's 12:17."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. It may be 12:17, with all due respect, Chairman, but I think this is a very important issue. I know that it is an uncomfortable topic. The reality is that we must embrace uncomfortable topics. Dr. Bernice King stated Monday so eloquently how everybody embraced her father and his dream on that day, and how they come in, and when you look at the program, it invokes an emotion. It invokes tears. It invokes a life in a way that we all strive to be. But she also talked about her father being the most hated man in America when he was assassinated. And so, we must embrace these uncomfortable conversations if we are ever to heal as a society. I imagine when other conversations around suffrage, around the Holocaust, they were uncomfortable conversations, but they were conversations that had to be had. Now, what does reparations look like? You can talk to five or six different individuals and get five or six different answers. But are reparations needed? I think we're past that point here, that's not in my vernacular debatable. But the fact that we have to put our money where our mouth is, if we are truly going to heal as a society and move forward. We must embrace what the reparations task force. Now, I will say to the task force, please make everything that you possibly can public. And the reason that I'm asking you that is society needs to be educated because whenever we have a conversation about reparations, you can feel it in the air. The thickness of uh-oh, and I embrace it. My family roots -- we traced it back to University of Georgia. We've traced back everything to the point that a free education at UGA was offered to my descendants. So this is a conversation that we have to have, no matter how uncomfortable. And nobody is convicting anyone of anything. No one is saying that anyone is a bad person, and I may be politically incorrect by saying, get the chip off your shoulder. But I wouldn't know what other thing to say other than how are we to ever become that beloved community that we often talk about on one day out of the year, and the other 364 days we don't talk about what we need to do to get to the beloved community. There are people that don't look like me that support me wholeheartedly. And there's people that look like me that would throw me away; that doesn't have anything to do with the fact that we must put our insecurities, our egos, our prejudices whether they're inborn or not, we must put them to the side. And my plea here, not only to my colleagues, but to the general public, let's take this serious, the

Reparation Task Force was put out there seriously; but we all know how long it took to get people on it. We must have the uncomfortable conversations to move forward. We must educate people so we can move past uncomfortable conversations to productive conversations. If we truly, truly, truly, truly want that beloved community, you cannot have a beloved community unless you embrace the injustices and things that were systematically done to pardon that beloved community that you say you're part of. So, I would ask my colleagues almost to the point of begging, please take this serious. Please fund, and I will ask the Reparation Task Force let's do more. I am willing to use a bully pit of my office to educate our community of all colors, because everyone should know why this is being asked and why, if we're ever to move to that view of the beloved community why this is important that everybody's educated on, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Barrett, it's 12:23."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So just by me asking to speak and based on the color of my skin, I'm sticking my neck out, so to speak, here. So I want to, first off, say to both of you, that I fully respect the work that you're doing. I think reparations is an important conversation. It's clearly one that's been going on for decades plus, at all levels, and I definitely heard you, Mr. Coleman, correct --"

**MARCUS COLEMAN:** "-- yes, ma'am"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- on the spirit. I believe that the spirit is correct here. I also heard Dr. Bernice King's remarks, and I agree with what she's saying, that there's a lot of, you know, honor paid on one particular day per year, but she also talked a lot about working to end systemic racism in our various systems, whether it be education, criminal justice, equal opportunity for all of those things, right? So, I think there's a lot of ways in which we can help to make good on what the country and perhaps the city, the county, the state, however you want to look at it, has done wrong. And historically speaking, I am not sure that I am educated enough personally right now as a brand-new Commissioner who's been here for 18 days to make a call on this one way or another. I did read the study that you included -- by the way, there was a study included in the packet, the longer study, and it was included. I do have some questions more specifically about the funding, and so I would like to just ask, in the original packet, the number for three to five researchers was 110,000. It's now 210,000. Could you speak to that?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** "Yes, I can speak to that. So you actually received the wrong copy of the task force -- of the report, yes. And so, I followed up immediately and said that that was the wrong figure."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Oh, okay."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** " I going to blame it on eyes. I just actually had Lasix surgery. So that's what it was. And so, it was a one instead of a two, and then I sent it again, and so evidently you receive the wrong one."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I do have some other questions about how this would work. So, in other words, you're talking about two different studies and you're talking about 210,000 for three to five -- I guess three to six researchers per the slide. And then -- so 210,000, and then the feasibility study being 30,000; so again, I'm not clear on what the researchers are doing and what the RFP is about, and --"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** "-- okay, so I can explain that. So when you're performing research, it requires different types of researchers, different type of methodologies, okay? So when you're looking at the first study, when we talk about the empirical study, there is 11 items that we're looking at, and you can actually see that in the outline that I provided for you to see which page number in that report, it may be -- it actually falls right before the case studies. You're going to see a list of items. Let me see if I can get to it. I'll flip the pages as I'm -- as I'm talking. But when you begin to look at an empirical study that's based on quantitative and qualitative data, which each of those 11 items, you're going to be looking at, for example, if you're looking at slavery, you can quantify the number of individual that were enslaved, okay? But you have to contextualize that information to explain how did slavery even come to exist in Georgia when previously you actually had quite emigrant and convict labor. What happened in 1752 to actually cause this change? What actually caused the number of slave labor to increase in this county? There's all sorts of answers that's going to come from that. You're actually going to see the growth in numbers within the state, within the county, within the city. You're going to see those numbers, and you need to be able to explain why. What actually happened to the lives of those individuals? How were their labor exploited? How much labor -- what was the value of an individual at that time? How much work did they perform? How do the city benefit? Oh, and let me just follow up, I am sorry. And then what is the value of that today? So that's the quantitative and qualitative data as an example. That's very different in the feasibility study. The feasibility study, when we make recommendations after we've had public comments, we've shared our findings with the public and they've made recommendations. The task force would then make recommendations of what we could do. The feasibility will show very much like any other feasibility study that you've had before, is this fundable? Where would the resources come from? How can you support it? Does it come from federal dollars? Does it come from state dollars? Where is it coming from? How are you going to support whatever the restitution is that we're proposing, and what does restitution look like? So those are two totally different things."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Just to follow up: It seems to me that the report that you're talking about, that you're calling the empirical study, which -- it seems to me that it needs a little bit more clarification on exactly what's going to be looked at and how. And it also seems to me that that may be quite a long process. So I don't know what you're thinking in terms of time frame to find the particular researchers, what the

qualifications are that you're looking for, who's going to manage those folks, who's going to manage the process; but it seems to me that that is more than a year in the works. I'm just guessing here."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO:** "We could be here for a hundred and fifty years looking at how this country have wronged the people who were enslaved. So we are going to -- so this is going to be an abbreviated study in order to come to some type of resolution in order to make some type of recommendation, but the task force's lifespan is only about two more years from now? So we have to get to work. The research can go on and on and on, so which --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- which is all the more reason it seems to me. I'm sorry to interrupt you. But which is all the more reason it seems to me that it -- it needs to be more defined so that it can be done more quickly; and also just that it may be that this is -- that there's some money now and then the feasibility study is not in the budget right now because we're not really ready for that piece. Again, I think my perspective, Commissioner Arrington, with all due respect, is that I need more time to study this and talk to my District's appointee on the task force, and I'm certainly in support, as I said at the beginning, of the spirit of what y'all are doing and I am grateful for the work that you've done so far, and I certainly heard what you said as well, Commissioner Khadijah, and I am taking this very seriously. I've spent a lot of time reading this report. I'm just -- I'm just not sure that I'm ready to say here's the -- here's the pot without really understanding what's going to happen next."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's fine. I welcome you talking to the appointee, Ms. Oesby. She is one of the descendants of Mr. Bagley. And so, I am so happy that she is on the committee, and particularly with Fulton County as it relates to property taxes. And if you take the property -- wrongfully condemn the property of over 600 people, you know, that's a very limited portion of people or a very limited segment of people that might be entitled directly to reparations, right? And so, I'll just stop there."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I just have one last thing to say on that front, sir. My thinking would be, and I don't know if you're amenable to this, but my thinking would be that we will have money in the reserve, and I'm happy to continue this conversation once I've had time again to talk to, you know, my representative. I'm absolutely -- I'm not saying, I'm a, no, on this; I'm just saying I feel like I need a little bit more time to study it, that's all."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you, Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "12:31."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'll try to be quick. I'm kind of in the same boat as my other newbie Commissioner on the council. I reached out to my appointee, and I haven't heard back, haven't had time to have a meeting with her at all yet. So, I hope to as soon as possible. But my understanding, and maybe I don't understand because we had this discussion at our last meeting about boards, committees, and task forces. And clearly, you guys are a task force that's functioning, that's working, and I appreciate that. But is the purpose of a task force to put people on that can actually do the research, can actually do task, or how are other task forces -- do we fund any other task forces in the county? Does anybody --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam CFO, do you want to answer it? I've had task forces that they have -- none have ever been funded. Madam CFO? Are you aware of any that we've funded, that was set up and created by a Commissioner?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I would have to go back and look, but no, sir. Nothing comes to the top of my mind."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's a loaded question. Stop right there. Let me get this, because a task force, a board, a council. You can call it whatever the hell you want to call it, okay? They all serve the same thing. These are volunteers from our community working on our behalf. And yes, they get paid. The Development Authority gets paid, yes, they get paid. Board of Elections gets paid. Don't come in here starting that mess."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I apologize."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "They all have budgets. And I'm not -- that's not directed at you. That's not directed at you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm not directing that at you, Commissioner Thorne. I apologize. I'm not directing that at you. I'm just saying that look, people talking about they don't know if it's been funded or do task forces get funded. We have all types of volunteer community boards that all have budgets in Fulton County right now. The Board of Registration, what's the budget for Board of Registration and Elections?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner, we hear you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "What is the budget for the Board of Registration and Elections?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "What is the budget for the Board of Registration and Elections?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm going to give the floor back to Commissioner Thorne because I don't think she was finished."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I was just trying to figure out, because I thought this past week in Roswell we opened a history museum. And I just thought well, may be perhaps with the second appointment, I could appoint somebody that would be maybe be more qualified as a volunteer to do research, that would be able to do research by my connections there. So that was kind of my thing. I just thought maybe task forces were a volunteer thing. The Board of Elections, they run -- they help our -- they advise our staff in the running of our elections, so I think there's kind of a difference between the Development Board and the Board of Elections. You say that zero dollars were spent, yet you've used county resources, correct, with people who attend your meetings via Zoom, the lawyers, the external affairs, the librarians. So we have invested some costs, would you say so?"

**MARCUS COLEMAN:** "Commissioner Thorne and Commissioner Barrett, let me take this opportunity because you -- again, you guys are new. You women are new. Commissioner Rahman, she spoke on it, the lack of seriousness that this task force has received, and it's put you two in an unfortunate position, but that's leadership, right? The vote was four to two to create it with one abstention. We've met via Zoom because of the virus for nearly eight meetings. And it wasn't until I came in here on an unrelated issue and made the announcement that there had been only four appointees. And, unfortunately, just for the record, it was the African American Commissioners, your colleagues. Shortly after that, then the appointments all were full. So it doesn't surprise me that we're here today in this tough moment, and I just didn't throw around Dr. King before Dr. King took that cigarette break and was literally trying to -- the assassin tried to put a bullet through his mouth, but we know what was the result. Reparations for slavery was one of Dr. King's top priorities. We like to talk a lot about the younger King and not the 39-year-old King, so that's what I meant by reparations. The lack of seriousness has led to the lack of information by the appointees from your predecessors. The lack of engagement, and I have to, you know, with Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Hall, and then some others. But we meet once a month. There's been invitations that have been put out to Commissioners. We're here right now in this tough moment, in this inconvenient moment because this is a task force that has been operating under the radar on an issue that is national and international, because I've been told over and over again this is Georgia; this ain't California. I happen to, on behalf of this task force representing Fulton County, I happen to attending the deed returning ceremony in LA County for the Bushes-Beaches family. Fulton County was echoed as championing this charge. I wonder how the people would feel who clapped in that audience if they knew we were sitting here begging right now to do



studies that is ultimately needed to get funding for whatever we come forth with. And one of the topics is definitely freeing the land, stolen land. So again, new Commissioners: this was not taken seriously, and we've been operating methodically for at least a little over a year, so I welcome you guys' engagements. If you would have been taken seriously out the gate, I don't think we'd be here at this point. I would yield because this is the young woman who has been doing some --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute, just a minute, everybody. Let's -- we aren't going to be spending all day on this. Do you have anything else?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah, this is -- in reading -- I did read all your report. Very nice job, Olivia, I assume that's who you are. But I just look at -- this is just a drop in the bucket, as far as cost to the county. To do more extensive research, you guys were talking about creating a DNA database or DNA testing potentially -- I looked in your minutes. I went back and looked in some of your minutes in creating this massive DNA database. And I can't think what the cost of that would be in the future. And I just see this as an unending expense, and we have just so many needs and so many criteria's in the county now that we're cutting. There's \$27.6 million of unfunded positions that we aren't able to fund right now. And so -- and for me, I live in North Fulton and, by the way, Bagley Park, Garden Hills, I wouldn't consider that North Fulton. But in my District, we're very diverse, and that's what I love about it. We have immigrants, a lot of immigrants from India with the tech companies, a lot of immigrants from Israel. We have a huge Hispanic population. I myself, I'm half Hispanic, so I understand like injustices. You know, my family's lived in on the South Texas borders, so I totally understand, but that has nothing to do here."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioners, we're going to have to move on. Any questions for them?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I just feel like -- no, I don't think I have any more questions, but I just wish we could focus on helping people and just helping everyone and just focus on building bridges like Mayor Andrew Young, said."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yeah, I just want to clarify some information. This particular board, have you all received any funding? Have you all received any administrative support? Have you all received anything for you all to be able to adequately come back with the recommendation for reparations? Okay. So what I'm saying to my colleagues today, whatever information that you need, these people are not philanthropists. They cannot just go into their personal pockets and fund what we're asking them to do. We as leaders in our community have to take the position of supporting some type of financial assistance to this task force if we are serious about the charge that we have asked them to do. Now, what that amount could be and seed money and starting off, and what has been asked, I will yield the floor to Commissioner

Arrington. But this is something, if we truly are – now, one must have a conversation with themselves privately. Do you truly support this? Do you think this is something that should be done? Does this add to the community? And once you have that conversation with yourself, then we can move forward. But I would say to task these individuals with what we ask, Commissioners, to ask them to do with a vote and not to give them funding sends a message. And so, I would ask my colleagues to the point of begging; we must do something in order to move what we have charged them to go forward. Thank you, Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Hall and it's 12:42."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. To those new Commissioners who were not here when Commissioner Arrington and I brought this forward, I would say to you, you need to contact Alderwoman Ruth Simmons because Evanston, Illinois which I'm very proud of, because it is the northern suburb in Chicago where Northwestern University is located, and it is a place where I grew up. It was the first city in the United States to pay reparations to black residents. They pledged \$400 to eligible black households and then an additional 10 million over ten years with a vote of eight to one, and the one, no, vote came forward and said that truly they were not against reparations; they just needed more information about the housing plan to address how black people were treated. Alderwoman Ruth Simmons said this is a set aside for an injured community that happens to be black that was injured by the City of Evanston for anti-black housing policies. And so, they are addressing that issue. So, if you want more information about how this is done; they use a three percent tax that they were already receiving, and they use that toward this as well as they get a lot of pro bono help and assistance from those organizations that are pro-reparations. So, I wish I had heard Dr. Bernice King's speech, but as God would have it, he blessed me to be honored by Jesse -- Reverend Jesse Jackson, Jr. and Operation Push for being an impact educator; and so, I was in Chicago on MLK day. But as a person who has been designated as an impact educator, I want everyone to be clearly educated on this issue and understand the need for it. And so, as I have been, I will always be in support of this because it is very necessary. Thank you all for the hard work with no funding. There are boards that get funded that don't do work as hard as you have done. And to Madame Historian in heals, thank you, because I know you've worked very hard on this, and you're just looking to be fair and just."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Arrington, should we take this up. We discussed the budget when all the other items that may be forthcoming. What's your pleasure?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm fine with dealing with the -- I guess with the budget issue as part of the budget. I think that's why we combined these items together. And so, I don't have a problem with having the budget conversation as part of the larger budget conversation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you. Anything else that we took before we get to the budget?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Can I just thank our researcher and have her just say hello and introduce herself?"

**OLIVIA RENEAU:** "I understand that we only have a minute, so I'll just speak briefly. My name is Olivia Reneau. I am Duke University class of 2022, so I just graduated. I'm a Duke University Heart Leadership Program Fellow. My principal research interest is municipal reparations. I reached out to this task force before I graduated and expressed my extreme interest and enthusiasm to furnish resources and research to the task force, independent of Fulton County. I serve here functionally as a volunteer researcher. My principal interest here has been property -- property taxes, displacement, and I did most of the case work with the precedent set by the Buckhead Heritage foundation and existing scholarship on Bagley Park. So, thank you for your time today and I ask that you do take our request and the work that we have done without the investment -- the formal investment of resources seriously."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, ma'am. And thank y'all for being here today. Thank you. Madame District Attorney, come on down and we're going to get to the budget."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Good afternoon."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good afternoon."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Chairman, I'll let you start with whatever questions, so that I make sure that I don't waste your time. I can tell we are getting to the lunch hour."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, we may not. We're going to get through this through this. So your input is, I think is required. We've had various requests, so probably more are coming, and the Sheriff made his presentation, and you have sent around a document. I believe, you've met with each Commissioner and expressed what you think that you need, and I just want to be honest with everybody, what you explained to me makes more sense than some of the other stuff that I've heard, so this is your opportunity to explain to the Board as a Body what you believe that you need. Then I want to ask you to clarify some questions, because from the messenger in this case, some of this I believe -- others up here believe, but they won't say it to you directly. They'll say it to me in the confines of my office. The executive team will say it to me, raise questions in the confines of my office. The public will say the same things, but they won't say it publicly. So this is your opportunity to dispel or whatever you want to call it, some of the questions, and I'll get to that once you talk about the (inaudible), the \$4 million request that you had."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "So that we have an accurate record: Me and Commissioner Ellis tried very hard to have to a meeting with each other. Believe he was traveling and I was traveling, and so we played phone tag. He is the only Commissioner though that sits here without the benefit of having a one-on-one meeting as to no fault of his or my own. I got messages from him. I'm sure he also received messages from me, but we just were not able to connect and so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "He was otherwise occupied."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "And I understand doing something really great, so I support his departure. And it's interesting because things always come full circle, because some of the things that we're discussing, it was actually Commissioner Ellis that brought up some sources two years ago. What I want to give is because we do have two new Commissioners, kind of a historic perspective. I think that it's helpful to how we get to being here today. As everyone who sits here -- other than those two Commissioners -- because they just were not here to have lived it. When I took office, we came into an office where there was zero transition, as we all remember meaning from that day to this day; there's been no conversation between me and the former district attorney. I think that that is important. I think it's also important to note that when we came in and took office, that we were not able to ask for anything in our budget because that is the policy or the procedure of Fulton County. And so, we relied on the budget of the former district attorney, who, I believe, did not put really any effort into that. I came into an office that I was very clear on I thought was ill-equipped in terms of personnel in two ways. I thought that some of the personnel that was there and present was not qualified to be there. They may have been goodhearted people, but they didn't have the experience level that would be needed to do the kind of cases that we did. And also, it was just not manned properly, meaning there just was not enough personnel, especially in the wake of what had happened with COVID. But I was very clear with you, Chairman that it wasn't just the wake of COVID, it had been an office that was mismanaged, and so we had these huge numbers in backlog. If you will recall, when we came here, the numbers of your appointee, the great work of Mr. Adams and Ms. Alexander gave us that there was 16,300 unindicted cases as we walked in the door, and only about half of that -- probably actually a little bit less than half of that, could have been attributed to the year of COVID. The rest was, what we'll call a historic backlog, going back '16, '17, '18, '19; and so, I came to this Commission and said, hey, look here, let's deal with reality or reality is gone start dealing with us. And so, the reality that we had to deal with was that that staff was not in a good place. I've made no apology. They ran stories on it. I fired about 50 people when I walked in the door, maybe 60, maybe 75. Fired everyone I felt that was not qualified to be in that place, but I also came and said we need new positions. You know, I run a higher attrition rate than anyone else in the county. So you can't tell me I can't get staff? And I can keep staff and I can replace staff when staff leaves, and I do so at about a 97, 98 percentile rate. So, we were able to get staff. That was a great success, and that was a success that I owe to the Commission. Fifty-five staff members you gave me to be permanent staff members. They live with us, they're here with us today, they are

moving on. You also gave us 73 of what we now call the Orca employees, and this is where I say Commissioner Ellis comes in full-circle. Commissioner Ellis, from the very first meeting started asking, why are we not using more of these Orca federal dollars to support these Orca employees? For the most part, it has been done in some part; I want to give credit where credit is due. There were some computers given, there were some cell phones given, that was made true. Ms. Alexander and Mr. Adams immediately calculated in, okay? These employees will need a computer. They will need a cell phone. But we admitted to each other that all things could not be calculated. It was a learning and a growing process. So we came to you with what we thought was really kind of a common sense request. As you have more employees, more expenses will be needed. In fact, it was Commissioner Ellis that said why are we not paying for the building for this space with these Orca dollars since it's supporting Orca employees? Specifically, he asked about cars, because of those 73 employees, 20 of them were investigators; and investigators, there's no secret they're police officers, and they're the most expensive employees. And so that is a pot that as I talk, I always want you to keep in mind, we really haven't done a good job with supporting it, because I think we started to think about it later. For instance, let me give you a real basic expense that sounds real small, but adds up real quickly. The pressure on my neck has been indict, indict, indict. But there's a real common sense thing that happens when you indict. People get subpoenaed to the grand jury. When they get subpoenaed to the grand jury or the petit jury, which is a jury that decides the cases of 12, they give \$25 a day. It sounds small until you understand how many cases we've indicted. And that every case is going to have on average two witnesses that come to it. Some will have 20, some will have one. But for each of those cases we had to pay it. We didn't really use that Orca money to support those fees, so that might have been a source that we could go to. The bottom line is this: The District Attorney's Office was given \$0 and 0 cents to add to these 73 plus 55 employees. Some of you all will say, well, wait a minute. I remember there was some money that was allocated. You will be correct. There was a line item given to pay the rent on that building for more space that was given; but you, more than anyone else or as well as all of these Commissioners, understand that it's a line item in the budget. It went directly to pay the rent. It couldn't have been given to any other source but that. But there were no additional monies given. So what has happened at the end of last year is we left with bad credit. We didn't have enough money to pay the phone bill, because now you have all of these extra employees that were provided a phone but maybe their phone bill was not paid, so we didn't have enough for the phone bill. We didn't have enough to cover our printing, so we're left with printing not done. You have more people in cars. There was not enough for gas. And by the way, I've said it a hundred times, I'm sure, Mr. Davis is tired of getting e-mails from me saying I need more cars and I need cars that actually work. It's embarrassing that my employees have broken down in horrible places. Places that were dangerous to them, because we were not given the appropriate amount of cars. And so, we are not coming forward today to ask for an additional employee. In fact, at the end of this year, we know we lose ten of those 73 Orca employees. I'm not even protesting that. I will be talking to you as I've told each of these Commissioners, next year we're going to talk about, if you expect this to continue to run, we're going to have

to do something about those other 63 employees. But what we are here is to talk about realistic needs to cover the expenses of having a staff of this size. As I told each of you, except Commissioner Ellis, there's nothing sexy in my request. I'm asking you for radios, because guess what? When police officers go out to a scene, which is what we often do, or go out to see a witness, they have to radio in so they'll stay alive. That's \$400,000 of my request right there. We should be embarrassed as a county, but I'm going to say it and put it on the record, I had to borrow from a neighboring county radios, but of course, they were only able to loan me ten. Why is that so? My brother and my partner in crime, the Sheriff, also loaned me some radios, but obviously he could only loan them because he needs them. But when he understood that I was in a crunch, but I've never had radios for all of my officers and, as such, we've put them in jeopardy. I've asked you things for software licensing so that we can do good investigations. Commissioner Arrington asked me a great question, which I can't answer, maybe you all should research for next year why is the county not just doing a broad, you know, Adobe for everyone, and then us getting us our part. Until you do that, I'm going to have to ask for it in my budget. There is literally nothing sexy. I'm asking you for gas to put in cars. I'm asking you for software licensing. I'm asking you for travel expenses for witnesses that have to come here. And so, we've asked you for very basic things that just will make the office run and support these additional employees. And as I've told you all, it doesn't matter to me if you get it out of the Orca funding or the general funding. I think that we have missed some really great opportunities to get money out of Orca funding because clearly a lot of these resources are supporting Orca cases, as you define them. So you said there were some hard questions, let's go through them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, let me ask you just one. Commissioner, do you want to?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. First of all, DA, thank you for the work that you do. I think that we will be remiss if we didn't thank you, because we do see the difference that you're making. I want to ask and maybe, this may be a question to the County Manager, the CFO. Is there Orca funding that is not available to you based on by definition? I'm not clear about that because I heard you reference Commissioner Ellis twice in reference to the Orca funding. So, is there Orca funding that is not available that you're not able to get? That's what I'm asking."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Well, obviously, that would have to be determined by the CFO, by the County Manager, most importantly, by you all as to where we could use it. But the question here asked is, if you have these 20 Orca investigators, we'll use them because that's where the expenses come -- why are those Orca investigators bulletproof vests not paid through Orca? I don't think he said it couldn't be done; I think that those things were not thought of. Why are we not paying for -- all 20 of those investigators need cars, right? So they can go out and subpoena witnesses. Believe it or not, people don't volunteer to come to our court cases; and so, they have to go out. And so, those were the kind of inquiries that Commissioner Ellis asked when we were first during these processes. But that has never been done. It's

never been addressed. It's never been used. What I think is that there's funding out there that we could have used. Let's talk about a reality here: for the justice system, I believe it was about \$75 million that you all gave. That was for 300 employees to cover many, many different agencies. Well, we know that the Orca budget, Mr. Adams is the expert on this -- probably only at any given time maybe hired about 160 of those. So clearly there is more money out there that needs to be used to support all of the agencies since we were not able to use it for employees. What I believe Fulton County is going to end up doing is giving a lot of money back to the federal government if we do not use this money for the appropriate things. And one of those appropriate things that we know is to keep our communities safe."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Well --"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "-- but I do not think that all of the money should come from Orca funding. I'm just telling you I think that there is some money that possibly that is a resource for you."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "County Manager and CFO, may I ask you a question. But before I go this question that I'm going to ask, I'm going this other question of you, Madame DA. And you brought it up. Indictments. There's a cost associated with indictments."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Absolutely."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Can you, for the lack of a better word, in layman's terms, for our listening public, because I think it's important to educate individuals when it comes to indictments. I posed a question to Alton Adams this morning, where are we on indictments? You said yourself you referenced how many were in when you came in. So can you just kindly give us a quick snapshot of where we are and the cost associated, please?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Absolutely."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Madame DA, just a minute. Let me add to that. One of the questions I wanted to ask, and it speaks to it: We internally say the expert that there are 1,200 inmates in our jail unindicted, you say that's BS."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "I don't think that your number is accurate, but I think that this is what you will find. But I would contend that there are probably 800 hundred of them. But I think that where we always get confused is -- I'm going to make you a defendant for the day. Chairman Pitts may have an unindicted burglary in the Fulton County Jail. That may be an accurate statement, right? We're both telling the truth because you say -- and I say, yeah, but I indicted Chairman Pitts on this murder and his rape, we're going to get to his burglary. And so that's where there's always a dispute in this number that you have defendants sitting in the Fulton County Jail that

have two, three open cases. They get arrested, they are let out on a bond. They pick up a new case. Maybe their first case gets indicted, or maybe their latter case gets indicted. But they have an open case. And so, I think that's why there's always this dispute with the number of how many unindicted defendants are there in the jail. If you ask me just truly sitting in there, they don't have an indictments sitting on their head, that's why I continuously tell you, no, you know, that's not accurate. And when I had been pulled a list from each, and we pull it, you'll see, yeah, he's got nine cases, and you're right, I've only indicted him on six of them. And so that become of a dispute. And we have to make decisions on, am I going to really indict this theft by shoplifting, when he's got a homicide and a rape? Sometimes the answer is, no."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. So my question to CFO or County Manager; is there a -- and there may not be -- it may be an answer that takes more time than we are allotted today, but is there -- are we not able to access the Orca funding just for certain actions or items? Just kind of educate me a little bit on that right now, since it was brought by -- I would like to know CFO or Alton."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yes, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. The \$75 million per the DA, we did allocate \$75 million across the entire program. That \$75 million is actually been -- it was initially allocated through December of 2023. We started to run into issues in terms of being able to hire and retain individuals because of the limited time. So, the DA and others said, to be able to hire and retain, we need to extend that period of time. At that point in time, we extended it until October of 2024. What we did was take the funds, the under runs, right, in terms of people, and use that to be able to extend the funding through October of 2024. So there is no -- there is no surplus of funds because that surplus allowed us to extend those positions, and to change the actual offer letters so they could -- so they go out to 2024. Now, to Madame DA's comment about some of the things we have learned as we went along. So, for example, she mentioned the vest; now one correction. We actually did fund the vests via Orca. So those are --

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "-- actually, I want to give credit where credit is due. When I walked in this door, if you recall, my investigators didn't have vests and I think it's the first thing I lost mind about. Chairman Pitts actually funded that. It was \$50,000. I recall it like yesterday. It's the first funding the office ever got, but I told the Commissioners, this is dangerous. We can't have investigators on the streets serving people without vests, and that money came from Orca. Now, when we started bringing in Orca employees, yes, they did extra things to fund vests, so that is true. But I want to be very clear, I think that Mr. Adams, as we brought issues to him, they have given us stuff. I'll give you the prime example. When we brought -- when we had to furnish that building over there, that we got, where we have all these new people that need desks to sit at, we went to them and said we spent the money out of our general fund and to the extent that he could, he reimbursed some of that money. But there are so many -- I'm



going to stand on that point, there are so many more things that could be done. That's not a critique of him and Ms. Alexander. It's as we started to do things, we learned and we've been able to work with them."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That is correct. When we built the budget initially, we didn't know what we didn't know, right? So we built a budget that said, okay, we're going to hire 20 investigators and allocate laptops and phones. And then we realized well, geez, what about the vests, what about the badges, what about the training? And so, we had a bucket of funds that had been reserved for some of these unpredictable expenses, and so that's what we've been using to address whether it be badges or if the Sheriff says, we need to offer some kind of hiring bonuses ahead of time to attract people to Orca because of the limited time of position. So, we have done a lot of that, Commissioner, as we have -- as we've moved along. When DA Willis says well, there's some other things that we need, you know, we -- obviously, we take a look at those and we try to adjust to the extent that they meet the federal guidelines around Orca without blowing up the budget. Now, I will tell you, we didn't budget for 40 cars in Orca, right? That wasn't something we anticipated. That's a big item, it also has issues -- we also have issues in terms of how long it takes to get them. But 40 cars is not something we anticipated but maybe we should have, right? But we hadn't done this before, we did not anticipate having to have cars for all of the investigators and officers. That would be an item we'd have to go try to find and move some stuff around. But here again that that's an example, I think, of something that we've learned as we -- as we moved along."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "And so that we're clear because this is a record, I know that we're standing on the words actually Commissioner Pitts, who did the math we are asking for 40 cars; however, I only have 20 Orca investigators, so what we know according to Chairman Pitts' calculations is that 40 cars is \$800,000. My position to him half of that should come out of the Orca budget. It should not even come out of the general fund because it's to go directly to the investigators that are working on Orca cases and were hired for Orca, but that is a classic example of, yes, some of this is going to hit the general fund and the general investigators they don't have adequate cars, but there may be another source of money, and that's a real easy common-sense one to look at and see, hey, 50 percent of that should have been attributed to this other place. You know, that is your difficult job. I stay in my lane as to where money comes from. But I do, while we're talking about these issues, want to point out to you there is a pot of money that goes directly to the kind of cases you tasked me with indicting. We are still working on some of those indictments, and at least think about it, when you're making your hard decisions about where do we pull this money from to support the district attorney's office. It is the same thing with, I wish Commissioner Arrington's idea was right, that I didn't have to ask you for every Adobe license I needed so my investigators can do research. And it'll be great if in 2024 that's an expense not on my budget, but on some general county budget. But until we get there, I can't wait for you to get that contract together. I need it this year for my investigators. And so, the things that we're asking for, or like I said, research tools for

investigators, cars; that does come up. Traveling, conferences, equipment, motor vehicle fuel, I mean, that's not sexy. It's common sense. If you got a car, you got to put gas in it or it's not worth having. Office supplies, we ran out of office supplies. I told one of the -- I think Chairman Hall when I -- Commissioner Hall when I met with her that, you know, me and my deputy of operations got into a big argument about October, because he said we can't pay the phone bill. They're going to cut our phone off. My answer was, I dare them to. I wish they would cut off the phones that allow my investigators and my victim witness advocates to communicate with the community we serve. But we hadn't paid our phone bill in three months, because the money simply ran out. And as Commissioner Hall told me, don't go into this year in that same kind of position where you know you didn't pay the last three months, and the only reason we were able to get it from July to catch it up to October, is because they allowed us to then get our salary savings, so it didn't cost us any additional money, but we went into every dime. I spent every dime of my budget, and is not on anything sexy."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So, Chairman, I just want to finish -- finish up this point, I'm still at a loss as to the funding coming from Orca versus the general fund. If there are actually items that could come from Orca, I would hope that we would do now. I'm going to say, I do understand you all are tasked with making sure that we pay for stuff that we're supposed to be paying for. Because if we -- if we pay for something incorrectly, then we're going to be in a world of trouble when it's time for that, you know, audit to happen, or whatever, so let me preface that. But I do feel there's a disconnect. I don't know if it's the disconnect on my understanding on what can be paid and what can't be paid, because clearly I would think we would go to the Orca funding first as opposed to our general fund. CFO, if you want to weigh-in on that. If that is some of the concern or if we're trying to be conservative, which I do understand why you would try to do that; but however, Madame DA did raise a point of us having to send that money back, if it's not spent. So, if you could speak to are we truly looking and pulling Orca funding for items that have been requested that will qualify for."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, Commissioner, we have been doing that when the items -- when the requests have come through, and it's been identified as something that is directly in support of project Orca. To Alton's comment, within the \$75 million, we have rebalanced, if you will, how that \$75 million is allocated between personnel costs and operating costs, and part of that rebalancing was done in order to extend the positions beyond end of 2023. In order to fund things like vehicles and other operating costs that may not have been initially factored in to the overall budget for Project Orca, we will need to go back through and do another rebalancing. We'll need to look to see what salary savings have accrued since the late time that we made an effort to rebalance and identify the amount of resources out of that 75 million that are not otherwise supporting positions and other, you know, recurring operating expense like lease costs or things like that associated with some of the space that we acquired that's associated with Orca. So, we're always looking to see and verify that the expense itself would be considered an eligible expense under the Orca guidelines. And then the second step would be to validate that we have the bandwidth within the 75

million based on how we have the resources currently allocated to make that additional expense. So we have been doing that. I think Alton has brought those items forward as they've been identified. We have not funded vehicles out of Project Orca. We, as I said, can go back and go through another rebalancing effort to see what is available that could be allocated to some of the operational needs that the DA has identified as long as they are otherwise eligible expenses under the ARPA guidelines. I don't necessarily see an issue with that."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "And to Commissioner Ellis' point, another thing that has not been funded, at least in the DA's budget, I can't speak for anyone else's is you all are spending money on that lease for clearly what are Orca cases. And clearly on our indictment team and that comes out of the general fund. That is that additional money that I said that you all give me that goes directly to that line item. That is what Commissioner Ellis asked initially, why can't we pay this out of Orca since it's going directly to the Orca things? That is something that has not been done. It's funded, but it is funded out of the general fund. Perhaps, if you move that over, you know, it would create that money.

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So, Madame DA, I've got several of my colleagues waiting to speak, so I won't belabor the point other than to ask CFO one of the things that my mentor, the late Emma Darnell, told me, you know where the money is. Now, whether we could use the money or not I expect for you to let us know, but I would ask that if, in fact, there is Orca funding that can be used on any of this, that the Madame DA has brought to our attention, and you mentioned maybe we can do a rebalancing, I would ask that we do that, because anywhere we could save some money, I would be remiss if I didn't tell you, the fact that you got to borrow radios does not sit well with me --"

**FANI WILLIS; FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "-- from DeKalb. Embarrassing."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- I'm just going to -- I'm just gone to be honest with you; you shouldn't be having to borrow anything from anyone. So that does not sit well with me, but I'm going to ask the CFO any type of rebalancing looking at what Commissioner Ellis brought forward, if we can, please have that looked into, as soon as possible as you can, please let me know as well as all of my colleagues. Thank you."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Mr. Chairman, can I just add one thing to what Ms. Whitmore said? Just doing simple math for Project Orca, we have spent 32 million through 01/01. That's one year. So if you just analyzed that 32 million, that's on a run rate. If you went all the way through 2023 to spend over 90 something million. What's allocated to Orca is 75 million. So it's a disconnect to say there's Orca dollars not being spent appropriately. In fact, we're spending at a faster rate than we can sustain. Understand what I'm saying? And then, so then you come back to could you

reallocate out of the entire plan, and the entire plan thus far, we have spent of all fund sources, 236 out of 353. So again, we're spending that quicker than a multiyear plan would necessarily dictate. There is 20 million in reserve. That's a possible source; again, it just creates the risks of FEMA reimbursements don't cover that reserve, and if that's the case, then we'll come back for something against the general fund. But it's really not -- ARPA is not, as we all know, not an unlimited resource. And it's all allocated, which is what we show each BOC meeting that we reviewed this. And again Orca, in particular, is running well ahead of what would be a multiyear expense plan. So it's not like there's money laying around yet to be allocated."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "County Manager, if we say she did mention, that they can look at a rebalancing, I don't -- and please, forgive me, I don't want to give the impression that we got money sitting around that's not being used. That's why I said, I -- you all have been tasked with making sure that we're not on the hook at the end of the period, and I take that very seriously. That's a very big charge that the day-to-day taxpaying citizen may not necessarily realize because if we spend money incorrectly or too fastly, we run the risk. However, I would say if there's something that could be done with the rebalancing that it does not necessarily have to come out of the general fund. I would ask just a quick review of that just to make sure."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am, and I think the rebalancing, unless Sharon has a different viewpoint, is from the reserves."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. All right, thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** " Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, we all know that having these unindicted cases creates jail overcrowding, but Madame DA, what I'd like for you to share with us and the public is what happens in our communities when you don't have the resources that you need to investigate and indict on these cases. What happens with the person who you are investigating? How does that impact the communities within all of Fulton County? I remember you coming before us and I remember there was a chart that you had and literally it addressed every single Commissioner's District that sits here on this Board. Our two new Commissioners were not here, but it still addressed the districts that they now, serve. And so, if you could just share with us what happens behind-the-scenes in our communities."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "And I'm glad you asked that question because I think it does address also Commissioner Khadijah's question, and I don't think that I appropriately answered her in full. One thing we've done is we've changed the way that we do indictment from the previous administration. What used to come in, and this is no exaggeration, a paragraph fax statement -- Commissioner Arrington will be familiar with this practice -- would come in from an officer and based on that paragraph, literally, not figuratively, fax statement an indictment would be drawn, and

someone would typically be charged. I do not do business like that. I find it unethical and I under no -- I'm not ever going to do business like that. What we now do is when the police officers bring us our file, we investigate those cases upfront. What does that mean to the common layperson's which is what you asked me? One, it means that the drugs have to be tested, right? Because sometimes it comes back and that's not actually drugs. And so, we've indicted someone that should not have been charged. And they sit, they hire a lawyer, they do other things and then the case is ultimately dismissed anyway. So it was really having a negative effect upon those that were arrested because we here know that the standard for arrest is probable cause, which is the lowest standard in the law, and the standard that I am required to do is beyond a reasonable doubt. A big issue that we've had is the ballistics evidence. The GBI cannot keep up with Fulton County. They cannot keep up with the state. That is the reality. So one of the things you see here is professional services. I had to go out based on the recommendation of the GBI for former GBI agents that now have their own labs and hire people to test our ballistics evidence. It should be noted since I've been standing as DA for these two years, I've indicted in excess of 400 murders, and more than 600 murder defendants. That's just murder. That's because of the backlog. We put together a team that and we focused on it. And so, we are now current with where we were not current. That's just dealing with your highest level of case, but before a case is indicted, we're going to look at the body cam, we're going to look at 911 tape, we're going to make sure that the police had pulled the video footage that's around there are my investigators are going to pull it. We're going to canvas; we're going to do the scene. That way when we bring an indictment, or can be confident in it, we can make sure that if a speediest is filed on us, you know, there's always more work to do, but is pretty much prepared. And so, the entire way we do business is different, and there's a lot of work that goes on before scenes. I think that this is better for victims because if a victim has a case that's indicted, we believe in it. It's also better for those that are charged so that you are not wrongly charged of a crime and we're wasting a lot of time charging people that should never have been charged; and so, it works on both ends. If we're going to be, you know, one of the counties that is forward moving and forward thinking, it's important that we treat everyone involved in the justice system fairly. So reality that people don't want to deal with, I don't know why, you know, we so lucky as a county. The reality is this county sits with some of the highest profile cases in the country. I was sitting in my seat for three months and we had the spa killings, where you had multiple people shot. Well, those kind of cases cost money. I'm sorry. You don't have to like that reality, but again, deal with reality, or it would deal with you. But they also deserve to be properly investigated. We had a certain members in our community targeted basically because of who they were, and their lives were taken from them, and it impacted not just the victims of that crime, God rest their souls, but it has impacted an entire community. I don't know about you, but I like to go get a massage now and again. And, you know, I now think about it when I go to those places. It's a very sad thing that we go to commonplaces and you have to now think, oh, my God, is this the reality of my life? I've walked those scenes. I've met with those families, and these are just things that happen in that county. I wouldn't have had that crime happen here if I could have chose it. I'm sorry we have a gang problem. But before I got here, I don't know if y'all

remember, people were actually saying there wasn't gangs in Fulton County. What kind of foolishness is that? Now, finally I have an acknowledgment, yes, there are gangs here, and yes, they are causing a problem, and yes, I will not apologize. They are causing 75 percent to 80 percent of our problems, and they are recruiting our children. And so, it's time we do something. And I am a DA that prosecutes. I don't lose any sleep over prosecuting, but we're also trying to do things to save the youth. You know, we are trying to make sure that we tell them there's another way to run your life. This is a complex job we have. I heard listening to the thing about how racism and just poverty really, just impacts everyone and it does it at every level in our education system. But guess what happens when people drop out of school in the eighth and tenth grade? Their options aren't many and I get to see them. And so, we've got to be serious about being a major community, and Commissioner Hall, sometimes I feel like I'm beating my head up against the wall. Like when is Fulton County going to realize we're a major player? We are a major county. We are as big of a deal as a Los Angeles, a Chicago, a Philadelphia. And honestly, like I told this, I met Commissioner Thorne this morning. We are victim of our own success. You don't get to have all the hottest nightclubs, all of the hottest restaurants, attract the world to come here, and not expect that you don't attract problems. You always want a Super Bowl; well, as a prosecutor when you bring a Super Bowl here, I hold my head because I know there's gone be human trafficking. I know there's going to be prostitution. I know there's going to be violence, and I know I'm going to have a crime spike. But you all, you know, people don't want to deal with the reality of the ugliness comes with the pretty. And we are a -- one of the most beautiful counties in the world. I invite anyone to come to Atlanta. I represent the best city and county in the world, but there's problems, and those problems have to be properly funded so we can deal with them."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. You've vented, but you covered just about everything that we have had -- we have had people fill this Assembly Hall because of the jail overcrowding, saying that we're trying to -- we're indicting people who shouldn't be indicted. We have people in the jail who shouldn't be in there, and I'm just so happy that you spoke to you're not trying to charge people who shouldn't be charged. You're trying to help the youth. You're addressing the gang situation. Human trafficking, you named all of the human services things that we need to be addressing as a Board of Commissioners, and I want to thank you for your service on that side of it. But you said something earlier as well, and you said we should be ashamed about the fact that we are not covering all of the operating expenses that each of our employees need in order to effectively and efficiently do their jobs. And when you said that and you explained one of those situations, and you said the Sheriff actually loaned you some of his radios?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "He's loaned m radios and my brother there in crime, he actually loaned me cars. I understand he wants me to run his cars back. I haven't given them back. I'm avoiding his calls right now, but I do know I have to have to give him his cars back, but we need some cars."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm like cut, cut, cut. I am embarrassed, because that is --"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "-- and he's loaned me that -- I mean, it's sad, but I'm not willing to put my officers on the street and risk them. And I've sent an e-mail to you all, and I probably should have waited a couple of hours to send because I was so angry, and I'm still angry about it. I had two of my employees an investigator and a lawyer in one of the most dangerous communities in our county, and they're out interviewing witnesses on a murder case. And as they are out interviewing witnesses on a murder case, the damn car breaks and they're trying to get the car to the side of the road. But it is not like I have not told this department over and over again, can you all send me some nonraggety cars? You all know the cars are over the miles that are set by you, the county, has said we're not supposed to have those cars over this mileage. They're not supposed to be over this year. And even of the fleet I have, I think I have 13 cars that are over the requirements you said. How many times do I have to have the same conversation? You know, and it's not like my cars are going to lawyers. I told Commissioner Thorne this morning, I do have a murder prosecutor that just deals with children. She has a car because I require her to go to every child killed in this county. If you mad at me for that, deal with yourself. I also have a lawyer that goes to every police shooting in this case. But the cars go to the investigators."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, we know that we need to address cars, but even more than that, you know, Commissioner Barrett asked the question earlier about hiring, and what is -- is there some kind of deterrent to hiring or what is the situation with trying to get the adequate number of employees, and what I've heard here today has really stunned me, because an employee's morale is based on their work environment. That's part of it. And if they're coming to a work environment where they're not even offered the tools necessary to help them do their jobs, that's negatively impacting them. So what employee wants to work for a company that's not going to give them what they need to adequately do their job, especially if they're a proud and respectful employee who wants to do good work. And so, I find it questionable why in the world are we not funding the operating costs? And I've heard this from several electeds who have officers under Fulton County and department heads. So I want to ask our CFO are we really paying attention and funding the operating costs, because I've heard that the solicitor general's office has a hundred and 24 computers that are beyond the end of life. That's over 75 percent of the solicitor general's current allotment of computers. And it's costing more for them to try to repair them and keep them working than it will cost to just refresh them. And many of you who have been here might have heard me say that we need a real PC refresh. We need that in the county. My Chief of Staff went to a training, and she said the computers that they have there, everybody thought they were so good, it was the computer with the little button in the top that you use for your mouse, and they were so outdated. But they thought they were new because they just got them. Just because you just received them, doesn't mean they're new. Those computers are horrible. Those are the ones that I told them to come and get those out of my office. So we need to address all of these operating costs needs so that we -- that will -- we'll see a lot of these things to start to address other situations like our

employee base and morale. So as far as your cars, and let me also address this thing about software. I heard someone mention that Commissioner Arrington said, oh, you mentioned Commissioner Arrington said why don't we have a complete agreement for our software's. Well that is called a master service agreement. It is something that I learned about when I was in the IT department here at Fulton County in the 90's; the master service agreement just didn't stop in the 90's. It still exists, and we do need that for this county for our software. When I need a Microsoft project for my office, they said oh, you have to buy a license. I said, well, there's nobody else in the county that has Microsoft Project? Yes, but the master service agreement. So, I charged our new -- is he interim or is he permanent, CIO of IT Lateef on looking at all of the software that we use across the county and looking at the master service agreement option because we used to go to the state and just pull from their contract, and we had the best pricing that way. And so, if cost is an issue, then we need to find the best solutions for addressing those costs. And then in turn, our employees will have what they need. But you know what stuck out to me is when you said every position has needs and that is absolutely true; and it let me know that you are a good manager, and you care about your employees because, if you look at a position, it doesn't only need salary and benefits. That person's going to need paper, pens, a computer".

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "We've ran out of those this year -- or last year."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That is crazy. No employee should be sitting here with no paper, no pins, just the basic necessity, so we have to address these operating costs. So, I've heard you and I'm waiting for us to get to the budget discussion because it looks like we need to make some asks about software licensing, professional services, cars, operating expenses, equipment and I would ask our HR -- our Chief Human Resources Officer, is there a process in place when hiring employees that we look at not just the salary and benefits, but the needs of that particular position and what they need to function properly. I think I -- I remember having a conversation with the Sheriff about some of his positions and how there was nothing identified, and he said he's working on looking at his positions and saying okay, this position needs a radio, a car, a this or that or that and having a total cost that we can identify for each position's needs financially."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO:** "Good afternoon, Commissioner. Specifically, no, we do not have that structured where HR is involved in that process. We typically allow the respective higher departments identify what each individual needs; but we could definitely work with them to at least make sure that they have something baked into their recruitment plan that was part of our -- when we issued a recruitment breakdown before we did the recruitment process and started to advertise maybe we can add a component in there and okay if we know what the salary requirements are, but what are the other intangible needs, you know, a desk, a phone those items are the things that we can incorporate into that component of the recruitment documentation."



**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That would be great, because I think then we would have a better outlook on our budget as it relates to when an elected or a department head or someone comes forward and says I need these positions, and then you have a true reality of the cost of hiring of that employee. You just don't have the salary and the benefits and then later on they don't have pens and pencils and phone gets cut off. We actually address everything they need to successfully do the job, Mr. County Manager and Madam CFO, and Hakeem and Alton, we need to do that. So I charge you, Mr. Hermon, to please include HR in that process as it relates to these employees in the new positions moving forward. Thank you, Madam DA."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Good afternoon, Madame DA. Good to see you. First of all, I want to say thank you for the incredible work that you are doing. I am very much in support of the way you are handling your indictments versus the way they were handled before. I think it makes a lot of sense, and I understand that it's causing some angst about the number of unindicted, so I also appreciate you clarifying the number and how, you know, there could be eight percent that has multiple cases, therefore some indicted and some unindicted. Also, I think to your point, if you're getting a paragraph from a police officer, it's not of benefit to that person to be charged wrongly. So not only is it not good for the system and the costs and all those things, it's not good for the person and, therefore, the community and their family and all those things. So I commend you for that, as well as your work in the schools. And, to your point, I think somebody made the point earlier when we were talking about systemic racism, the work that you're doing in the community, and the schools trying to, you know, talk to some of these kids before they get into trouble I think is spot on. I want to jump to the numbers a little bit. I just have a couple of questions. We got, in my office, some documentation on the specific numbers. We asked and I know, you know, Commissioner Thorne and myself obviously just got here and so we're trying to get -- get as much information in a couple of weeks to make these huge decisions about budget. But we didn't get an update that I think we're looking for on your final number, so just a question. I know we're talking about -- are we now talking about 40 cars --"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- and then you have several line items regarding software and training and things like that, and then the professional services. What is the total number that we're talking about?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "The total numbers -- so they come out of different budgets, and so I want to -- I'm going to make sure that I address you per each budget. The operational budget that we're asking for is \$3,386,275. That does not address cars, that addresses everything else. The capital budget is where cars would come out of, and that is \$800,000. That's 40 cars. It's where I suggest you go get out 20 of them out of Orca, but that is that capital budget request. And then there is a

personnel budget request of 566024.18. The reason that is there is because there has been some suggestion that we are not going to be able to fill positions. So it deals with that because, as I've told each Commissioner, and I will say it here publicly, I'm not giving up a position. I cannot afford to give up a position. I have too many cases on my back, and so I want to make sure that that is never even part of the discussion. There's about 100,000 of that would be allowed for overtime. This is something that Mr. Adams is actually probably the best person to inform you of this. We had -- I'll educate you on this -- we have an entire problem of, for 20 something years before I got here, cases were not properly put into the system, meaning into the database. This first came to me when I first got here like in the first six months. They said, you know, Fulton County has never had a gang conviction. Well, luckily I have been a DA here for many, many years, so that's absolutely not right. Then the feds called me, the US Attorney's Office, and they were very angry because Fulton County historically did not have their convictions in the record, and you can't make sure that someone has a in a sentencing that they've earned if the convictions are not in the system. And so, Mr. Adams probably knows the exact number, but we want to be able to pay some legal assistants some overtime pay to get our portion of that; because honestly, that is a problem that was here -- a problem before Sheriff Labat got here. But there are problems in his house of they didn't put them in properly before he got here, problems in my house and problems at the Clerk. Like, it was done wrong at every level. It would take a long time to explain to you why -- it is a technical conversation, but the bottom line is they're not in the system. It's causing a huge problem. Fulton County is not the only place. They have looked at this actually -- it's been brought to Governor Kemp because he now knows that they have a statewide problem of these convictions not being in. So that's part of what the overtime is for. And then, quite frankly, part of the overtime is, people have to move around with me just because of the nature of my job and I don't work 40 hours a week, so they don't work 40 hours a week."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Can you just repeat the number for that again?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Oh, that total is 566024.18, and about a hundred and 25 of that is just for this overtime expense. That other is just to make sure there's no conversations about taking any of my personnel."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So the total total is --"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "The total total is --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Four and half millionish?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "It's four seven -- its 4,752,228.18."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "If we give you that 18 cents, I'm just kidding. It's very specific. I want to ask also on that total number, and maybe this is an answer you have to break all the three budgets down, but is this all Orca related or is it partial?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "It's not all Orca related and let me explain to you why. The way that Orca was defined for us, is that Orca cases stopped December 7th, I believe is the date of 2021. So, anybody arrested December 14th of 2021 till current date cannot be defined as an Orca case. Although you could make an argument that if they were arrested, but the incident happened before that date, then it would be considered Orca. And so, obviously there were arrests made in 2022, those are not Orca cases. But anything pre, so that even they have defined Orca per Chief judge Brasher who is no longer the Chief Judge, even if a case had happened in 2017, which there were thousands that had happened in '17 that had not been indicted, had not worked their way through the system because they would be dealt with during this Orca time period, then they defined it as an Orca case. So any case that has happened like December 8th, 2021 forward is none Orca. Any case that happened before that is not. I want to remind you that when we're talking about that 16,300, that was only the unindicted. There were another six or so -- probably about five or six thousand that were in the system indicted, all of those cases have not been dealt with. And so you have those cases as well."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So, I know you said on the cars, you're considering 20 of them Orca related, so \$400,000 on that front. On the other two budgets, 50 percent would you say? I mean if you're ballparking that?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "That would probably be about right. About 50 percent. Probably, actually a little bit more, just because of the way Orca was defined, I would say probably 60ish percent. But that number goes down every single day because as we sit here right now, people are being arrested. And so, it is going to the scales are going to go that way as we get more and more cases. So you have to understand, we get at least about on average maybe 50 felony arrests a day."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I'm with you. So, I just now want direct some conversation to follow up with Commissioner Abdur-Rahman's comments about ARPA money, Orca money that the County Manager's discussion about FEMA reimbursement and all of that. Because I think, first of all I think there's some -- it seems to me and again I'm new here, but it seems to me that there's times when we're using the term Orca money and ARPA money interchangeably and they're not. And so, I think in some cases the answer, you know, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman was really referring to, is there ARPA money on the table? But the answer was there's 75 million Orca money. That's -- they're sort of two different things. The Orca money is a bucket that came out of the ARPA money, correct? Yeah. So I think what Commissioner Abdur-Rahman is saying, and what Madame DA referred to, and what I believe Commissioner Hall referred to as well, is the fact that there is additional ARPA money that we have not spent. There's at least a 20. whatever 7 million that you said we had with regards to FEMA non-reimbursement thing which honestly, I don't really know what that means or how to quantify that at this moment just because all I've heard is the term. I don't know how much we're talking about there. Why an order would not be reimbursed. But the point being there is a 20.7 million in ARPA reserve. And if we're talking about a budget

of close to five million additional that you need, it seems to me that again, from what Mr. Adams said and what I understand, the 75 million Orca money has been sort of planned out for the next three years I guess, right? Is it two or three years? And so, this additional need of almost five million is above that 75 million. These things have not been allocated for in that plan, correct?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "It certainly seems to me, and I want to -- I mean we can certainly get into detail. I know you and I talked about this, Mr. Adams, a little bit yesterday. But there does seem to some disconnect on whether there is -- and, again, Commissioner Hall, I'll back you up on this. There does seem to be some question about whether there are licenses that Fulton County already has versus -- you're sort of under the impression that they don't exist and, therefore, they need to be in your budget. I think what I heard from you, Mr. Adams, is that in some cases there are those things. So I'm not sure -- I don't -- I'm certainly not suggesting that anyone's not telling the truth, but I'm just -- it's a disconnect for me. All of that to say, it seems to me that if there is a \$5 million expense and we're saying that 60 percent of it in some cases, 50 percent of it in other cases are specifically related to Project Orca that that money should come out of ARPA funds and not the general fund. That's my take. So if we agree that the DA needs to be funded so that she can continue to do this work, which is along with what our sheriff said, critical to improving public safety in our community, that a portion of that is coming from ARPA money and a portion should come from the general fund. That's where I'm at on this. So I'd like to clarify potentially some of the line items to make sure we got the numbers exactly right, but it does seem to me that those of us here and Madame DA saying that this should potentially come from ARPA money that seems right to me. So, you know, when we get to the point here what we're going to start talking about, that 22.25 million and the additional millage rate options and all that stuff, that, you know, I think we need to be talking about that ARPA money as part of the conversation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Other questions or comments? Anything you want to add?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Well, we're here to trying to do the people's work and we are here trying to do the people's work. The reality is I've said it many, many times in a free society, the basic functions of government, number one, is to keep us safe and two, if you live in a democracy is to have free and fair elections. We are here trying to keep this community safe. People don't volunteer to come and testify in gang trials or rape trials or armed robbery trials or aggravated assault trials. The budget that we've asked you for is simply to fund the basic needs of a well-functioned DA's office; we ask that you consider these enhancements and that you vote so that we have the things that we need to do the job."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Don't leave. I've got those two questions. Three of them wanted to ask you about that, I've heard they'll deny it. You've heard it up here in my office. Heard it over there; Manager, Adams, others, the public at large, you've answered one. The other is that the thinking is that you're spending more time going after Trump than local – locals. I'm going to leave it at that. How do you respond to that?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "It's based on --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- if the reason -- you're using the resources going after Trump when those 1200, and you dispute that are languishing in our jail, when our resources are being used going after President -- former President Trump."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "It's a comment based on ignorance, and if you understand the meaning of ignorance, it's a lack of information that doesn't offend anyone's level of intelligence."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And all these folks who have been coming to me with that and hear what you're saying --"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "So, it's simply just based on ignorance. If you have paid attention to what this district attorney's office has done, most of my resources accuse me of spending resources on major crimes, which are your murder cases and your gangs; very few resource have been spent on that. In terms of personnel, I've been very forthright. I've had a legal assistant in the office that works on the election investigation, which by the way, you know, I'm an equal opportunist prosecutor. It does not matter to me if you are white, black, Democrat, Republican, rich, poor, have held office or not; if you commit a crime in this county, you are gone be held responsible. So, I don't apologize for that investigation in any way and the comment I'm making should be taken as an apology for that investigation. What I will say to you though is that's not where resources have been spent. So I have one legal assistant that works on that case; two investigators; and two lawyers; another lawyer or two that come in and work part-time. That's of 390 employees, 39 would be 10 percent. You know, I'm a lawyer. We don't do math real well, but about 20 would be five percent. We're talking about a very, very low percentage of our staff that does that investigation. But we've done it effectively, and the district attorney has kept every word she said. And last year I've said by May, based on the investigation that our office was doing, that I would make a determination if a special purpose grand jury was being done. I determined that it was and we did one. Said that that investigation would take up to a year, or at least we asked for a special-purpose grand jury that would run a year. But I told the public by the end of the year, we will be done doing what we need to do. I'm sure you read the papers, our special-purpose grand jury has now produced a report to me. We are moving efficiently, but everyone is entitled to justice. Everyone is entitled to a full investigation. I plan to complete doing a full investigation in that case, but to

say we're expending some extraordinary amount of resources on that case is just -- it's misguided."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. Last, how do you explain when a -- let's say a famous movie star, entertainer gets robbed in Sandy Springs in north county that the perpetrator is arrested and indicted, seemingly -- it seems like overnight when we have others unknown folk in our jails six months, a year, a year and a half, up to two years. How does that happen?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "I'm assuming you're talking about the drug rich case, which was a gang investigation, drug rich is a gang that actually operates out of our neighboring county but came here and decided that North Fulton was a fruitful ground to do investigations. The Sandy Springs Police Department did an incredible job on that case. That case was handled by our gang unit. In that case, we had a lot of the evidence that we needed because things were done. I give a lot of credit to -- one of the things that we have done because gangs are so important to me, is we have gone around and trained Atlanta Police Department, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and others on how to appropriately do a gang warrant and do gang cases. I commend those police chiefs for inviting us in. You may not know this, but Atlanta alone, gang warrants have gone up 300 percent because they now know how to do it and we are appropriately prosecuting people. And so, once people are trained and they do investigations the way that give us the information we need from the beginning, indictments do come quicker."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madame DA. Anything else? You're requesting for 4.7 million today?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Yes, not all from the operations budget. As you know, the cars come out of the capital budget and that are close to \$600,000 that would come out of personnel. And most of that is really just don't stop what you're doing. It's only about a hundred that's extra; but I got an e-mail from someone in HR, I wasn't probably very polite with them that said they had made decisions they were taking my positions. When I told each of the Commissioners that they wanted to know who would approved such a thing? So I wanted to make clear I'm not okay with that."

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

**FANI WILLIS, FC DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I don't see Gammage, where is he? All right. It's 1:54. I've been advised that lunch is here. Everybody hungry? Do you want to keep going? All right. Let's break. Quick lunch. Recess for lunch, and executive session; issues of real estate, litigation, and personnel. Please, vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "And the vote is open. It passes unanimously."

(Executive Session taken at 1:54 p.m.)

(Back in Regular Session at 3:19 p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam Chief Deputy Clerk."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Continuing to page 5, **23-0044**: Finance, review and approval of the Fiscal Year 2023 Final Adopted Budget and Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Resolution."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam CFO."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last Friday, we provided the Board with a short memo outlining the summary of actions that we've taken to date in development of the 2023 Proposed Budget. That memo included responses to inquiries that were made during the January 4th discussion on the budget. It also included an update on Sheriff's budget request. Today, we do not have a presentation. I did just want to take a few minutes to make a few remarks and some suggestions. I wanted to remind the Board that the Revised Proposed Budget that was presented on January 4th includes the appropriated reserve of 22.2 million, which was proposed to be used to address uncertain economic conditions, employee compensation, and facility capital cost. Today, the Board may choose to allocate these funds towards a specific purpose or allow them to remain in the appropriated reserve to be considered for use throughout the year. As noted in that memo, we did meet with the Sheriff, and he addressed the Board on that earlier. But the memo did outline that we were able to narrow down what we thought was the specific request. We validated the estimated costs associated with that. And then we identified some funding options for the Board to consider. For ease of discussion today, Sabrina and Hakeem are here and prepared to keep track of any adjustments or actions that the Board chooses to make. The Revised Proposed Budget is balanced through the use of anticipated revenue and available fund balance, which is there to support the 879 million in the proposed general fund budget. The suggestion that I have would be, as we carry on with our budget discussion and deliberation that we first consider whether or not there are any changes to be proposed on the revenue side that would increase the available resources to support additional expenditures, of course, less the 16.67 percent fund balance reserve requirement. And then once we've established whether there is revenue adjustment to made, then we could take up the 22-point -- a discussion around the use of the 22.2 million in the appropriated reserve and address any other budget adjustments or amendments that the Board members may have. And then in the -- in the budget booklet, I did want to remind the Board that page 13 of the budget booklet is where you can locate the resolution that is actually part of the agenda item today, which will establish the budget ordinance for the year. And that after we've completed the discussion on the general fund budget, I just wanted to make sure that we do take

official action on that resolution. And with that, Mr. Chairman, we're ready to proceed, and stand ready to answer any questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you, Madam CFO. And just to procedurally how I want to proceed here, but y'all have heard me say, this is the time of year where we earn our stripes. And this is where the real work -- work begins. And I'll say this, at the, I think the Finance department did a good job in giving us the, what's called the 2023 Revised Proposed Budget up until that memo on the -- that you sent on January 13th, which that resulted in, it's an editorial comment, that's more of the Sheriff's budget than our budget. So -- and I have some serious issues with that. But I think that the base budget is sound. So the issue today is, what do with that 22.2 or 22.5, whatever that number is. And think -- I don't think it's any disagreement with the proposed base. But how -- what do we with that 22.5? You indicated that there were two options in that -- in your -- that letter of 13th. But I think to me, there are probably four options. The first one is being to allocate the 22.5 unappropriated reserve account, all of it, particularly in light of the dire economic forecast that the whole world is talking about. And I don't know what's special about us, where we want to go in a different direction. I would think that it would make great sense to keep that money in a reserve account because we don't know what's going to happen, that's number one. Number two would be if the desire is to use it that second option would be that 15 million for employees compensation or COLA, a one-time performance, then 7.5 million of it for the facilities reserve. And then my three and four would be the CFO and the Manager's A and B. But I strongly suggest that we consider holding all of it in a reserve account, given the uncertainty of the -- of the economy. And there seems to be unanimous support and agreement on that by -- by economists. This is also the time of year though when pet projects come in to play. And I've been at this business a long time and, you know, I'm reminded of Washington. You have some no-name Congressman or Congresswoman from someplace like Idaho use our Georgia dollars to buy band uniforms for a high school band in his or her district. Those are pet projects. And it's almost like whoever approaches us last, the squeaky wheel I guess. The problem that we're going to have, I think going forward is, we have some huge, huge possible expenditures going forward. I've heard all of us talk about a new jail. That's 1 billion, 2 billion, how are you going to pay for it? Number two, hospital, replacement hospital, another probably billion. How are we going to pay for that? Grady is asking for more money, probably deservedly so. We got two senior centers, one up north, one down south that we promised our seniors. Childcare, this is just big-ticket items that -- that we're going to have to be faced with. So I think that the best use of that 22.2 or 22.5 is to have it an unallocated reserve and we use it wisely if at all. That being said, and I referred to this as the Sheriff's budget. He's charming, he's a great American, and he's charmed you. I know, I can read tea leaves as well as anybody. And if he wanted -- if wanted the whole 20, he could get that today. Just think back a year ago, he got his base budget. He came back, as Mr. Adams would say, every time he comes, he leaves with another five. Got 5 million one time, came back again with a great show, Academy Award perform -- no, the Academy Award performance was the first time, 5 million. Next time, another five. This time it's going to be ten or 20. So my point is, we need to leave the personalities out of it.



Madam DA made a compelling case this morning. Why would our DA have to borrow radios from a neighboring county or from our Sheriff? Why would she have to have her phones almost cut off? Somewhere our priorities have gotten out of sync. And I would hope that we, as we go through this today, I don't have any pet projects. My pet project is a balanced budget with every dime of that 22.5 on unallocated reserve account. So that's all I have to -- as a -- but I do want to approve this budget today, if we have to be here for two or three more hours. I think we can do it. Let's just be respectful as we go through it. Madam Commissioner Hall, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to go back to the fact that we've had a lot of people speak at today's BOC meeting during public comment, but also in prior meetings and bring a lot of different things to our attention. And these are the people that we serve, who have voted for us wherever they live within the County. And they expect for us to do what the state mandated us to do and that is to provide health and human services. I don't have any pet projects, I have -- I do support our human services and community projects and truly to put in place things that help our homeless, our youth, our seniors, the least of these. And so we've heard a lot today. And I just want to remind everybody that public safety is a number one issue. And we do have to support our Sheriff, our DA, our Solicitor General. And you know what, I just realized the Solicitor General is here, he's right there, Mr. Chair. Did you want him to still come up?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "He can come up."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Come on up. We've heard from the others. Come on up, Mr. Solicitor, before we get -- before we get started. And then other department heads, let's call all of them."

**KEITH GAMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "I'm happy to be here. Would love to just let you know how much we appreciate each and every one of you. Congratulations to our newly elected Commissioners. Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Thorne, look forward to working with you all. I can be very brief, thank you for the opportunity. We're doing a good job in our County, great job in our County. In my shop, the Solicitor's office, we have improved efficiencies over the five years that I've been honored to serve in a manner that is unprecedented. And I think that there are few who would disagree with that. But we're not delivering the excellence in justice to our constituents that they deserve. And it's not because of anyone's lack of a desire, it's because in many respects, we still remain, even though we made great incremental progress, we still remain somewhat under resourced, particularly with regard to the ever-increasing number of domestic violence cases. It's been a big deal for me since I've been in office. And it is probably the type of case to my heart beats the most for because there are young children who are being victimized often by family members, and it happens to those vulnerable females. We made an ask to really expand what

we're doing for more of a focus on a high-risk domestic abuse and illegal firearms protection approach. Yes, it involves about a \$1.1 million request. Right now, we've got more than 5,000 cases of domestic violence that they --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You said, 1.1?"

**KEITH GAMMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "\$1.1 million."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's what you're asking for?"

**KEITH GAMMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**KEITH GAMMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "Related to our high-risk domestic violence. The other side of that though, is -- and I know that each of the Commissioners in each of the districts have been happy to have us there restricting and expunging records for those folks who are nonviolent, former offenders who are rehabilitated and now looking for job opportunities. That's through our records restriction expungement initiatives and through our diversion program. Last year, we served about 4,000 charges through our diversion program. This year, we're targeting 10,000. It's a big deal. It's, I think, a reasonable ask. The request to expand our diversion program involves a small number of people. And the request is just about 750 -- excuse me, \$765,471. Both of those programs are equally important. I don't know that I could -- could choose one priority over the other. If I was forced to, it would have to be to first invest more in protecting those, those vulnerable women in particular and the children who grow up in this -- these households where domestic abuse occurs. Another thing I should add about that is that we have this enormous uptick in the illegal possession of firearms. It's really big deal. We've got about 500 cases right now pending involving illegal firearms. It is one of the -- forgive the pun -- it is probably the biggest trigger for domestic violence murders. And the unit we talked about would also enhance that. The same things, Commissions, that DA Willis and Sheriff Labat spoke about are absolutely facts. Those historic failures in the processing of Georgia criminal histories has caused Judges to have -- not been fully informed in our system. And it's age-old problems that we're now here trying to address. And so those same issues that the DA has with regard to vehicles to get out and serve witnesses, victims, it's the same issues that we're having. And I know to hear from us might sound -- let me put it this way. There's no doubt that both the Sheriff, the DA, and the Solicitor General along with others, are simply trying to do their very best, as are you all. And our citizens deserve it. I'm available for any questions. Thank you for hearing me."

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

**KEITH GAMMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "Thank you."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's all right. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We're good."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So, we're good."

**KEITH GAMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "Okay, thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "We know you're requesting 1.1 million for everything that you need. I just -- you can -- you've answered all the questions for me. Any other questions? Because I'm going to move forward."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go ahead, you have floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So the thing that I just don't get is why we come to the budget every January and we have our other elected colleagues and our department heads talking about what they need and -- and we have to sit up here and we have to literally almost like fight for them. We have to make a verbal request publicly for the things that they should actually already be receiving. So it makes me question our process for how we're doing this budget. And when, as a Commissioner who has attended the Association County Commissioner of Georgia classes and received the County Commissioner certification and many other certifications, it just -- it -- we talk about this in class all the time that this is not part of what -- how the process is supposed to go. You should not have to come up here and fend for yourself and try to fight for money that you need to do your job, which is to serve the same constituents that elected us. So thank you for your service."

**KEITH GAMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Now, there's a lot on -- that we have been requested to do by our residents. Those who have spoke, have talked about Sadie G. Mays needs \$1.2 million --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Make motions as you go along --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Sure. I'll make a motion right now that we start a list of those things that we need to calculate and have our CFO start to calculate those items that we have heard from many that are a necessity for them to move forward, and efficiently and effectively carry out the duties of their job. And we've called them in past years, budget enhancements. So Sadie G. Mays asked for 1.2 million. As a partner that has been in place for 75 years and having a contract agreement with the County

since 1968. Oh, thank you, Emaceo. And we heard from the arts community that we have always funded --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You on Sadie G -- you're going to -- how are you doing it? You making --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm making a motion for everything that I'm about to call out to you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "One motion for -- okay, go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah. Yes. And I'm just going to go ahead and put it out there. Sadie G. Mays, our partner since 1968 agreement, asked for 1.2. The -- we have heard in the news and everywhere about the youth who were shot and killed at Atlantic Station, the 12-year-old and the mother who went to City Hall and said, how could this happen when I've contacted every elected official in Fulton County, in Atlanta, all the law enforcement. And everyone said there's nothing they could do, but this young man was shot and killed at the age of 12. And then the DA telling us we have gang problems. And that was part of the problem with this 12-year-old who got shot. The gangs are utilizing the young children because it's harder for them to get put in jail. We need money toward our Arts and Culture, as we heard from the Executive --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The one on the --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The one --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- Atlantic Station and the kids --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "For Arts, you know, we always cover our nonprofit contract for services grant. And we increase it, we increased it last year. We need to increase it again by 1.7 million, that's contract for services. We did --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold on."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "We did that last year."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold on one second."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam CFO, are y'all keeping track of this now?"

**HAKHEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "So far, 2.9."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "1.2 for Sadie Mays and 1 point what for Arts?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "1.7 for the contract for services. I think we did --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have that?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- 1.3 last year --"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Yes, we do."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- something close to that, yeah."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So I -- on my list, as Commissioner Hall has just started listing her items out. I have 1.2 million for Sadie G. Mays. And now 1.7 million for --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Contract for Services."

**HARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- Contracts for Services. You've mentioned the DA and gangs, but I did not hear a dollar amount."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, she said three --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "4.7."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, 4-point --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "4.7."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "4.7."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And didn't you say the Solicitor?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, and the Solicitor said 1.1."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "1.2."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, you're going to give him another --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "1.1?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You're giving him more?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Is it 1.1 million?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "1.1 or 1.2?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Chairman said 1.2."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "1.2."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Going, going, gone, all right. And then we have --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We got 22.2 here to work with."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And then we always give to NBAF."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's the National Black Arts Festival."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, National Black Arts Festival, I'm sorry about that --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, in addition to the -- is it 250, that's already in the budget? 200,000 that's already in the budget, you want to provide additional resources to --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You have it in the budget already?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We have 200,000 in the budget, yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And Hammonds House?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Hammonds House?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "No. We have -- I believe we have 160. Can you give me the amount for Hammonds House."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We'll clarify that."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Because you know, we always do Hammonds House and National Black Arts Festival. Hammonds House because of our relationship with them. And we've always provided for them, and also staffing that we've provided for them in the past."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What are you recommending?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "She looks like she's working on something. So the same amount that we've done before, which was 250 for Hammonds House."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "250,000."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And do you know -- so do we -- I couldn't find this. We always have evened out the amount of --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am, we -- so have those, what we consider the legacy organizations."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "They are in the Arts proposed budget already."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "In the Arts?"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. They're just not broken down?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "They're just not broken out."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "But they're in the Arts budget already."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Great. So let's just double check on a couple of other things. We always -- we, at one point, we evened out a \$200,000 gift to Johns Creek. It was Johns Creek, Hammonds House -- no, that's what it was, Johns Creek, Hammonds House, NBAF, and Chattahoochee Nature."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's what it was?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Those were the four, yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, yes. All right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So those are already included?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So you got those?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Those are already included in --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Great."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- the proposed budget. Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Those are included."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Great, okay. So we don't have to add that up. All right. Solicitor General. You already have the Sheriff covered, right?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, you haven't mentioned the Sheriff."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I thought -- I thought I saw a memo that said you already --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That was just talk."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That was just talk?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You need a motion, yeah."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, okay. Well, put some action behind the talk. I saw the memo. I thought that meant that it was done."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Make sure."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, make sure that's done."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So the Sheriff --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I don't remember what the number was on the memo, can you --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "It was four to five --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It was -- it was 10 million. And what was presented in the memo were all of the resources that were already available to the Sheriff either in his proposed budget or by what was included in the revised proposed budget along with the comment that was made at the January 4th meeting to perhaps allocate 10 million of the 22.5 to support the Sheriff's request. So that was in essence, what was embodied in the memo to the Board."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That was -- you said ten?"



**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Ten -- 10 million out of the 22.5."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "But to be fair, what the Sheriff also requested this morning is the civilian staff getting a 5 percent raise. And I think that was 800."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "1.2 million."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "It's going to be 1.2."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "1.2 million for the civilians."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Including the overtime?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Which would include an allocation for related overtime."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So the total then would be 11.2 --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "11.2?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "11.2 --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- for Sheriff --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 11,200,000 for the Sheriff."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "11.2, okay. So that needs to be in the calculation. And I heard someone speak about -- oh, Mr. Chair, you said about we need childcare and that is true. And I noticed that Human Resources did not get the funding for Care.com, which was -- is that -- do I have that right? You didn't get the funding for Care.com?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Good afternoon, Commissioner. No, there's no funding in the budget this year to continue the Care.com arrangement that was in place during the height of COVID."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And please just if you could, explain what Care.com is and what it does."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Well, Care.com was our partner doing COVID that made it extremely possible for our employees who had to report to work in 24-hour operations or whose jobs required them to be on site and had no inability work

remotely to allow for those employees to secure daycare services or childcare services, which allowed them to report to work. It also came in very handy if, in fact, one of those employees became ill during the course of COVID that they could also rely on that service as well to make sure that they could isolate while still having childcare coverage."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And so is that -- do you see that being a need still? And I -- we just saw that the numbers are really high."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Yeah, if we're talking COVID, yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "But I think in general, Commissioner, I think any benefit that we could offer employees which also allows them to report to work. I think one of the biggest users of the program was the Sheriff's Deputies, the female Sheriff's Deputies that allowed them to also report to work. So the program, you know, if it depended on how it's structured, will allow all employees to take access. And again, it would benefit the Sheriff's Department to allow those employees who have to come to work to show up as well."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So I want to make sure that I had this number right. Was it \$632,000 that Care -- for Care.com to cover employee-wide need in that area?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Well, that number wasn't an employee wide. That was just looking our law enforcement or those individuals who --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That was just law enforcement?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Or those individuals who had the requirement to report to work. So that it covered the Tax Commissioner's office. It covered the Clerk's office because they were on site."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "But it wasn't quote/unquote countywide. But so that was the number that covered roughly about 15 to 1600 employees."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And those were those -- those employees that were identified as essential?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Is this needed for more than essential employees? I know we had a long discussion during COVID about what --"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Definition of essential."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- what is an essential employee? Because there were those who we felt were not included and should have been."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Commissioner, I would say in having that conversation about whose essential and whose nonessential, I think if we're just trying to focus on the premise of the benefit, which allows employees to report to work to provide the services to the citizens of Fulton County. And you just looking at that premise, I think it's a valuable program from that underlying premise."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So 632,000 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "632?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- Madam CFO, yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "632,000."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes. That's for Care.com for the childcare."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So Mr. Chairman, based on my math and what I've heard so far, Sadie G. Mays at 1.2 million, Arts at 1.7, the DA at 4.7, Solicitor at 1.2 million, the Sheriff at 11.2 million, and Cares at 632,000. That brings the total to 20,632,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "20 million, six what?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "20,632,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And that leaves how much left over to allocate? One -- what is it? One point what?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Two point something."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "About 1.6 million."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "1.6."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, point of order. We got a \$1.3 billion budget. I think what you're talking about is the 25 million that they said -- you're talking about of the 25 million, not of the 1.3 billion. They got 1.3 billion. We have 1.3 billion. And so I don't think it's fair to limit it to the 25 million with a 22.5, which is allegedly left over. We have a 25 to \$75 million overrun every year. Since I've been here for the last eight years --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's true. True."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Absolutely true."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Point well taken. What else?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. So --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Of this 22.5, you got 1.6 left."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm just going to keep going --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- off of what I know there's a need for. And then -- because I support it, and we'll just see who does and who doesn't and how it works out. I know that on the Arts and Culture side, the other thing was -- that was mentioned was FACE and Fulton Films. We heard during our last BOC meeting that Fulton Films and FGTV were moving under the Department of Arts and Culture for the creation of our creative industries, which is a major."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How much?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "We always give Fulton Films 250,000. Was that already in the -- great, great. It's already in there? All right. Oh, they need -- when they split they needed some positions. That's right. I know they're also moving under Central Library - they're physically moving to the Central Library. And with these additional responsibilities and the two areas moving under Arts and Culture, there was a need for some positions. But I think it was three positions. Let me see, really quickly, I wrote it down. Because I know even Gayle Holloman at the Library has been talking about the need to manage the space because our wonderful Central Library was renovated, and it's literally a beautiful conference center. And there's a need to manage that process. So I know there's -- let me -- hold on a second. There is a need for at the Library for marketing, a marketing person. That will help us bring in some revenues, some needed revenue from the Central Library. And there's a need for a production for the Library and a set up person for the Library. I would say that between those three positions, it's probably about total 190,000 for the three positions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "190?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah. That will cover the need. And then Senior Services, we heard about -- Commissioner Arrington always advocates for Quality Living

Services, reminding us of how great of a partner they are. And I know that he's mentioned numerous times about the need for 500,000 to continue to go to Quality Living Services. But also --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "500?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, sir. But also what we have heard is that there is a need for home delivered meals. And we have -- it has been discussed that there is a need for home delivered meals countywide, and that's about 500,000."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, sir."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "On QLS --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "QLS?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "We already have \$100,000 in the budget. So do you want to add 400 to make it five or --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, because isn't that what we did last time?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Yes. So you want it to be a total of 500,000?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "400 to make it 500."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, 400?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, so goes down to 400. As those of you who have been here over the past couple of years, you know we have always given 250,000 each to Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County Schools and -- for the youth projects that they have that impact our Fulton County youth. Is that in the budget already?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "No."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We haven't funded the school systems, I think for at least the last two, if not three years. We use those --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I remember with COVID --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We redirected those funds and used them for a different -- a different purpose, Commissioner. So, no, they're not, they're not included in the budget."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "What were they used for when -- when we redirected the funding?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We believe we moved it over and included it in the budget for school therapy."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "School therapy?"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Through?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Behavioral Health."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "BHDD?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yeah, Behavioral Health."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Well, I know that that is a great need. But I know that there is more of a need because after talking to the Superintendent Herring and some of the Fulton County Schools execs, there is a crisis with drug use in the schools. And so if we could go back to -- and I know this was started by Commissioner Hausmann, but I've always been in support of making sure they got that 250,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So 250, so 500,000?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So 250 for APS and 250 for Fulton County?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, that leaves 28,000 out of the 22.2 million."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. You're ready? Okay. So let me see, that's done --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "28,000 left?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. I'd like to read back. Sadie Mays 1.2 million, Arts for Contracts for Services 1.7 million, District Attorney 4.7 million, Solicitor 1.2 million, Sheriff 11.2 million, funding for personnel for Cares.com 632,000, Arts for three positions, I think was listed, 190,000."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, it was three."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Seniors, Senior Services for home delivered meals 500,000, Senior Services --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Wait --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Wait, you missed, it's 400,000 for Senior Services."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "400,000."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, I have two items for Senior Services. I have 500,000 for meals."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Right."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "And for home delivered meals."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Right."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** And then I have 400,000 for QLS. Is there an additional 400,000?

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** No.

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** No.

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Okay. So the two items for Senior Services that I have is 500,000 for home delivered meals and 400,000 to support QLS."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Because you already have 100,000 for that --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, we -- because there's already 100,000 in the budget. So that would bring the total to support QLS to 500,000."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Right, that's correct."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "And then the last item that I had on my list was 500,000 to BHDD to support the two school systems in \$250,000 increments."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Did you miss FACE, which was mentioned by our constituents today? Did I -- did I miss FACE? I said FACE. Oh, no, no amount."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yeah, the only amount I heard for Arts was the 190,000 for the positions."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The three positions --"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And that's really act -- I don't know. I think that would go under Arts, but it is actually part of helping the Library, which has the Arts space and the conference space. So I don't know where that actually -- I think it lies under Arts, I'm not sure, that's your call."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "The Library actually manages the conference space at Central Library. So you were referring to some support to assist the Central Library in managing the conference space?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, I've actually been present when our Library Director Gayle Holloman and our Director of Arts and Culture David Manuel have been in discussion about the space --"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- and the use of it. And have agreed that the Library needs help. And David saying absolutely, I will help. So, I guess that's a conversation that you guys will have to work out on the executive side to -- however it's going to work best."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So we can put it in the Arts, and if we need to move it to the Library, we can always do that --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- through the soundings process. So --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes."



**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- I mean, are you okay with it being in Arts, Dr. Roshell?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "I think if we go ahead now and put two positions in Arts and one in the Library so we don't have to come back."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, all right. So there's always a need under our community service program grants. We always run out of money no matter how we try, we always have nonprofit organizations that qualify for the funding, but we don't have enough money to cover them. And at the end of the day, we return back to the meeting and have to add additional funding. So if we could go ahead and calculate that in now instead of having to come back and do it all over again. It usually is about 1.5, and please correct me if I'm off a little bit. Is it --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I think we've done a million, a million and a half in --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So it is around there --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- additional funds for the CSP program."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And -- all right. You pulled your -- were you getting ready to say something?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I was just going to say that at this point if you're including 1.5 million, we have now exceeded the 22.2 million appropriated reserve."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "What's your total?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "23 -- 23,722, so we're not dipping into the fund balance."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, now I'll need to speak up here. That fund balance is sacred. So, doesn't matter what else you do. But that six -- what is it, 16.67?"

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We would really be foolish -- and what did the DA say? What did she -- she was describing somebody, said, stupid, foolish, ignorant. If we touch that --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "She said ignorant."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Ignorant if we touch that fund balance. It's low as is."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And I asked about youth homelessness because it has been brought to my attention from several churches and organizations in Fulton County that we have students who are sleeping in their cars who attend Georgia Tech, Georgia State. And I have witnessed a nonprofit who asked me and my late Commissioner Garner to come out to Centennial Olympic Park at dusk to witness the youth descending on the park at dusk. Because that's where they meet up to find out where they can go eat, where they go sleep. And I haven't seen anything from our Office of Youth on addressing any of these challenges. I haven't seen anything from our Division of Homelessness addressing these challenges. And so there is a need for funding. I did -- my Chief of Staff helped to try to do some research and find out what funding did we have last year. We didn't get our ESG funding last year for 2020 from HUD. So we didn't even have any money to try to address those things. As well as we usually have hotels that we can put people in when we get those calls from our constituents. I was talking to Commissioner Barrett the other day and we -- I told her about how Council Member Mary Norwood sent an email some time last year about a naked homeless man in Buckhead and the situations that they're addressing with homeless. So -- so I'm -- from what I calculate, they usually get around a million dollars. They didn't get that money at all in 2022, and the situation is even worse now, so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "At 1 million, what are you going to call it?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It's the Office of Youth and the office -- the Division of Homelessness, which is under Community Development. Those are the two areas that can address. And the Office of Youth should be trying to focus on programming to get these kids off the street. That was one of the things that -- there was a huge community meeting after the 12-year-old was shot and killed, where the community was asking what is the County doing for services and programs to get the kids off of the streets and inside into some programming that keeps them busy. So I would like to see something on that --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Can you confirm the amount, Commissioner Hall?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I calculated, it was around a million dollars that covered that before."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Plug in 1 million."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "And that's for both youth and homeless youth?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, yes. I don't think we had a category called homeless youth. I think it was just covered under --"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- those areas somehow. And then, as the Chairman would probably call this a pet project, but these two projects literally came out of my meeting with the Superintendent of Schools, of APS and Fulton County Schools and the community at large, not just District 4. But those constituents across the County who literally drive their kids from Alpharetta and Sandy Springs to the conferences that I hold. And that would be CEOs of Tomorrow and Empowering Young Men to Excel. Those two at a total of 150,000, that's just 75,000 each. And that's it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's in addition to the other 500,000 we've given APS and Fulton County? An addition --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "They do their own thing."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "They've always had their 250 to do their own thing. Dr. Roshell and Madam CFO can speak to that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So that's about 1.15."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "CEOs of Tomorrow and who else?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, CEOs of Tomorrow and Empowering Young Men to Excel."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is that right, Madam CFO?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "24.15."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Over?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "The total is 24.15."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "What's your total?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "The total is 24,872,000. And we're dipping into the fund balance by \$2.6 million."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You did what?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "We're not dipping into the fund balance. It's inaccurate."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Tell them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We're not touching the fund balance."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Commissioner Arrington, the budget as presented to you is currently balanced. So if we want to spend more than the 20 --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "We are not dipping into the fund balance, that's inaccurate."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Well, I'm just saying, you know, that's the way that, you know, we can balance the budget the way it's presented right now."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, not necessarily. I mean, you can -- you -- of the what was already balanced, the -- what did you call it, the -- you can make adjustments in 2023 Revised Proposed Budget if the desire is to fund all of this stuff that's been put before the Body, but not the fund balance. I hope that I have unanimous support of that. The fund balance is sacred. It is -- it's low as is at that 16.67 percent. So we need -- if you're going to -- we're not touching that. I hope that we wouldn't touch it. So the only other option other than raising the millage rate is to go back and look at what's in here and reduce it from something -- take it from some place that's in here. The other place that we've not touched is our own budgets. Now we could fund some of these things out of our own budgets if we were to contribute. But I'm assuming that's going to be a no-no."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "You already know that's the -- our budgets aren't large enough to affect any of these --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- items. You know that's not possible."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So it has to come out of this. Other than -- the only other option is to increase the millage rate. Go ahead. You're done, aren't you?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "She's done. All right, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you. I guess I'll start out we -- you know, it's interesting to note or to hear talk about all of the expenses that we have now. We've had a lot of these expenses for eight years. We've had a lot of these requests for

the eight years that I've been here, and we just haven't funded them. It's even more interesting to hear talk about these expenses that we have from people that voted to reduce the millage rate. If you know we had these expenses, if you know all of this was coming, why would you vote to reduce the millage rate? If you know we have the DA and the Sheriff asking for money, if you know we've got to build a new jail and you vote to reduce the millage rate, and then you come in here and say, oh, well, we don't have any budget left. That doesn't make any sense to me. You knew we were going to have to build a jail, but you vote to reduce the millage rate, creating a \$80 million shortfall in this year's budget. And then complain that expenses are too high. Where do they do that? If you know that we don't have the revenue to support the expenses, why in the world would you vote to reduce the millage rate? So we have \$1.3 billion roughly, I believe, general fund. I'm not limited by the 22.5 million. I'm not the CFO. I understand, Mr. Chair, that you always want to know where the money's going to come from. I'm not in the best of position to tell you where it's going to come from. When you go to the graveyard, you want to know where the bodies are buried, you ask the caretaker, you ask the grave -- the person working there. Sharon Whitmore knows where that money is because she's the one that hid it. I mean, that's her job. She does -- she's good at what she does. So I think it's unfair to ask me or to ask us where the money is coming from. She knows where it is. She got \$1.3 billion of it. I don't know where it is. I don't know where to take it from. But I'm absolutely in support of Sadie Mays, additional money for Sadie Mays. I'm absolutely of support of additional money for the Arts Council, for our Solicitor, our DA, our Sheriff, staff or Arts. Now, I heard somebody say, and maybe this came -- maybe Commissioner Hall, I need to ask you, 500,000 for Senior Services for meals -- what we -- what did you say, Sharon? You said --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I understood it was for home delivered meals."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Home delivered meals."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Is that -- I mean, I'm assuming that's for Meals on Wheels. I had that on my list at 500,000."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. I'm not sure, is it Meals on Wheels, that's the current provider?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "They are not, but home delivered meals is offered through Open Hand, Commissioner Arrington. But home delivered meals is --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So what is -- what is the current amount of money for home delivered -- what is the current amount in the budget for home delivered meals? And is this an additional amount on top of that?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes. So, Commissioner Arrington, home delivered meals currently is funded through two sources. The general fund as well as funding that we received from the Atlanta Regional Commission. And we can get you those amounts, so this would be additional funding for that program."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And you said the current provider is Open Hand. I mean, I guess I need to know how many people are they serving and what is the current budget amount. And I guess was that -- that was done through an RFP process?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes, sir. All of the services provided to the community are solicited through an RFP process. And the CFO has confirmed that the general fund budget for home delivered meals is 575,000."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's the existing budget?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So it's 575, and where's -- the proposal, I guess Commissioner Hall was requesting to add an additional \$500,000?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Do we know how much it cost per senior for them to feed a senior? Do we know how many seniors they serve with the \$575,000?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes. Ms. Onyiliogwu is here, the Director of Senior Services. And I'm sure she has those technical details."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Awesome, thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "While we're waiting her to come down, I'm definitely in support of additional monies for QLS, additional money for our CSP program. All right. And then I, you know, I may have some additional organizations that I want to add to those. Empower Youth and the other one that you mentioned, Commissioner Hall, like the Music Education Group. And Next Level Boys Academy."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Are you adding those to the list, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, I would like to add those to at the same amounts as the other two."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Repeat them again."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Next Level Boys Academy."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How much?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The 75, the same 75 as the other two."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "75,000, Next Level --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And Music Education Group. Okay. I'm sorry, please."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Good afternoon, Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Director for the Department of Senior Services. The meals are \$7.10 per senior."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Do we know how many seniors they serve on an annual basis?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, SENIOR SERVICES:** "I'll provide that information to you in a follow-up memorandum. We provide meals through general fund dollars as well as the dollars that Dr. Roshell provided through the Atlanta Regional Commission."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Unfortunately, usually that would be sufficient. But we're voting on this budget today."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, SENIOR SERVICES:** "I can get that for you right how --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, how much was that per meal?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, SENIOR SERVICES:** "\$7.10 per meal."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And what, they're doing two or three meals a day?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, SENIOR SERVICES:** "It depends on the care plan that our case managers have developed for the seniors. So most seniors will receive a five-meal pack, which means they receive a meal per day. Some seniors have a greater need, where they may have two meals per day."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, so it's one meal per day, per senior?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, SENIOR SERVICES:** "One meal per day, per senior. That is the standard. So some seniors may receive two meals per day. And Open Hand provides that in a five-meal pack per week. But at times, they may receive a seven-meal pack per week."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So a meal a day for 365 days is 2500 -- 2591.50, one meal a day for 365 days in a year."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's the number?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's for one senior, yeah, 2500 per senior, 2591.50 per senior at \$7.10 a day for one meal a day times 365 days a year."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Pick a number?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess I'm just curious as, you know, I spoke with Meals on Wheels, I know they have 120 seniors on their waitlist. And cost them approximately \$4,000 a year to provide meals to a senior, for each individual senior. So it sounds like this is a lower cost at 2591, than the 4,000. But I wonder how many people, if any, they have on their waiting list. I wonder, you know, if we are providing this money, and if we provide an additional \$500,000, would Meals on Wheels still have 120 people on their waiting list? I'm wondering what type of coordination is going on. To me --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Pick a number."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Commissioner Arrington, Ms. Onyiliogwu's computer is coming back up. So if you give us a few moments, we can give you some more definitive data regarding the numbers, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. I'm -- because I'm wondering what type of coordination we have, right? I mean, if Meals on Wheels has 120 seniors on their waiting list. And even if we give another 500,000 to home delivery, do those 120 people still stay on their waiting list? Are those 120 seniors still going without meals? And so I'm wondering maybe our role might be better in a coordination role and making sure that we are serving the maximum number of people that we can regardless of the provider, right? I mean, you know, I want to make sure we're serving as many seniors meals as we can. And I don't want to put 500,000 into one more group if that is -- if there's still going to be 120 people not getting food somewhere else, Fulton County seniors. So I'm supportive of, I guess, of an additional 500,000 for home delivered meals. And I guess we could talk about that maybe that's where the coordination comes in to make sure that we are supplementing whoever our existing provider is. So, you know, maybe we can't eliminate the entire waitlist. But you know, I don't want to put \$500,000 towards something and still have 120 people on a waitlist at Meals on Wheels."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So you're suggesting another 500,000 for that purpose to be --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "No, no."



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I think Commissioner Hall has already suggested 500,000. And I'm saying, I'm in support of the 500,000 that Commissioner Hall suggested. But I want us to be smart and strategic about it and coordinate our efforts --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So that we don't give one group an additional 500,000, and then there's still 120 seniors that aren't getting meals."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I got it. So you're not --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm not increasing the amount, no --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No, I'm not increasing the amount."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. So Meals on Wheels, QLS. Oh, obviously, \$250,000 for the Reparations Task Force, please make sure that is included. Sadie Mays, Solicitor. So I do want to correct the record, Commissioner Hall. We originally had done, we -- I think we did a 500,000 for Fulton Films for one or two years. And then it went -- because of COVID, it went away. And then when it -- when we brought it back last year, it came at 250. So I would also ask for the additional 250 for Fulton Films to restore it to the 500."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Another 250?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Another 250."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, 250 for Fulton Films, and I believe there's already 250 in the budget. So that would be 500 total. Do we have their Summer Internship, \$500,000 Summer Internship Program in the budget? I know we've been doing that since 2016."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "No. No, we don't."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I believe we funded that out of the ARPA resources in 2022, Commissioner Arrington, and it's not included in the proposed 2023 budget."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So it may have been funded out of ARPA in 2022, but we've been doing it since 2016. I know because that was the year my father's car was stolen. And, you know, I remember it vividly, maybe even 2015. So please add in 500K for our Summer Youth Internship Program."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And I don't know that the -- for the -- I think Commissioner Hall has said 190 for staff for Arts. I -- for me, I would just -- I would like for that number to be 500 for Arts. And then they can -- if it's staff or programming or whatever, they can do it from there. And I don't know -- I know we always do a -- with staff, we do this 30 percent over the salary for benefits."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I didn't put that in there."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "We're adding -- what we learned today is, we might need to add another ten or 20 percent because we didn't add pencils and paper and chairs and other things. We learned from our DA today that they're other incremental costs that come along with having staff, right? So, I would just say round that number out at 500,000. I really would like to do a million, but I know we're working with limited resources."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Did you say limited resources?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, we -- we're -- we only got 1.3 billion, that's all we got. The other thing -- and, you know, see what happens, we start -- I would just say to us, remind my colleagues that there are -- there is more than one way to skin a cat. And so be careful when you hear people start to say, oh, well you got to do this or you got to do that, it's got to come from here, it's got to come from there. You don't have to do any of that. That's people pushing their position. That's people push -- they don't want to support it, so they say, oh, well, we don't have nowhere to get it from. That's politics. Guess what we can do, we can round everything down. Instead of 1.2, we could give 1 million. Instead of 1.7, we could give 1.5. We can round everything down just a little bit, and give everybody 75-80 percent. But they don't want to tell you we can do that because that doesn't support their position. They don't want to do it anyway. So they not going to give you a viable option. They going to tell you the options that are available are global, thermal, nuclear war. That's the only option available. We got to blow up the whole budget. We don't have to do that. We can make small, minor increments. Solicitor said 1.2, guess what, he won't be mad if he get a million. Sadie Mays said 1.2, they won't be mad if they get a million. We can make small, minor increments, small minor changes to try to come within the 22.5. But the 22.5 is not even accurate. Now, let's talk about, do we have a checklist, Madam CFO of -- or is there a checklist that you can provide to us that talks about what is applicable for ARPA because, again, some of this money requested by the -- our DA and our Sheriff should likely be coming from ARPA funds. And so if we have 20 Investigators that are

there to reduce a backlog and we need 20 cars, and I understand that we, you know, maybe we can't make a -- maybe we can't purchase a car. That's why they have leases. Maybe we can lease a car for two years for the 20 Investigators, right? If we can't -- if ARPA funds won't allow us to purchase cars, do they -- are we allowed to lease the vehicles, Madam CFO?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The final rules for ARPA are several hundred pages long. There are variety of different types of expenditures that would qualify. We would -- I don't believe we would be precluded from acquiring vehicles, it's just not something that we had programmed into the original 75 million that was set aside for the ORCA project, commissioner Arrington. And with regard to the resources for the Sheriff, the ARPA rules are, we -- because we've asked the question of our external counsel regarding the use of ARPA for various costs associated with the Sheriff's office. And we are unfortunately, not getting a positive response on the general use to support salaries unless you can tag it back specifically to the COVID response. So that's the primary issue with the -- with the Sheriff's funding request --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, yeah, I'm not really talking --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- just in general."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- about Sheriff, I'm talking about the DA and the 20 vehicles, which are specifically tied to ORCA, which are specifically tied to COVID response, which is specifically tied to the court backlog."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "If the Investigators that those vehicles would be assigned to are paid for from Project ORCA and they are only working on the cases that predated that December of 2021 date that are in the Project ORCA base then, yes, the vehicles I believe, could be charged to the Project ORCA budget in the ARPA resources."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And I just want to ask a couple questions. We did our rental assistance program, it was real successful and we ran out of money, right? And then we got some more money. We did so good, we ran out of money, they gave us some more. How many times did that happen?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, we went to the state and the state gave us some of the money that they had."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, all right."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Commissioner Arrington, we had two original allocations from Treasury. We received two additional reallocations from the state. And we received a third reallocation from Cobb County."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Whoa. Fulton County is bad. Even when we run out of money, we find money. We ran out of rental assistance money. We got 30 million in rental assistance money, but we gave out over 100 million in rental assistance money. So guess what -- guess what that leads me to believe, perhaps I could be wrong. If we run out of ARPA money, guess what, we might be able to find some more. The state might have some, the U.S. Treasury might have some, Cobb County or DeKalb County might have some. Don't be scared by all this talk. This is people pushing their agendas. People are pushing their agendas. Ms. Whitmore, and I am -- I, in fact, I am going to take the million. I have to go back to the million request for the Arts Department. But I just thought about everything I just said it again."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Add another million for the Arts."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No, another 500 because it was already 500."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Another 500."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "There are so many ways that we can get to where we need to get."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What else, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Knock five, 10 percent off of each request. There's so many ways we can get there. But this is -- this is, you know, this is about -- this -- this is about -- Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, don't believe that. If you believe that then you feeding into their system. The money is there. We only had \$30 million in rental assistance, yet we gave out over 100 million. Don't let them -- don't let them -- don't let them -- don't allow them to feed you that false narrative that there is no money. We've got over \$1.3 billion in general fund alone. It's a false narrative. All right. Did we -- did I talk about -- I don't think I talked about the Bear Creek Nature Center."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How much?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I just want to match whatever we're giving the Chattahoochee --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Give me a number."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "200."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- Nature Center. That's what we've in the done in the past."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Million, 750, 2 million?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Whatever the amount is."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "It's 200 -- 200,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How much?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "200,000 is the legacy amount that we provide to Chattahoochee."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And in fact, before we provided that amount to Chattahoochee, we used to provide it to Chattahoochee and Cochran Mill. And Cochran Mill went out of business, now they're back open as Bear Creek. So 200,000 to match for Bear Creek Nature Center to match the 200,000 that we give to Chattahoochee Nature Center."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And I'm done except for my last statement. There's more than one way to skin a cat. There's more than one way to get where we need to get. And please do not allow people to tell you, oh, the sky is falling. The sky is not falling. We are not running out of money. There's money out there, but people want to tell you that we can't give you the money that they -- that they want or they want to label it a pet project. Minimize it by calling it, oh, this is a pet project. This -- these are projects for the residents of Fulton County. These are pro -- these -- if they're a pet project, it's a pet project of the Fulton County residents, which I assume all of this is for Fulton County residents. Otherwise, why are we doing it? And so -- I'll stop there."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you, Commissioner Arrington."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, may I do a read back of Commissioner Arrington's list, please?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sure. Go ahead."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you. I had --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Before you begin, Judge Johnson, come on down. And then other department heads, call them, bring them on down. She's -- she'll be next."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Arrington, I just want to double check my list against yours. I have the Next Level Boys Group 75,000, Empowering Youth 75,000, Reparations Committee 250,000, Fulton Films an additional 250,000, Summer Youth Internship Program 500,000, additional funding to Arts of a total of 810,000. That will bring the total to 1 million when you add it to what Commissioner Hall --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "No, some of this is on my list already."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, she -- what she did, she took your 190 and she adding 810."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yeah, I'm taking the 190 and I'm --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, so I think the other thing, you named the Empowering Youth for 75. And that was on --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I'm sorry, I may have missed the -- I may have missed the second name."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Music Education."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Music education, I'm sorry. My apologies."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Bear Creek."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "And then 200,000 for the Bear Creek Nature Center. And Hakeem and Sabrina, y'all can double check this, but I believe that brings the total to 27,032,000?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I did not hear the additional 250 for Fulton Films."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I have that on the list, 250 for Fulton Film to bring the total to 500,000."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. I'm sorry, can you go through your list again? I apologize."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. 75,000 for Next Level, 25,000 for Music Education, 250,000 --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It should be the -- that number should be identical for those --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I'm sorry, 75 and 75."

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "250,000 for the Reparations Committee, 250,000 for Fulton Films, which will bring the total to 500,000. 500,000 for the Summer Youth Internship Program. A combined total of 810,000 for Arts to bring the total add to \$1 million for Arts Programming, plus the 1.7 for Contracts for Services. And 200,000 for the Bear Creek Nature Center."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you."

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

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "And Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Hall, when Commissioner Hall raised the staff adjustment for Arts and Libraries, it was three positions. So Commissioner Arrington, I'm asking are we adding more positions or just more funding for the staffing? You want more -- or is that to include the staff support items?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, that -- I -- for, you know, that's above my pay grade."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I -- I'm here to advocate --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "However we work it out."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- the funds and I'll --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- let y'all decide the staffing levels and all that."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Okay, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. How much over are we now beyond the 22.5?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "About 4.8."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "\$4.8 million."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "4.8 million. All right, Judge, welcome to the club."

**KENYA JOHNSON, PROBATE COURT JUDGE:** "Thank you so much for the recognition and the clarion call. I rushed down, I want to welcome the newest Commissioners and acknowledge the work that the Finance team and County management has done to present this budget. County management has been very supportive when there was a recent change in the law and helped us get in compliance with the new laws. I want to submit to you that Probate Court is a small, but mighty department. And it has been traditionally understaffed and underfunded. And I submit to you that whereas everyone may not have contacts with other departments, every single person here in this room or their families may at one point be in Probate Court, where we see over 20,000 customers every single year. We have a staff of about 45. For the last two years, the court has asked for additional resources. I invite you to visit our court, where the decor is dated at 1980. The carpet is old, the record's room has had zero technology. We are keeping our county's history on index cards like the Dewey Decimal System."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Good Lord."

**KENYA JOHNSON, PROBATE COURT JUDGE:** "We have asked for enhancements for technology. We have asked for renovations. We have asked for a car. We have three locations spanning a hundred miles. And when I send staff to visit our locations, I'm cash aping them money out of my pocket, which has otherwise caused -- which is what I call the County P-card, which is my own funds. And so Probate Court is asking that not only was our personnel budget cut, and we will be submitting a revised ORCA request, at any point in time, we have over 15 percent of our staff on FMLA and on some sort of leave or vacation. So we're constantly juggling staff and not able to be responsive to the large volume of customers that we see during this increased time of death during the pandemic, where our demand has increased. So we are asking -- we've asked for approximately 1.5 million in enhancements. But to Commissioner Arrington's point, we'll take less than that. But we're asking that we be fully funded. The alternative is that out of our fee account, we use our fee account to get the things that we need. But this court under this administration, has chosen to right the ship and run everything through the county instead of using our fee account as an account to write checks for things that are not -- or outside of the county budget."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, Judge, 1.5 million?"

**KENYA JOHNSON, PROBATE COURT JUDGE:** "1.5 million, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We got it."

**KENYA JOHNSON, PROBATE COURT JUDGE:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "At least Finance has it on paper. You got that, 1.5 million Probate?"



**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So, thank you, Mr. Chairman, I was going to verify you wanted us to add that to the list."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, it's -- why not?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, absolutely."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I want to start going on record saying, this process is --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Horrible."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- just wow, like, I don't understand how all of this is on the last day when we have to approve the budget. And, you know, for me, I'm hearing for the first time a list of requests from Commissioner Hall, a list of requests from Commissioner Arrington and I'm sure there's going to be more before this is done. I don't understand. It seems to me that there was a preliminary budget sent out in, what was it, November? I don't know when the first one was sent out."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "November 15th."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Why weren't these lists -- why isn't the process that these lists are given at that time? Regardless of this so-called money that's left of the table. I -- it doesn't -- it doesn't seem like that's affecting what people are asking for. They're going to ask for what they ask for, so I don't understand why this is the last day. Because now that puts all of us in a position to try to ex -- we're all sitting here scribbling notes about how much money. You're trying to keep up verbally with what's being said. I mean, this just does not make sense to me in any way, shape, or form. At the very least, you should have a spreadsheet on the screen totaling it up so you don't have to keep reading it back. I mean it -- just this whole process seems nuts to me, sorry to whoever created it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You're correct. Continue."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I will put an agenda item on the next BOC meeting's agenda to discuss the process, so we do not do this again next year. Because this seems insane to me. Putting that aside, if someone could please explain to me the next steps of this process. Once everybody goes through all of their things that they want to support or don't want to support, then do we sit here and debate them and decide, no, only 900,000 for that, or 100 -- I don't -- what happens next? Because I'm sort of perplexed by this whole thing."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So I don't know if this is a Chairman question or County Manager question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It is. It is. When all is said and done and all of these numbers, they will have numbers for us, which now exceed the 22.5. And they will have to say where they other money is coming from. And when we get that answer, if that's satisfactory and I'm assuming that it will be, then we will vote up or down, meaning, yes or no on the budget."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. So but now we're not -- but so we're -- so we're having all these items thrown at us, and we're going to vote, yes or no, on a grand scale. We don't have the time to discuss any one of these items, any one of these departments --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Typically, typically, it has been one of two ways. Now, what Commissioner Hall did, she did it as a group. Commissioner Arrington did his -- has a group. But sometimes we do item by item, we vote it up or vote it down. If it passes, it's added to the list. This time, we took it as a group."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Well, like I said, I'm confused by the process. I don't know how anyone can vote on this with a clear head because these are just list of numbers without me knowing what these programs are or what these departments do in half the cases."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's real simple, when you don't understand, so I can tell you what to do. Now --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "It's not that I don't understand, it's that I'm frustrated, to be clear."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "When you're frustrated --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Commissioner Barrett, I would say to you, the process is to get four votes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I understand. But we --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's the only process."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Come on, guys. Come on, come on, come on."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I understand. But the point is, in order to do that, we're not -- we're just all throwing numbers in a pot. It doesn't make sense to me. But let's

move on. Let's talk about where the money is coming from. Because I'm hearing, again, multiple things from you all in the last BOC meeting in here that we have this hard and fast 22.25 million, or whatever it is. And, you know, from Commissioner Arrington, we have as much money as we want and they have to find it. And I'm not sure where -- what the truth is here. And so I want to just break this down a little bit with specific questions instead of just throwing out my frustration. So, bear with me. First of all, I do want to back what Commissioner Arrington said about the millage rate. Because, you know, Commissioner Hall, for example just laid out 24 million in things she wants to fund and we rolled back the millage rate in 2022. How many, was it \$80 million budget gap that that created?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "A little over 80, yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And then now with the budget as you've designed it here, it's not at the 8.87 millage rate. It's at a 9.1 millage rate. So, correct?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes. Using the 2022 property values and all of the revenue -- other revenue assumptions, we've calculated that the millage rate would need to be at least 9.1. We'll know differently next spring when we get the actual 2023 property values."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right, but --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Based on information we have today, 9.1."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I just want to be clear that we're going to have -- based on the budget we're about to approve, in some form or fashion, we're agreeing to raise the millage rate to at least 9.1. I just want that to be clear. Well then, somebody else do -- this why people are saying different things. So --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam CFO, would you explain what happens when -- in layman's terms, for not only the new, but for the returning as well, what happens in terms of if there's a shortfall, what or our options?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, right now, as Hakeem indicated, we've presented the budget, it's balanced. It's balanced through a combination of anticipated revenue and the use of available fund balance. So between those two sources, the amount of resources that we have available for 2023 is \$879 million. Before we would end up adopting a budget that would either require an actual planned millage rate increase above what has already been contemplated in the revenue, the anticipated revenue or going into the fund balance reserve to pull out the additional resources to cover any expenses over the \$879 million level. So I know that - that's not a direct, super-clear answer. But if you want to spend more than 879 million

in the general fund, we either have to plan to raise more revenue or we have to plan to use more of the fund balance. Those are our two options."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I hear you. I understand the logic. But what -- in order to put a spreadsheet together, you can't give an approximate and a guesstimate. So you're putting numbers in there saying, we expect X amount of revenue based on X amount of property value times X millage rate that -- you have to put something in there. So there's a number."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And the number currently is approximately 9.1 and some decimal places."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It is."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Based on the underline revenue assumptions."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. And so, I don't know where the votes are, the four votes or not the four votes. But Commissioner Hall just said, we're not raising the millage rate. So that means she wants it at 8.87, which means this has to be completely redone. I mean, correct me if I'm wrong, but what am I missing here?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Let me be clear, since my name was called. I was saying that this vote is not increasing the millage rate. We already voted on the millage rate in August. We will vote on the millage rate again in August of this year."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. But the millage rate we voted on in August was - I wasn't here, but was 2022's budget. The millage rate we vote on this coming year will be for 2023's budget. So what we voted on last year doesn't carry forth. It's -- it's neither here nor there at some level, right?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That is -- that is technically correct. Whatever action that you take today to set a final spending plan for the year, we will have to establish a millage rate that's sufficient to support that along with all of the other sources of funds that we have. So, yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So, I'm going to go on record right now, and again, not a discussion for today, but I want to be on record saying that that process also does not make sense to me because we have a responsibility to pass a balanced budget. But we don't have any responsibility to pass a millage rate that maintains the balance of said budget six months later. So that's a problem that I think we need to address. And I will introduce it for discussion in another meeting. Okay. So that said, this is based on a 9.1, which again, to me, I'm not sure where that number came from. The memos that you all sent to us, pretty -- were pretty vague. And it just said that it was through BOC recommendation or advice or whatever it was. I don't have the terminology. So I don't know who that came from or where that came from. But it seems fairly arbitrary to me because given the math, and I don't have it right in front of me, why isn't it nine-point, you know, 17 or 9.21? I mean, where did this 9.1 come from because just to recap what we've heard so far, commissioner Hall asked for 24 million in addition. We have 22.5 right now in our minds, right? She's asked for 24.8 million, Commissioner Arrington, I think, agreed to all of her things, correct, and added some more. So that put us -- that -- on my number here, my spreadsheet is 25.3 million total. Is that wrong?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I'm at 27."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. 27, my math is wrong. Oh, I see, I have 28 on a different column. But somewhere in that ballpark, okay. The point is, you know, we did a calculation in my office at the original millage, the 2021 millage rate of 9.33. Even with all of these requests, we would have -- and my own, which are relatively minimal and include leaving some money in the reserve, we would still have -- if we went to 9.33, and I'm not suggesting that's what we should do. But if we did, which again, was the pre-rollback millage rate, we would have an additional 15.5 million left in the reserve. So there's got to be a number between 9.1 and 9.33 that would give us the money to address all of Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Hall's request and will -- and, you know, whatever the other Commissioners are going to ask for, however -- so this is what I'm lost on, if we're already at a millage rate that is going to have to be higher in 2023 than the 8.87 we chose to approve last year, where did this arbitrary 9.1 come from and why are we being held to this 22.25 million that is -- just feels extremely arbitrary to me?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Barrett, the 9.1 is calculated using the -- again, using the basic underlying assumptions that we build into the budget for revenue. In this case, we started with the 2022 --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm going to stop you right there, if you don't mind."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And I apologize --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That's fine."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Let me answer it --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And I know Chairman likes to move things along --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Let me answer it more clearly."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Sure."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "The Board of Commissioners told us to assume a revenue that was 16 million or so more --"

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- than the millage rate adopted this year. That equates to 9.1. That was one Commissioner that no one contradicted."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So that's another part of --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So we took that --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- the process I don't understand --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- guidance. We didn't make it up. We didn't fall to this number --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I want to assume the 9.3 --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "All due respect --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute, everybody."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So that is how it became the planning assumption. And then the --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "All due respect, County Manager, I'm not --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- 22-point --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm not saying you made it up. I'm just saying I don't know where it came from."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And I'm informing you as to where it came from --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So, one Commissioner? This was not a vote, this was one Commissioner?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute, everybody."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Go on."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's calm down. This is the time of year when -- well, you still have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So again, this is not a criticism of any one. And this is a process I am new to. I'm just trying to understand. And so, it's not that Board took a vote and said, we want this 16 percent, whatever you just said, it's one Commissioner that made that recommendation and y'all ran with it? I don't -- if that's the process, cool, we need to change that in my opinion. That said, now we're all sitting here having this discussion, I, as an equal Commissioner, don't agree with that. It seems limited and arbitrary to me. So I'm going to go through my own requests. And I'm keeping a tally on my spreadsheet here, the numbers. And I would ask that part of the next step is to not just say, yes or no, but to say, this is the number that we would have to have the millage rate at to address all of these issues. Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You got a list?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "That said, my list is this, I have three priorities coming into this seat. They are public safety, public health, and free, fair, and secure elections. On the public health front, I would like to see the Sheriff get his 11.2 million."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's already in there."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I agree. But I'm just telling you what I want."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This -- all right. We got it, it's already in there."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "11.2 million for the Sheriff."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I actually said, and this was ignored in the memo, by the way, from what y'all heard last time. When Commissioner Ellis said he wanted the 10 million, I actually said, I wanted the \$16 million level for raises. And that was ignored, it's fine. It seems like everybody has agreed on this 11.2, so I'm not going to die on that hill."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "11-point -- no, nobody's agreed yet. 11.2 is on the list."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I would also support my colleagues, Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Hall with the full ask from the DA. I have a simple ask for the Elections and Registration Department and that is, there is one staff position that was proposed not to fund for I believe, it was \$61,000 for the year. It's an administrative position that she will need to hire before 2024. That will be her busy time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "61,000?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, 61,000 --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And change --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- the Board of Registration and Elections."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- whatever the amount is, Sharon, on the proposed not to fund for that particular position, I would --"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- like that lifted."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'll get there, sir. And then last but not least, I, as a said, want to support public health. And I think the Chairman indicated when he spoke about the significant needs we're going to have from a capital perspective for public health. I met with Dr. Roshell and she informed me that there will be strategic plan forthcoming sometime approximately in the next six weeks. Is that correct, Dr. Roshell? And in order to support that, I would like to ask that at least 5 million, I'd prefer ten, but at least 5 million be left in the general fund reserve. But that be particularly earmarked for public health. And again, this is through conversations I've had with the CFO and Dr. Roshell about how best to do this. And the reason I'm asking for it to be earmarked is because I want it to be clear when those requests come up for public health that we have essentially agreed to at least that amount."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. \$5 million in reserve for public health."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And I would also just support the Chairman's request that some additional money be left in the reserve. And I believe the Vice Chair said this



last time, in case of difficult financial times, et cetera, et cetera. I want to bring up one last thing in terms of where money comes from, and that is the host of emails I've been receiving from constituents over the last week and conversations I've had about money we may be leaving on the table due to the commercial property assessments, some of which in particular those for properties that are \$15 million and above being taxed at rates that are in the 20, 30, 40, 50 percent range, where some of our, you know, far less expensive residential properties, those at \$300,000 and under are often being assessed at 98 percent. It is my understanding that if we were to pursue collecting the tax on those up commercial properties, we would have tens of millions in additional dollars to spend. And I think that is something that we need to be looking at. And that would save us from having to raise the millage rate at all if we were doing that. And my understanding again, is the cost of for the -- and this is a question possibly for our Attorney, but my understanding is the cost for the lawyers to start fighting some of those battles that we're fighting currently in court and losing, would be insignificant compared to the return on investment. So I just, again, want to put that out there. We can discuss it at another time. At the moment, that's all I have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Abdur -- no, Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I fully agree with you, Commissioner Barrett. This has been a rather crazy -- I'm trying to keep up with my spreadsheet here of all these added last-minute expenses and not really voting on them. But I know if it's one big omnibus bill that we're just going to vote on, yea or nay, in the end and everything everybody's just gets things rolled up in. So thank you for your questions, it's very helpful for me. Some things I just wanted to make sure funding is included in the Arts, you know, for Johns Creek Symphony."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Repeat -- speak up, please."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Johns Creek Symphony, Alpharetta Symphony, and the Lionheart School. Is that -- are those items --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Commissioner, those three organizations have been funded in the past through the Contract for Services, so they are not legacy partners like the other organizations that we listed earlier. So there is no funding already set aside in the budget for those."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Other than the funding for Contracts for Services."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. So they can just apply for it by the January --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, wait a minute now. So -- but if she wanted to fund those out of this budget, why couldn't she?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "If she's wanting to add it --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Add --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- to the budget --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's what she's --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- and have it be an --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's what she's attempting to do."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- explicit funding request --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- she could do that. Otherwise, Dr. Roshell was saying, they have not been funded separately --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Understand that, what she's --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- outside of Contracts for Services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What she's attempted that's part of her list."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. So then --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "She mentioned three organizations."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- Johns Creek Symphony at 20,000, Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra at 9,000, and Lionheart School at 11,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What was the last one?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Lionheart School at 11,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Continue, you have more? That's it? All right, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Well, he's going to -- somehow he went away. He's going to come after you."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I got you. I got you. I got you. Okay, thank you. First of all, want to just reiterate my support for not only our DA, our Sheriff, our Solicitor, and our Probate Court. I also want to say, if we're going to do funding and depending on what we're going to do with the Magistrate Court, I think we should look at that as well. I do want to understand what is the funding for PAD. I know it's going to be a grant, but can someone confirm the funding for PAD?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "400,000."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "That's -- I'm sorry, go ahead."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "400,000, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So it's 400,000 is in there?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Also, I want to reiterate my support for the Reparations Task Force for the 250,000. Also, we had a position when, I guess, FGTV, we had the split. There was a position of Executive Editor, Video Productions Editor that was removed. And it immediately affected me, I think it may even affected Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Arrington's office. I don't know if that amount that Commissioner Hall is asking for. But it's an amount of 87,900. And I'm asking for that to be funded because actually, if it's -- is it included in that?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I believe it's in her staff --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So it is included in the -- okay. All right. I wanted to make sure it was included. Also, I wanted to ask for, I have \$180,000 ask for the Land Bank, the Fulton Land -- the Metro Atlanta Fulton Land Bank Authority of 180,000. I think we had 115 for them. You can correct me if I'm incorrect, but I wanted that to be increased to 180."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Did you -- do you want to add 180, or you want the amount that is there now to be increased to 180?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "If I'm not mistaken, the amount increased to 180, that's what I was asking."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "It's an additional 180. I'm sorry, it's an additional 180. I misspoke from my --"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Okay. Additional 180."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And also, just to reiterate the position with Elections that Commissioner Barrett talked about. I think it's very important and if we're going to move forward in doing what we need to do that position, I think it was 60 -- 61,000. I would like for that to be funded as well. And I think that's my list. Okay, thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Amount for Magistrate."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have a question, Dr. Roshell?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm sorry, what did you say, Dr. Roshell?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "We were looking at our notes and you mentioned Magistrate. Did you intend to fund --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Magistrate Court, while we were having the conversation, I was wondering -- because I know one while, we were looking at 17 positions. Do we have a dollar amount if we were to put those 17 positions back under Magistrate Court, CFO? Do you happen to have that information?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "You don't? Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I do not, I'm sorry."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. So I don't want to just -- Chairman, I don't want to just throw a number out. But I do want to make the Body -- unless Commissioner Arrington, do you have an amount?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, I do not have an amount, but I think it would be expense or revenue neutral because it would just be shifting from one department to another. I think the total number was 59 for Magistrate Court."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And I think the Clerk will still have 240-plus people. So for me, I'd be happy to put all 59 back in Magistrate Court, let the Clerk keep her 240. But I don't think that, you know, those positions just switch from one place to another. I don't know that there is additional money needed to pay for those."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioners, look, excuse me. Excuse me. On this point, I would urge you -- I'm not getting involved in all of this other stuff. But on this one. We're working with Judge Kirk and the Clerk to work out. So give us another couple weeks to come back to this Board with something."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "All right, Chairman, I guess, I just wanted to put it out there. I do have faith that between our County Attorney and you and what you all are doing. But since everybody was doing a laundry list, I thought I would just at least put it out there that we don't want to forget about the Magistrate Court. But, yes, I'll yield to you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We will not, thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. You know, I will reiterate some -- one of the remarks by Commissioner Barrett. This process is -- I don't if this was your word, but it's embarrassing. And it's a little bit --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It is."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- of a joke. You know, we as a Body, established a process for a budget process, right? When we started this process, when did it start, September, October?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We start receiving requests from departments in July."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "July, okay. We have had the --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We really started talking --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- opportunity to weigh in on this as Commissioners, probably about three or four times now, maybe five or six times now. You know, so the fact that, you know, as you've noted, you know, this laundry list of items is just thrown out at the, you know, whatever time it was, 3:30, 4:00 o'clock on the day we're to approve, you know. It tells you, sort of, the seriousness of which, you know, some of us have approached this. So it also, within the context of this too, we delegated, you know, construction of a budget. We used to have a Budget Commission, which we had a Commissioner sat on. We, as a Body, some folks agreed with this, some folks didn't agree with it, delegated this to the staff to present, you know, to formulate and take in all

those budget requests and come back to us with a formal approach, right? And so that's what they've done. You know, they've weighed out all of this stuff and they've presented to us kind of a budget which they feel like makes sense based upon the operational revenues that we directed them to flush out and to put in there of 800 -- 802.2 million, is what it came out to be, which assumes this millage rate would be 9.1 based upon the assumptions which they laid out in the memo, with growth, collection rates, et cetera, which would be slightly higher than the 8.87 we have right now. We do have operational constraint. We do have revenue constraints. That is a reality that we have to operate under and we have to think about and we have to know that in terms of what we're approving today. We also made decisions, you know, back in August, which had an implication on this, and which I'm not going go into and repeat. We've had similar items which have been discussed, which if look like -- look -- which you'll look at kind of the construction of stuff, you would begin to sort of, you know, raise your -- raise some questions about, why are we adding more money on top of these things? For example, you know, and I'm sure the number of the requests that have been brought forth by the different justice of partners, and many of them are potentially legit. You know, I hadn't seen any of them until today. And some of them, I still haven't seen even though I'm being asked to consider adding an additional 4.7 million or something for one. Haven't seen a penny of the ask in terms of the itemization of that. So I'm not really prepared to necessary speak to that. But I'll look at, you know, that particular office in particular. The revised proposed budget is 36.9 million. So am I reading that correct, Mr. Oshikoya, for the District Attorney?"

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "36.9 million."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And it was 32.445 was the amended budget in 2022, correct?"

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "That's 13 -- what's that a 13 percent, you know, kind of changed; is that about right?"

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Where our overall expense -- expenses in terms of the budget that you've outlined here are a 2.7 percent increase; is that correct?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "There about, yes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. So there are substantive additional resources to have been, you know, allocated to the DA in the proposed budget. So now we're asking to take another ask, which would take this up to a 26 percent year-over-year change in that budget. I've not seen a single piece of paper itemizing what those are and whether those make any sense and what are the -- what of those requests are embodied already within that change of roughly, 4.6 or so. Okay. The Probate Court was before us here. They mentioned some stuff, but I look at their actuals in 2022, they were 4 million, their budget, proposed budget is 4.8, \$800,000 differential. The Solicitor, the change, they spent 9.9, their proposed budget is 11.3. So whatever that is, 1-point, you know, six or so, or something like that, right? So more funds there. We talked about stuff within the scope of, you know, the Library. The Library underran their budget by \$3.3 million last year. The -- we talked about stuff for Seniors, Seniors were underran their budget by 4.57 million last year. So now we're going to add money on top something when we didn't even come close to spending the money we had allocated the year before. That doesn't make a lick of sense, particularly in the construct of the demands that we've got placed on us and the requests that are coming in. And that's how you all evaluated it and presented something back to us. And then we -- we're coming through with a process and throwing stuff right now that doesn't even -- that's not even reflective of the discussion and the debate you've already gone through. And we're just now, kind of, just putting that stuff before us at the 11th hour. So I've got an alternative -- I've got an alternative motion that I'm going to put on the table. Because there's a lot of stuff here that I think that has been mentioned, some of it may very well be worthy. But it's certainly not been flushed out enough to sit here and say, yes, let's do that for this item and this item and this item. So there are two things, I -- or one thing I am -- one thing we have clearly vetted and appreciate him for doing it the right way, the right way, to all the people that have -- or that chose to come down here today and provide us with information or make an additional request, the Sheriff's done this right way. There've been some odds and stuff with, you know, with our staff and some of the debates here, but we've had a healthy debate and discussion. And we're all about on the same page on it as we wrap up today. For all these other areas, there has been no healthy debate and discussion. It's just a last-minute let's just go up and throw up a Hail Mary, and let's see if the damn thing works. That's the approach on the other things. That's where it gets out of whack. So I am supportive of the additional 10 million that's in there for the Sheriff. I think the reserve piece makes total sense at, you know, with the five and five whether -- however we want to kind of, you know, earmark it for the health and safety purposes. But I think, you know, having some sort of reserve in there given the future of capital needs we have, makes total sense. So and there are two in there -- some -- a couple of things, I think the discussion around the use of ARPA funds and a reevaluation of some of that for, could some of these costs, some of these things meet the test of ARPA. Certainly, the justice-related stuff, but I think also some of the stuff in terms of the CSP money, Arts, food insecurity and some of those measures could be struck up against that as well. We've got a \$21 million, you know, reserve. I think it's fair to look at intent -- 5 million of that, potentially, strike up against future or, you know, some of the other things that have been mentioned, they've been brought forward and evaluate some of those things within the

construct of that. We've got the additional 2.25 for 10 million for the Sheriff, 10 million in a reserve, 2.25 million, you know, left over from that. And then I would add in another 2.36 million coming from the general fund by reducing the allocated -- the reserve that's in there for the municipal -- I mean, not for the -- for the Elections to run -- what is it, we've got a 8 million or 10 million in there right now for Elections for the potential for a Special Election to be held; is that right?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "15 million."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "15 million, okay. Reduce that by 2 million, okay, and so lay that on top of the 2.25. And some of you may not like this, but I think we should do it as well. I think we should reduce the Superior Court Clerk of -- Superior Court Clerk's budget by 360,000, given that she's taken in passport fees and putting them into her own pocket. And if she wants to restore her budget, she can bring those back into the general fund. That'll bring you to an amount of \$10.61 million that can be used to strike up against all of the different requests that we have kind of -- that we've heard today ranging the DA to the Solicitor to Arts-related things to Seniors-related stuff. So my motion then would be that we would adopt the general fund budget as it's proposed with the 802 million -- 802.2 million in revenue and the 879.9 million with the two adjustments that have been recommended with \$10 million allocated towards the Sheriff and \$10 million allocated towards a reserve and for the health and public safety facility capital needs. And for 2.25 million to be set aside and for these other requests to be evaluated for that purposes of that use -- or not for 2.25, for 4.2 -- 4-point -- 4.8 -- let's say -- what is it, two -- 2-plus the 2.5 plus the .36, what's that number?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Commissioner, are you --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "2.61 million to be satisfied on top of that, that 20 million. So you got the -- you got the ten -- ten for the Sheriff --"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Yeah."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "10 million for reserve."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And \$2.61 million that come from the 2.25 million -- or I mean -- I mean, 4.61 million. Is that the right number?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "We have the 2.25 that is --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "-- remaining from the 22.25."



**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "So you have 2.5 remaining."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "And then you said reduce Elections by 2.5."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "2.5."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "2-point -- so that's a total of 4.75."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "And then do you want the 300,000 that you referenced?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "360,000 for -- reduced out of the Superior Court Clerk's budget."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "So that'll be 2.75 plus 360."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Um-hmm."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "That'll be 3 million and -- let me make sure I get you there. I got the right amount, sorry. 4-point --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Ellis, I think it's a total of 5.1, if I followed you correctly. 10 million for the Sheriff --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "10 million as a reserve --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yep."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "You want to take the remaining 2.5 and add 2 million, two and a half million from Elections --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- and 360,000 from the Clerk of Superior Court, which --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- I think adds to five -- 5.1 million --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- as the --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And that 5.1 million could be used to -- to be struck up against the things that brought forth today, you know, as well as other items and be flushed out and approved at a later date. And that 5.1 could be assigned for those particular perspective items that were approved. In addition to that, to those general fund items, we take 5 million in FEMA reserve and do the same and strike those up against these things to see which -- which ARPA -- what things would be permissible under ARPA and that we would want to do. So that's my substitute motion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Did you capture that? Because I need you to repeat it for us so everyone can understand it and understand and compare that to this laundry list that we had that some \$20 million over the 22.5."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "As I understood it, it would be to approve the proposed revised budget with 10 million of the 22.2 going to the Sheriff."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Correct."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "10 million being held in reserve for public health and facilities."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Public health and facilities?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. 2.25 of the remaining 22.2 plus 2.5 being reduced out of the Special Elections reserve, and 360,000 reduction from the Clerk of Superior Court. That would be the general fund budget. And then also that would leave 5.1 million to put towards the list of items the Board has provided or other items. And then we would also look to potentially use \$5 million out of the reserve that we have for our FEMA expenditures to address some of the items that were presented today that are eligible for the use of ARPA funds."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now, does everybody understand the substitute motion? Now, let's be clear because if this is approved, that laundry list that we spent two hours going through, and I don't have a dog in that fight, but you just need to be aware. So if this motion is approved that will be approving the -- the -- this budget. Everybody clear?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, just with the clarification that --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- that five -- that 10 million -- that roughly \$10.1 million or whatever it was between the ARPA and the other --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Right."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- would be utilized for the different requests that have come forward, giving us appropriate time to vet these things and individually, you know, kind of approve them and make sure that they are the legitimate right amounts for us to go and expend."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Right. And there's nothing in here for the District Attorney in your motion, nothing for the Judge and nothing for the Solicitor General. And most of the items that -- and I'm not saying that we would do that --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And I'm not saying that we wouldn't do that, but there's \$10 million there --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I understand -- I just --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- in terms of, you know, we could sort through."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What I don't want to have happen is someone come up to me afterwards and say, I didn't understand."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. I'm real clear about what we're doing."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any questions? All right. Substitute motion. Madam?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It hasn't been seconded, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I know. We're not -- I'm not -- I'm not there yet. What?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No? Okay. Someone just seconded --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. May I preside y'all, please? I want to get us through this. Now, the motion on the floor is by Vice Chair Ellis. There's a second by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This on the substitute motion by Vice Chair Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "For Vice Chair Ellis' budget?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So just -- there was some questions from our new Commissioners about the process that we are taking today. And I would submit to you that you should watch the previous years' BOC meetings in January. So that will give you very clear understanding, truthfully and honestly, so you don't have to listen to what anyone says, you can see for yourselves how we got here. Because in 2018, coming in as a newly elected Commissioner, Commissioner Darnell literally shut the whole meeting down. And at the end of us going through our list of those things that we want to see happen out in Fulton County to serve our constituents, she said, like Commissioner Khadijah said earlier, that Sharon, the CFO has always been able to find the money and balance the budget. And that is what she allowed them to do. She said, let's stop the meeting, let them go into the Executive Session room and balance the budget based off of all of the asks the Commissioners of this Board of Commission asked for. And they went in the room, came out with a balanced budget, and we voted and moved forward. So that was my first experience, 2018. Moving forward, because it was so much chaos, we were told to all submit budget enhancements list, basically a spreadsheet of those budget enhancements that we all knew our residents wanted to see or that we knew that the constituents who come and speak at the BOC meetings asked us for. The reason why we are here today with no budget enhancements spreadsheet is because we were told that there was no money for that. And then all of a sudden, we found \$22 million and we were told, okay, well now you throw something together and come to the meeting and ask for whatever is needed. And that's why we're sitting here doing this today. So it is unfortunate that we're doing this process this way. But it is what it is, we're down to the wire at 5:23 and 11 minutes. And I'm going to not be voting for Commissioner Ellis' budget because my constituents have spoken and that is not just District 4 that is across the Fulton County as a whole."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to agree with Commissioner Hall. Number one, we just learned about this 22.5 million at the last meeting. And it was a surprise I guess, or something happened and there was a change. So not only did we just learn about that, but I'm not sure about other Commissioners, I had budget Town Halls with my constituents, so I report back. When I come and bring something here today, it's because the constituents, the residence. All of our bosses have told me that that is what they want. When I go out into the community, I don't say that this is my budget. Guess what I tell the people, the residents, the voters? I say this is your Fulton County budget. Please share with me your ideas and your priorities so that I can bring them back to the Board. And that is

exactly what I have done. I have gone out to the community. I have sought input and I have brought it back here today. And so for someone to suggest that that shows a lack of preparation is laughable. It actually shows the opposite. It shows inclusion, it shows that this is the budget of the people of Fulton County. And so I think we all are here -- and I don't think anyone has any bad intentions. But I think everyone has different priorities. And it's so hard and challenging because you have some people -- so let me be clear, since y'all used one Commissioner for the assumption of the 9.1. I want you to assume the 9.33 that you recommended this year that we should have adopted, but we didn't, but that was for this year. But again, all of this is just smoke and mirrors because guess what, as Commissioner Barrett said, if you change that 9.1 to 9.33, then now all of a sudden, we got another \$15 million, we can fund all these requests and still have another 15 million left over. Well, hell, let's make it 10, assume 10 for purposes of the budget. But you know why? Because we have a midyear evaluation. We come back and we say, okay, how much have we spent thus far? How much do we have left? Where do we need to go from here? And we won't decide this year's millage rate until July or August. So we will have time to get there. In the meanwhile, we got more than enough money to fund these requests. All we have to do is simply assume a different millage rate or take 20 percent off. If it's 27 million, what's that total, Hakeem, of additional on other things? It was 27 million? Sharon, Hakeem?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Arrington, the total now is us up to 33.8 million."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. 33.8 --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "We got to add 10 for the reserve."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "43-point --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So, the 33 included a \$5 million for the public health. Is there a \$10 million for --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It sounds like it'll be an additional five. I think Commissioner Ellis requested ten. So it would be an additional five, not an additional ten, which would get us to a total of ten; is that correct, Commissioner Ellis? Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So if it's an additional five, then it's 38.8."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So then now, let me -- let me ask you what I think Commissioner Barrett was going, what -- how much would -- if you assume a millage rate of the 9.33, which was the staff recommendation for this year, would that be enough to cover that 38 million?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We -- my answer is, yes, we had calculated --"

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- that if we went -- and we included that in our memo. If we had used the 9.33 mills, then that would generate, I believe our number was closer to 17, 17 million."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Now, the -- and so that's at least one option, right? So we got Commissioner Ellis' substitute motion, which is one option. We've got another option that includes assuming, for purposes of the budget, not that we've voted on it yet, but assuming for purposes of this budget that we assume a millage rate of 9.33. Third option, what is 33 million -- help me, help me with my math. We've got 22.5, and there's 33, what percentage is -- assuming -- hold on -- let me go back. Because we got to start with the assumption, assuming the millage rate at 9.1, which is where you have it now. Assuming that rate at 9.1 and assuming there's 22.5 left and there's 33 million in requests, what if all of the additional requests were funded at 67 percent? That's a third option. Fourth option is maybe, funding the Sheriff at full amount and doing -- or public safety at full amount and then doing 60 percent or 50 percent on the remaining requests, right? So then that would include the Sheriff at 11, the DA at 4.7, Solicitor at 1.2, Probate at 1.5. And every -- funding everything else at a percentage rate. So we have many, many, numerous different options available to us. But the easiest one for me is to just assume the millage rate at 9.33 for purposes of the budget. So that the money is there and then we come back and reevaluate at our midyear evaluation. Madam CFO, when do we have to do a midyear evaluation of our budget?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We typically do that in August of each year after we have the millage rate set and we know what our property tax billings are."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. I'm going to stop there, you know -- oh, I'm sorry, Commissioner Thorne, can you tell me what the Lionheart School is?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "It's just a school that we had funded. It's with kids with disabilities."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you. Kids with disabilities. That sounds like something I can support. However, what I always try to do is make sure that we have parity. And so if we are funding orchestras in North Fulton, guess what I'm going to want to do? Fund orchestras in South Fulton. Like the African-American Philharmonic Orchestra and Orchestra in Water. So add those in at 15K each."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you, Chair. Being new to this process, I had no idea that people were just going to come and list out things. So I received a list of things that had previously funded in my district that I knew if everyone's going to throw there's in, I'll throw mine in too, type thing, Mr. Arrington, Commissioner Arrington. But with Ellis' plan, I feel like if we earmark money, maybe increase to give the DA, because I feel the DA and the Sheriff work hand-in-hand, and I do see needs there. But all these projects, I don't -- you don't know about my projects, I don't know about your -- Empowering Young Men, CEOs of Tomorrow. I mean, I'm sure they're all great things. But I feel like as a Board, we can't just throw them in a pot and approve them all right today. I wouldn't be comfortable. I'm getting messages today. I have a daughter that works with Microsoft and a daughter that works at Amazon. Today they're doing massive layoffs. 12,000 people at Amazon are leaving -- losing their jobs today. My daughter said ten -- or 12 percent of her team is gone now that she leads. My daughter at Microsoft is worried, they're like -- they just had a layoff in November of 12,000. They're having another layoff of 11,000. Ametta, huge layoffs; big tech, huge layoffs across the board in big tech. So our future is looking grim down the road. And I really feel to be responsible, we need to have some type of reserve. Public Safety is a priority for me. I want to fund Public Safety. But we've got to think about -- we can't just spend right up to the 22.5 and then go over and then expect everybody's property rates to go up because we funded everything now. I really feel like this year is going to be a grim year economically. And in my sector, it's a huge technology district. Alpharetta, Johns Creek, we're all technology. Here in Atlanta, I know Microsoft is bringing their big hub. You know, my brother was the CIO for Stanley Black & Decker here. I know how it attracts business around Georgia Tech. And I just really feel like we need to be conservative in our budget. And I think it's smart and wise to not just put everybody's pet project -- I don't, I'm sorry I don't want to call it a pet project. But put everybody's wish list in a bucket and say, let's go, and let's just find a millage rate to fund it."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. Y'all hear that? Do y'all hear the rubber hitting the road? I hope y'all hear it, because I hear it. We sat down and had a conversation and individuals agreed on 8.87. You had a couple Commissioners up here that said, we are going to run into a problem. It fell on deaf ears. I'm not going to cry over spilled milk. But the reality is, everybody love the taste of the sausage, but they hate the sausage making. Our Sheriff asked for 16, dropped it down to 11.2. Now it's dropped down to 10. Our Solicitor, who does great work in the community, our Probate Judge, who has been part of the Senior Summits, educating in the community with not extra money in her budget for that, by the way, because I worked with her on it. So let's be fair. I entrust the County Manager and the CFO and all of them to do their jobs. And I would never undermine it, but their name is not on the ballot, mine is. The Sheriff's name is on the ballot, the Solicitor, the DA, and the Probate Judge. So the reality of it is, people reach out to people, they send information. Commissioner Arrington, we not going to agree on a lot. But we can agree on this, we been getting information about the Reparations Task Force for a year. A year we been

getting information about the Reparations Task Force. It didn't just pop out the clear blue sky today. And so what I'm saying is, if we're going to be fair, let's be fair. I'm all for fiscal responsibility, but not when it benefits one particular side of town. Now, people can say, Khadijah, that's a politically incorrect statement. That doesn't mean it's not true. Because we got crime on both sides of town. We got human trafficking all through Fulton County. We got individuals that, thank God that Judge Kenya is educating, she's going out in the community educating people about Probate. People are losing their entire inheritance because they don't know and somebody is scamming them. Our Solicitor is doing everything in his power, record restriction, he is creating jobs. But because it don't happen on your side of town or because you don't see it, it don't have a value, not on my watch. So I'm willing to work with whoever to come to a solution. But everything that has been said today up here has a value. Everything that's been said from the North side to the South side. But is important to you? Commissioner Thorne and Commissioner Khadijah have two totally different, but very diverse, but the children with disability on your side, they need that money that you getting ready turn the other way and not -- and not ask for. They need that money. So guess what, I'm going to advocate for that money that you asked for. Because at the end of the day, we knew we were coming here. We knew this was going to be a spirited -- I knew I wasn't going to be able to get home and feed my dog, all kind of other stuff, because we got to sit here and work through this. But at the end of the day, to even give the thought that somebody just said, oh, they doing -- they doing discussions down there? Let's run down there and just throw something. You do a disservice to our department heads and our elected officials because they know what they need, they know what they're asking for. And to say, because somebody has not come down here and did a dog-and-pony show for you, does not mean that they have not reached out. Let's be fair Fulton County. Yes, wherever we can cut, we need to cut. But I will -- I cannot in good conscious, support something that says, okay, everybody's coming with this, it's pie in the sky. It's not pie in sky. Will some of them take less, yes. But we knew we were coming to this road, the Chairman said it. We knew we were going to get to this point. So I will ask my colleagues to support a balanced budget. And unfortunately, as much as I would want to, I cannot support Commissioner Ellis' motion."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Chairman. To be clear, on Commissioners Ellis' motion, he is asking for money to be reduced from the Election's budget that was being held in case of a Special Election. He also asked for the budget of the Superior Court Clerk to be reduced. I said at the outset of my earlier remarks that my three priorities were Public Safety, Public Health and Elections. So I cannot support reducing either one of those budgets at all. I also will not support any budget that does not include 11.2 million at a minimum for the Sheriff, not 10. And Commission Ellis' motion is only at 10, so that's a, no, for me. I also will not support a budget that does not give the DA her requests. I want to say in particular, I hear what Commissioner Abdur-Rahman is saying. There are -- there were things that were specifically brought to me in the first few weeks of my taking office as well as in the few weeks after the election



leading up to that. I spoke to the DA, I spoke to the Sheriff. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman brought the Land Bank to me with a very thoughtful presentation. So I would not support a budget that does not include that 180,000 for the Land Bank. Again, I, you know, the rest of it -- and this is not a criticism of either my colleagues, Commissioner Arrington or Commissioner Hall, but I just haven't had the time to examine all the line items. And that's not to say you haven't done your work. I just -- I personally, have not had the time to review them. So my perspective on those is, I am more than happy to support them if our budget allows it. And I -- or to put the money in the reserve and, you know, consider them one by one. And that again, just really is me saying the process is kind of whack, to use a very technical term. That said, I just want to also point out and you know, kind of reiterate what Commissioner Arrington and I think Commissioner Abdur-Rahman both said about the, you know, developing on a 9.33 millage rate, the -- I asked our CFO for the numbers on this last -- during the previous week. And the additional amount over the 22.25 was -- I was told and you just, I think, said it again, Madam CFO, is an additional 17 million that makes the number 39 million total. 22 plus 17 give or take, right? So at that amount, frankly, we have -- we have more than enough to put the, as I said before, to put the money in the reserve that Vice Chair Ellis wants as well as to do all of the things listed by my colleagues and leave an additional, aside from the 10 million that Ellis, Vice Chair Ellis and are both asking for in the reserve. That leaves an additional 15 million in the reserve by my calculations. So we don't even have to do it at the 9.33 to get all these requests met if I -- if my math is right. I've got a spreadsheet in front of me."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Barrett, I'm not sure that it leaves an additional 15 million in the reserve. It would cover what had been identified as the reserve, but I don't think it would leave an additional 15 million."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Either way, it more than covers, whether it leaves addition or not. So all of that to say, I cannot support Vice Chair Ellis' motion."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, I'd like to call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to call the question. Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'll -- just a minute, let me preside, please. Motion on the floor is to call the question. Let's vote. Just a minute -- just a minute. I'm -- there's no discussion on this. Now, we all know this. I sent this to everybody that this motion, what it means. The motion on the floor is to call the question. It was called properly. And now we're going to vote on calling the question."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The vote is open. Motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion passes, now back to the motion that's on the floor, which is the motion by Commissioner Ellis -- motion by Commissioner --"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "What was your vote?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "It was affirmative for her."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The question has been called. The motion on the floor is the substitute motion by Commissioner Ellis, which was seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The vote is open. The motion fails; five yeas, two nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "I'm sorry. Five nays, two yeas."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion fails. That was a substitute motion. Now back to the original motion, which was a motion by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. And that motion would -- go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, if I may, Commissioner Hall, would you accept a friendly amendment to your motion for the staff to assume the millage rate at 9.33?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Was 9.1 (off-mic comments.)"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Madam CFO, any advertising requirements if we do that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Not at this time, Mr. Chairman. The millage rate advertising requirements would come next midyear, next year when we actually move to take up the millage rate approval process."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. And explain that, if this passes, the 9.33, everything that's on the table that's been added today, explain what that means."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "If the motion passes including the assumption of a millage rate of 9.33, then we will add an additional \$17 million to the

revenue anticipation. And we will fund the items that have been identified. I can run through them again if the Board desires. I have 1.2 million for Sadie Mays, 1.7 million for the Arts Department for Contracts for Services, 4.7 million for the District Attorney. 1.2 million for the Solicitor, 11.2 million for the Sheriff, 632,000 for Human Resources to fund childcare for county employees, 190,000 in the Arts Department for some positions, 500,000 for Senior Services for home delivered meals, 400,000 for Senior Services for QLS, 500,000 for Behavioral Health, 1.5 million for the Community Service Program, 1 million for Youth and Homeless Youth, 150,000 Commissioner Hall's Youth Conferences, 75,000 for Next Level and music for Arrington's entities, 250,000 for the Reparations Committee, 250,000 for Fulton Films to bring the total to 500,000, 500,000 for a Summer Youth Internship Program, a total of 810,000 to bring additional funding for Arts Programming and/or staff to 1 million, 200,000 for Bear Creek Nature Center, funding for one position in Registration Elections at 66,693, a \$5 million reserve for Public Health, 20,000 for the Johns Creek Symphony, 9,000 for Johns Creek, and I didn't catch the Alpharetta -- Alpharetta Symphony? 11,000 Lionheart, 180,000 for the Land Bank, 1.5 million the Probate Court, an additional reserve of 5 million, and two South Fulton of orchestral groups or musical groups at 15,000 a piece for a total of 30,000. That being -- that brings the grand total to 38,848,693. So we would increase the revenue and increase the expenses accordingly."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Ellis and Commissioner Barrett."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So since you opened up back discussion on this, right? I don't know why the votes on our screen and we're going to continue to discuss this. So since we're -- since you've revised this, not to say I'm going to be supportive of it, but what -- if we're going to entertain this, you can add 500,000 for the Chattahoochee Nature Center for capital into -- on the list as well for purposes of this particular thing -- motion."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order. If we're going to do that, I want the same thing in South Fulton for Bear Creek Nature Center."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Add it. Anything else? Let's get some more department heads down. Let's fill it up. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I just -- I just want to match, I just want parity."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We got -- it's on. We got it."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, no, she was asking me. And I was just answering her. I just want parity."

**HAKHEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Commissioner Arrington, a point of clarification, please. So do you want 500,000 more for Bear Creek or --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "How -- I want Bear Creek to get whatever the same amount Chattahoochee is getting, period."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So you -- if you tell me how much Chattahoochee's getting, whatever that number is, that's the same number Bear Creek should get."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "So we'll be adding \$500,000 to each?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And I think he reserved it for capital. I just want parity. I don't -- hey, we want orchestras in the North Fulton, we want orchestras in South Fulton. We want nature centers in North Fulton, we want nature centers in South Fulton."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "On the nature center question, is there money already budgeted for both of these places?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "(Off-mic comments) at \$200,000 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's wrong with the microphone? Can you use Dr. Roshell's? Yeah."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "My apologies. The proposed budget originally presented included 200,000 for the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Commissioner Arrington asked as part of his request to add 200,000 for the Bear Creek Nature Center. And then Commissioner Ellis asked for 500,000 for capital for the Chattahoochee Nature Center. And Commissioner Arrington asked for parity, so that would be another 500,000 for Bear Creek, which would have them both at a total of 700,000 in the budget if approved."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Got it, okay. I just wanted to make sure I had that straight. I wanted to speak again just because, again, this process quite confusing to me. All of a sudden we were, you know, Vice Chair Ellis made an, you know, alternate motion and now we were all of sudden, going to vote on all of these things. I don't understand, again, is the process that everybody just ask for whatever they want and we just -- it's all or nothing? I'm confused. Because again, as I said, there's a whole list of things that I may say, yes, to. But I don't know enough about them. And I don't understand how they're getting all lumped into one thing. We had a presentation from the Reparations Task Force. And while, again, I don't necessarily have to reiterate

everything I said then, but I ended by saying, I would like more time to study that before I -- and so that's only one of a list of I don't know, how many things are on this list now, 30-something? And so I don't understand how -- why I'm being forced to make a choice that's all of these things or none of these things without further study."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Commissioner Barrett, I think that -- okay. I'll --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any other questions? All right. The motion on the floor by -- motion by Commissioner Hall to approve, seconded by Commissioner Abdur --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "(Off-mic comments.)"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have this friendly amendment about parity, whatever you're doing --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I do, and added a million dollars to the total, so that brings it to 39,848,693."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "(Off-mic comments.)"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes. I understood that -- that Commissioner Arrington had offered a friendly amendment that the budget reflect the 9.33 mill, which I indicated would add an additional 17 million on the revenue anticipation."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Actually, if I may just add something. It comes out to about 9.37. And the reason for that is, we need to have 16.67 reserve on top of that amount that --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That is certainly fine with me. I don't think Commissioner Hall will oppose it either."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "We started at 9.1 and --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. So the millage now, the new millage rate is going to be, what, 9-point what now?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "9.37. That is with the assumption that everything, every assumption we used for 2022 millage rate remains the same, yeah."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "(Off-mic comments.)"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair, I want to be real clear because I don't want people coming out here saying that there is a millage rate increase --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- we're just assuming that for purposes of the budget."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And we will not vote on that until July or August."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else? Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So I just want to get a -- ask a clarifying question about this millage rate assumption. So if we're putting this budget out with the 9-point, now 37, which it -- again, I'm not quite sure why because it seemed to me that we could achieve it at 9.33. So I'm not sure where the extra percentage is coming from there, but regardless, when we come to this discussion of the millage rate in the midyear, you are, Madam CFO, are going to be able to give us numbers that will give us a more specific millage rate that we'll need to essentially keep the remaining part or the -- to keep the year as it -- as it -- it's 6:00 o'clock, I'm tired. But the -- that you're going to give us a millage rate recommendation at that time to meet the budget that we have laid out with the midyear changes, correct?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We'll make a recommendation for a millage rate that based on the digest value and everything at that time, will generate the revenue that the budget that you pass now anticipates."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And you will also be looking at things that didn't get spent, that kind of thing at that point or, no?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We typically don't look at things that don't get spent at the point in time that we're setting the millage rate. If the Board would like to go through that process, we certainly could, you know, could do that. But we --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I mean, it seems --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- we typically do not."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- pertinent, does it not? Is we're not spending the money, then we wouldn't need the millage rate to be as high, right? I mean, I'm again, just asking questions for clarity. So it is possible, even though we're developing this at, now, this other random 9.37, I don't know where that came from. That you could come

back midyear and say, well, we did develop it on this, but we need less, a lower millage way will suffice; is that correct?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's not going to happen."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That's possible depending on what the digest value actually comes in at. If it comes in higher or if it comes in lower than what we included in our projections. And like I said, we typically don't look at our -- our expenditure burn rate when we're looking at the millage rate because we're just trying to ensure that the revenue that the budget anticipated is what the millage rate would cover. But we can look at the expenses and certainly present that to the Board and let the Board make a decision accordingly."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Don't forget the overruns and underruns, because there's always a huge amount of --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, guys --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- underruns, unused money and all that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Bottom line is, every dime will be spent. Let's vote."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "One more."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just one more point on the millage rate too. Given that structurally, we're funding our budget through surplus funds as opposed to all through revenue, right? That we've been doing this pattern every year. It's also safe to assume when we get to the 2024 cycle, given the actions that we, if this were approved, we also could be having to look at an additional millage rate increase in 2024?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That is -- yes, Commissioner Ellis. That, because we're --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So we should be thinking about that too as you cast this vote."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "2024, 2025, because a lot of things that we're funding today, particularly personnel, these are not one time, these are ongoing expenses. So you're committing yourselves, whether you want to admit it or not, to a future tax increase. Let's vote, please. So let's don't say, I didn't know what --"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The vote is open."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** -- I was voting on."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; four yeas, three nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Now, is that all of the budget items included in this one?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "If the resolution, it was sounded, and as long as the Clerk is comfortable that the resolution was incorporated in that then, yes, Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, all right. Continue Madam Chief Deputy Clerk."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Continuing on page 5, **23-0042**, External Affairs, presentation of 2023 Legislative Session update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Ms. Corbitt, where are you? She'll be able -- continue, we'll come back to her when she gets here."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Next item is **23-0043**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance, request approval of a resolution to the extent emergency purchasing authority of the Chairman and County Manager for COVID-19 related purchases."

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

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The vote is open. The motion passes, unanimously."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "On page 6, **23-0045**, Registrations and Elections, request approval of a resolution amending the cost to be charged to municipalities who authorize Fulton County to conduct any or all of their municipal elections and further purposes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Come on up, Ms. Williams, explain what this is."



**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Good evening, Chairman and Members of the Board. And congratulations to the newly-elected Commissioners and Vice Chair. We have a presentation to request a revision of the municipal cost resolution."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Speak up a little bit, Ms. Williams."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Oh, we have a presentation. Our request is to reduce -- I mean, to revise the Municipal Cost Resolution for municipal elections. Next slide, please. With the conclusion of 2022 Elections, Fulton County Registration and Elections diligently analyzed election costs for all election types. We've reviewed the 2020 and 2022 turnout results. The 2022 November and December elections, the first elections that have all the new legislative requirements in place to help us -- to illustrate voter turnout. Therefore, we reviewed all the totals. And with that data, we are streamlining processes for efficiency and attempting to reduce election costs. In the interim, election costs have increased since the Municipal Cost Resolution was established, therefore we're seeking to have the approval revised to not have the County incur costs for municipal elections. Next slide, please. Currently, the 2019 Municipal Cost Resolution outlines that municipalities pay at cost per voter, which is actually based off the 2017 Election budgets. The resolution was to be reevaluated with the installation of the new election equipment. And the resolution is actually based off of cost sharing with the County, which contradicts election code that the County is not to incur cost in conducting municipal election services. Next slide, please. I had forwarded a memo to all the Commissioners and City Clerks outlining some of the examples of the increases that have occurred since 2017. One example illustrated above is that cost have increased due to the size of equipment. For instance, vehicle rentals, we used to be able to deliver in cargo vans, now we have to deliver in 15- 16-foot box trucks due to the size of the equipment. We actually have to empty absentee ballots daily at the close of the polls for advance voting, therefore it -- that's additional staff and rental vehicles. Also, the new equipment requires paper ballots, ink, additional seals. So all those things have increased election costs throughout the years. And we also looked at the 2023 to see how we can reduce those things at the same time if applicable. Next slide, please. In 2021, Fulton County incurred over \$2 million in election costs since the cost per voter is insufficient to cover the election cost currently. Prior to 2019, the municipalities were -- charges were based off percentages of the election costs per their number of registered voters. The County would draft a budget for the current year and the municipalities would pay that percentage. And the County would not incur costs for municipal elections. And if anything we did not expend, we would issue the municipalities a refund. Next slide, please. So we are requesting that the municipal -- a resolution be revised. We would revert back to the percentage of election costs distribution to the municipalities. We would reinstate refunds to the municipalities if there is unexpended funds. Eliminating the cost per voter will allow us to be prepared for fluctuations in costs like, legislative changes, vendor rates, et cetera. It'll also allow us not to continue to revise a resolution as rates change. Next slide, please. And we are happy to conduct municipal elections, but municipalities do have an

option when it -- when it's an election year for them. They have the freedom to choose what works best for them. They can go paper, these options are allotted to the County. But there is cost reductions if they choose to conduct their own elections. And we encouraging -- we have encouraged the municipalities to explore that options. Next slide, please. So in conclusion, our department is asking to reduce -- to revert back to the percentage-based resolution to not have the County incur costs and allow us to continue to work on reducing election budgets as a whole for all election types. Next slide, please. The next slide is questions and answers. That's the last slide."

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

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes, sir."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ms. Williams, what was the actual cost to run to complete municipal elections in '20, and I guess the last one would have been 2021, correct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I believe I had it on the top of the slide. Hold on one second. Oh, sorry. For the 2021, the expend -- actually expended totals were -- it was seven -- 7.4 million for 2021 for the November election."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Is that -- was that what we spent on just the municipal portion or is that what we spent on elections in general that year?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "That was for the November election by itself, for that one election."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So 7.4, what is the -- what is your budget for 2023 -- for the 2023 municipal, sort of reflecting the municipal elections that would be taken place?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Currently, we are looking at 6.6 million. But we are attempting to reduce costs. That's why we're asking for percentage based. We're going to review processes. We're going to try to merge Election Day sites and work -- and that would actually reduce costs for municipal and general elections. So we're --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- reviewing everything so we can bring that cost down."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. So you're saying the cost for the municipal elections in 2021 was 7.4. And you're saying the budget for this cycle is what?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "6.6."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "6.6. And you're suggesting we subsidize that in 2021 at roughly 2 million?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I'm trying to understand your questions. Are you saying that -- well the County --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, here's what I'm trying to figure out, right, you know, the -- it's going down -- you're saying the estimated cost of running the elections is going down about 800,000. You're saying we subsidize it 2 million in the prior period. But yet, the estimated cost, we're talking about is going up a multiple of four and change. So I'm trying to square that up."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Well, we've already started reducing costs. That's -- the 6.6 is a --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "No, no, no, you're not understanding my question. All right. So we charge \$2.00 per voter --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "2.96."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "2.96, okay. Well, 2-plus versus 2.96 would be -- that's a material amount, right. I mean, so help to sort of clarify that in the correspondence. So 2.96 per voter at -- and that was when we're at -- at the total all in at 7.4. And we're saying we subsidized that a 2 million. Now we're talking about that cost going up three times to nine per voter, with the cost going down in the aggregate. So I'm trying to square up why it needs to go to nine."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Well, the -- so in 2021, the municipal resolution asked for 2.96 per voter. That left at the County and the red. We had a -- the County incurred fees. It was not enough to cover the 7.4. So for 2023, if even if we're at 6.6 as we have started reducing costs from what we spent in 2021, 2.96 will not cover the 6.6 --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I understand that. But how does it go up three times?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Because of the fees, it went up three times since 2017, not since 2021. Since 2017 --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right. But it -- but in 2021, if we were subsidizing at two, it looks like in the math that we're actually going to be -- you almost built in like a -- this \$9.00 number looks like it's built in a significant surplus."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "In 2021, there's other legislative things that brought up cost as well. So there's still additional costs. We're trying to bring it down, but it's actually costs have increased throughout the state."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "You still haven't answered my question. We ran these at 2021 at 7.4. We're charging, per the resolution, it's 2.96 a voter, which meant it was a subsidy associated with it, right? And so there was that increased cost -- the cost on top of that flowed back to the County. The 2023 estimate, the 6.6 million, 800,000 less, but yet that multiple is going up three times per voter, which seems to even more than consume the subsidy."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "It's the number of registered voters have increased. The -- so it adds up to roughly \$9 per voter."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, if the numbers have actually increased then that means that the differential is even further off. I mean, I'm disappointed in this because we knew this -- I had had this conversation with you. We specifically sat down and talked about a number of these things. And I can't follow this in the terms of this presentation. I'm not prepared to vote on this today. I would like to see sort of an itemized proposal of how you formulate this 2023 estimated municipal budget before we go sending out -- send -- approve an IGA, which goes back to the individual cities. I understand that there is a subsidy that we did, right? That they are more to that and there may be some stuff that we need to do to make sure that the cost properly get shifted back to them. But what I'm seeing here suggest to me that we're basically -- and this comes on the heels -- and I -- and I'm -- and we had this conversation -- we had this in terms of this budget -- budgeted conversations over time. Last year -- this comes on the heels of this, and I think I'm legit that I'm legit in asking my question on this. You had a budget of -- we had a budget of \$37.4 million for Registrations and Elections to run three election cycles. We didn't factor in a runoff. We wind up running four and we spent 25.5. And I think there were some additional costs that flowed through was another two or something like that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir, that we carry forward and are included in the 2023 budget."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So it's about -- so we underran this, not only by about \$10 million, but we also did so with the assumption that a third of that 37 didn't even include a runoff. And we were going to find the funds for that. And you all told us at the beginning of the year that that 37 wasn't going to be enough. So I'm having a hard time necessarily squaring up what's going on here with the ask. And I understand we're potentially going back with a refunding portion to the municipalities, but there's got to be

sort of more of a clear thing in here that -- to demonstrate to them, why it's going up to the magnitude it's going up. If I can't understand it, then they're not going to understand it."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Right. So in the memo that we provided, the chart -- this is just a segment of the chart that was provided to show the cost increases throughout the years. It has fluctuated, again, from 2017 to 2022, the costs have gone up. We're trying to make adjustments. We have -- we worked on this for months and are trying to increase cost --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "If you've worked on this for months, then the presentation of this back to us is lacking. These may be the right numbers, but it's not evident to me. And, you know, I -- I'm not comfortable passing on something back to somebody -- to our municipal partners to say this is, you know, this has been a well-thought-out number. Because I can't -- I can't square that up. And in light of kind of what we just went through in the past election cycle, I can't square that up either. So I'm not prepared. I'm going to make a motion to hold this. And for you to come back with a clear, itemized budget for municipal election with those components struck up against 2021, showing the actual per voter numbers and the dollar amounts --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "But -- may I --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And showing what that you're assuming in there as a potential reserve or contingency."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "May I speak? Okay. So that's why we're asking for percentage based because we're not -- we're not -- we didn't want to start with cost per voter. The two -- putting us at a flat rate per voter, would not allow for fluctuation. So as we adjust the budget, if we come up with a cost per voter, it could cause the County a deficit or cause some type of problems. So that's why we're asking for a percentage based as we try to work out the budget. And we're trying to reduce. But it allows for fluctuations due to legislative changes. And that's why if you put us at a set rate per voter, we cannot give you a definite answer. That's why we were asking to base it off percentages."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'm -- I'm not asking necessarily for a, you know, a set rate per voter. I'm asking for a clearly itemized municipal budget."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We can provide that to you. We provided a summary to the BRE. We'll provide that elections summary to you as well."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Hopefully, more than a summary."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We can provide the entire budget, yes, we have it drafted."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. I'd like to see, you know, an itemized budget, you know, kind of so we can understand kind of what -- what it was in 2021 and what we're proposing in a 2023."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Okay. I will --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And with that itemization. Here's what it actually cost us and here's what we think it's going cost us in 2023. And spelling out, kind of, why the changes -- why the changes are what they are."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We will provide that to you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And one other -- another question. And I want you to -- this is the, sort of, the go on record with this, we all have a clear understanding of this, so we understand the distinctions. And we need our Attorney's office to weigh in on this, so they can further amplify -- amplify that it's fine. If a municipality chooses to run their own election, what are the different requirements that the municipality has or what are the looser requirements that they have that we don't have? In other words, if an elect -- if a municipality came to us and said, hey, we -- we don't want, you know, we don't need 50 voting precincts, 20 voting precincts, whatever it is. We don't need four early voting sites. We just want one early voting site and two precincts, two, you know, two precincts open on Election Day, could we do that?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "To give them the à la carte menu, pretty much, is what you're asking? I would think, honestly, I would not be comfortable with that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'm not asking you are comfortable with that, I'm asking you -- or by law, are we permitted to do that?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I'd have to double check with the Secretary of State, exactly what you --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I would have to double check that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. When -- and I think it's in this memo. But this was articulated to me when y'all -- when we all sat down and had a recent conversation. That we are -- if we run municipal elections, we're subject to a different set of requirements than the municipalities are in terms of sites, hours, machines, equipment, et cetera. Is that an accurate statement?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes. Yes, that's an accurate --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. What is -- what is the distinction in terms of the requirements that we have versus what a municipality -- what sort of liberties that they -- would they have that we don't have? That's my question."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "The liberty is that the municipalities are allowed to have an all-paper ballot -- election, I'm sorry. They're allowed to lease equipment from us. They are allowed -- yeah, so, they're allowed to go paper versus us, we have to go machines. And if they decide to go paper, honestly, it's a lot cheaper. They could find a lot of cost savings there."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So they could -- they could go in there and just hand somebody a piece of paper and they go check a box, put it in a -- put it in some sort of box, they count them at the end of the day. That's the sort of liberties they have?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes. Where they do have that liberty, we do not."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Do we have liberties to do things such as an early -- on early voting, we run early -- when we run early voting generally it's, you go in to any site, you could vote for whoever we're -- whoever we're doing an election for you, you could vote in that area, right, you know? So I could walk in and I can be in College Park during early voting, but I could vote for, you know, if I'm in the city of Milton -- if I live in the city of Milton, I could vote on their elections in College Park, correct? Okay. But if we -- we -- if we wanted to do something separate as a County and just say, okay, we're just going to have early voting sites. You want to go early voting, early vote for your -- you live in Roswell, you have to go vote at an early voting site in Roswell, we're not permitted to do that?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "No, I do not believe so. I will confirm that --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- but I believe once we open all of our advance voting sites, it's open to all Fulton County residents."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And we have to do that?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. What about shrinking the number of actual sites?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We could -- we have the liberty to decrease sites, yes, we do. But we try to make it fair and distribute them evenly throughout the County for voter convenience. But we do have the liberty to reduce the

number. In the memo that we submitted, we had some suggestions for the municipalities in regards to advance voting locations and are awaiting their feedback."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Well, I'm going to make a substitute motion to hold."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Substitute motion by Commissioner Ellis to hold, it is -- that is seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Arrington, on the substitute motion to hold."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess I could really just save this, but I guess my question was, is this time sensitive?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I would say, yes, in regards to the municipalities. A lot of them have reached out to see -- to know the cost and to make a decision, so they the option to go paper. So some of them are researching now. We gave them the memo that we forwarded to your offices to let them know, this is the estimate, hopefully it will decrease from there. So it is time sensitive for their sake."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, so tell me what happened now, because now you got me going back because I thought we reached out to them and sent them something or you reached out to them and sent them something without getting the Board of Registration and Elections approval and without getting our approval. So let's go back, let's rewind it now since you brought it up. So what happened?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "It's an informative memo to advise them what the options are for -- for elections. So I sent that to the Board of Commissioners, Board of Registration and Elections. And it was reviewed before it was sent out."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So how did the cities get it?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We -- it was forwarded by our office."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "To the cities?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "But we didn't approve it."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "It was -- it's a memo that I don't believe it has to be approved. I'm sorry if I'm saying that incorrectly. But it was just an informative memo because they were -- they -- we always reach out to the cities for the municipal election letting them know that it's, you know, it's time to let you know to commit to an election. We email them first and say, are you having an election? We email them, they'll let us know if they're having contest, questions, et cetera. And we



also send them an informative memo at the same time. And on the memo it stated, it would go before the Board, it would go before the BRE. And if they had any concerns, they could reach out to their representatives."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, they did. They voted to not let us do the elections. They did have a -- they did the opposite. They -- I mean, so I think we have to be careful because there are a lot of moving parts. And so they got your memo and they took action on it even though we hadn't approved it, nor had the Board of Registrations and Elections approved it. And so, we need you to be mindful that your recommendations may or may not be approved. And so there's -- I don't know why we would inform anyone outside of Fulton County what your recommendations are or might be until after it's been approved first by the Boards or Registration and Elections and second, by us. Does that make sense?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "It makes sense."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I hope so. Okay, I'm done."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you, Chair. Hi Nadine, thanks for coming by and speaking with me yesterday. We didn't discuss, we just approved like \$61,000 for another position. What is for that position for?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "That position is, we receive a lot of invoices during election year. So we needed another administrative position to be able to do data entry for invoices. Our staff is overwhelmed when it comes with all the rental vehicle invoices. They come in daily. So they need additional person -- a permanent person has to be in that position to be able to do that data entry in AMS."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Do you expect to have that number of invoices in an off year with municipal elections?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "No. But we would like that person to come in now. I know it takes months to have a position advertised to get the registry. We want to be able to train that person. So by the time 2024 approaches, they're ready to go because they'll get slammed at the beginning of year. So it allows us to get that person prepared before we have a very busy year."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, thank you. I have a question, in 2021, you had your actual expenses at 7.4, and you said you subsidized 2 million. You are charging -- and that's at a rate at charging 2.96 per voter, correct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes, based off the 2019 resolution, we had the charge of 2.96."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. So at 2.96 per voter that would be one -- 1.8 million voters plus 2 million to equal 7.4; is that correct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We had the -- we had a deficit of 2 million -- I put over 2 million. I don't have the exact figures. But I know that the County incurred costs, which you're not supposed to do by election code."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "But on our voter rolls, we have 740,000 voters, that's multiplied by 1.8 million voters."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We base it off the registered voters. That count is higher than -- it's set --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "On our registered voter list, we have 740 -- we had in the 2020 election, we had 807,000. That's why we had eight drop boxes. That number has dropped down because of cleaning voter rolls to 740."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "That number has increased now to over 800."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Wow. Because the other day when I got your monthly report, it wasn't that high in December. But still it's not near the 1.8 million that you're multiplying the 2.96 by."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I can review back the numbers. I will submit the numbers again to your office, is what I will do."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. That would be great. Just kind of confused. So another question I have, I know Palmetto has run their municipal elections for years. And I know that a lot of North Fulton cities have been going down and had watched them run their elections. And still if there is a countywide race on the ballot, you're still going to have to run the elections up in that city as well, correct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "That is correct."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So with Palmetto, voters have to go to the library to vote for their Fulton County election that we run, and then they had to go to the library for their municipal election; is that correct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Right. Palmetto lies in between two counties. So when they -- that's why they run their own municipal because voters go to their City Hall to vote because when their doing a municipal election, they're coming from two counties."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "So that's why they do that."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "But if we had to do that up north in Milton, you -- would Milton have to run the Fulton County part too or --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "They don't have to, but they can choose to find --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "They could --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- a different location."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "They could just -- or could they just choose to put it on their ballot, whatever the race is on their ballot?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "If we were having a -- I don't believe so, no. If we were running a County election, we'd have to have our own ballot. We've had -- we could possibly, if they were -- let's say, for instance, they have their municipal election set up and they're already ready to go and something happens and we have to run a County election, we could always use the -- if they're using the same AV sites, we could add another set of machines there for a different site inside the same building. Hopefully, they'll use the same (unintelligible) on Election Day and we could have to set up two polls in the same building. But we'd have to have our own separate ballot."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, great. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Vice Chairman. What was the purpose of sending the memo to the municipalities?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "To keep them informed and to allow them to have input. Again, we suggested some municipal -- I mean, some Election Day mergers. We wanted the cities input to see, okay, just make sure there's no voter suppression. There's no, they get no resistance from their voter. So we have not submitted that to the voters. We just suggested some locations for advance voting. We suggested some Election Day mergers to reduce costs. We wanted the input from the Commissioners. We wanted input from the municipalities as we make these changes. That was the purpose of the memo."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Now, I did -- my office did receive a question, but I wanted for transparency. Has the municipalities asked you the questions that you sent answer -- that information that you sent out? Had they, in previous time, asked you the different questions that you sent out to them?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "The reason I wanted you to go on record saying that, because the same questions that led to this, my office was asked of the same thing. So I want us to be crystal clear to not give the impression that you just woke up one morning and decide to send the municipalities something. This has been an ongoing request, conversation, dialogue, or whatever; is that correct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes, ma'am."

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

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "It was reviewed by our Board Chair. It was reviewed by our Strategy team, yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. So I want to be -- I want to be clear about that. Now, when it comes to SB202 and the requirements of the County versus the requirements of the municipality, are there any differences?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I believe the -- I have not studied the municipal elections, so we do not conduct them. We completely stay out of it when they have to conduct their own elections. So they have their own -- we then speak to the SOS liaison just so we're not liable if something were to go wrong. But I believe they have the same requirements. They have drop boxes, but we let them completely handle their own election, we're hands off at that point for liability sake."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So would it be safe to say that some of the municipalities have asked to have their own municipal elections and to have that costs themselves; is that correct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes. We have received word from Milton that they will conduct their own election for cost savings. And Johns Creek is also reviewing to see if they will also conduct their own election. And we've provided them their -- the liaison so they can contact the SOS directly."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So is it safe to say in having a conversation with them, sending them a memo, sending them any information, it would not be out of the ordinary that they would get it, we might not necessarily get it because you all are having an ongoing conversation?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Exactly. It's just a letting them know their options, is what that is. So they could do their -- figure out their budgets and figure which is the best for them."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. So my final question to you, with the election costs increases, this is to allow, not only us to know, but them to know, but this allows us to be able -- I would say for the lack of a better word, maybe fine tune it. I heard you say, percentage as opposed to per person."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Exactly. So we're not -- we have not set a rate, we're just saying, this is what we're -- this is just an estimate to go percentage. That way it lets us deal with fluctuations throughout the years. We can help -- we can work now to reduce costs. And we can also work and deal with legislation as it comes in. So that's why we want -- we don't want a set rate, we just want to be able base off percentages, so that every year a budget can be drafted. And we can charge percentages if they choose to have us do their service for them."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And so, just for the public, how long have you been with the elections?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Over ten years."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So let me ask you this, why do you think that a percentage versus per person is better in your opinion?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "In my opinion, it's because things change. I mean, rates change for rental cars, rates change for gasoline, legislative changes come in, like SB202 to have us change processes, right. At this moment, we're -- SOS is introducing a new system called Jarvis. That could honestly help us reduce staff in some -- in some areas as soon as we finish researching that. So percentage base allows for fluctuation. We don't have to keep coming back before the Board and changing the cost. And again, our biggest thing is for the County not to incur costs. If we set a rate that is too -- that is too low, the County will incur costs. And it's actually a violation of code. We are not to incur costs as a county for municipal services. That keeps the -- then the best case scenario, we charge this much and give the counties a refund for stuff that we don't expend. So that's why percentages are better."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, thank you. I appreciate you giving me that information."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I just want to -- first of all, thank you, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman for asking that question that way because I think that gave Ms. Williams an opportunity to clarify. When she and I spoke that was my understanding that this is about how we're charging the municipalities essentially for a service that we -- that is optional, they can choose to do their own elections. And if they choose to save money by doing that, by doing paper-based elections, they have that right, 100 percent. So this

is not a mandatory service, it's an optional service. And what the goal of this -- of the -- is it an ordinance that you're here to talk about today? Or I don't -- I'm so tired, I've lost the plot a little bit. But ultimately, the goal of this is so that the County doesn't end up in the red on municipal elections. And from your answer just now to Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, it seems to me that what you're saying, what we discussed in my office was that setting that rate per person locks us into a price that turned out to not be accurate in the most recent election. And because of all those things you just listed, possible legislation, new equipment, et cetera that that could change. Doing it fee based would allow us to charge them for what they got as a service, correct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So I can't understand what -- I'm confused about what the controversy is because it seems to me that it's a cost savings. And it's on the County's -- it's in the County's best interest to save money or to not spend money that we don't have to spend on a service we're providing. So thank you for asking the question the way you did, Commissioner. Thank you for your response, Ms. Williams. And also, I just want to say, I'm confused about the issue on the memorandum. It seems to me that it wasn't recommendations, it was just options and that there's no reason that we would be approving that. So I just want to, on that front, say again, I'm not quite sure what the controversy is. So, thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Ms. Williams, I need to take you out to lunch because I don't think you get it. These are not their options. You can present any options to them. In order for an option to be presented to them, it first has to be approved by the Board of Registration and Elections. And then it has to be approved by this Board. And you can shake your head and smack your lips if you want to. But there are no options to any cities until there is an action by this Board."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "With all due respect, sir --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. All right."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- I was strictly listing election code --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Let's -- all right."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- gives them options for elections."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "There are no options -- if this Board hasn't voted to approve it, then -- only this Board can take action on behalf of Fulton County, only this Board, this Board. No action can be taken on behalf of Fulton County without an affirmative vote of four members of this Board, no action."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Allowed to comment?"

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

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Okay. So all I'm stating is when a municipality chooses to conduct an election, their municipal year, they have the option to -- by per election code, to run their election or to hire the County, pretty much, to do their election."

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

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We have the option to say, yes. We actually have the options to say, no, if we want to conduct their election. But all it is, is saying that municipalities, this is what the election costs --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Now, when you say, we, who do you mean?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I mean, as a County, where --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Hold -- don't, no, ugh-ugh, not no, as a County. Be real specific."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "So again, the municipalities have the option, per election code, to conduct their own election. They can all choose to say, no. And they can conduct their own election. We could say --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Who is, we?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Again, we have not done that --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Who is, we? Who is, we?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We, the County. But I did not make a decisions for --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Now, who makes decisions on behalf of the County?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "The Board --"

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

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- but we did not make a decision. The memo was not in regards to a decision, it was a -- it was just giving them

informative information. It didn't -- I did not make a decision for the County. All I did was provide them information, that's all it is."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Information that had not been approved."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We -- every year, we reach out to the cities in regards to their municipal elections. That's part of our job."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Reaching out to them and talking to them about a price are two different things. Reaching out to them and asking them, all right, what are their dates, when are they going to have an election, that's fine. But talking about a price and adjusting prices prior to decisions of two different Boards that have to approve it, is not."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Understood."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm happy to take you out to lunch so we can talk about it off -- offline."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I just want to go on record and say, I respectfully disagree with you on this, Commissioner Arrington. And I don't understand what, again, what the issue is. It seems to me that it's perfectly within Ms. Williams' job description and right to communicate with the cities about work she's doing for them through the County. I'm just missing something --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, but not about -- but not about something that we have to approve."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But she's not --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "She absolutely can talk to them about her job and what she does --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- not about anything that I have to vote on."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But I'm not getting that that's what happened. It seems to me this is just her providing information about how they --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, that's exactly --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- can conduct their municipal elections."



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- what happened. She proposed raising the rate. She proposed raising the rate."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But she's not -- she's not providing -- she's asking us to make a decision on this. The memo she sent to them is saying, you can do it through us or you can do it on your own. I mean, essentially. So I --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, but she doesn't get to make that decision, we do."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But she didn't make the decision."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. She doesn't get to do that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "She didn't make the decision."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "She has the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "She exceeded her authority."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I'm just saying, I don't -- to me, she didn't make that decision. She sent a memo, as -- as is part of her job to communicate with the cities to set up their municipal elections. So, again, I'm not sure -- I don't know all the back story here. I'm not sure why there's angst, but I'm just -- I respectfully disagree with your assessment of what she is allowed to communicate to the cities."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. It's 6:40, ladies and gentlemen."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. I just want to say one thing --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion on the floor is still to hold; is that correct?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "County Attorney, we don't have to -- clearly, it's 6:40, but I would like for you, by the next meeting to weigh in on if Ms. Nadine Williams in her capacity, has to come to this Board and get our permission to send a memo out. I want to make sure that one, she's not exceeding her authority, and two, that we not giving the wrong impression that she has exceeded her authority. So County Attorney, I'm asking you to come back with a answer to if this memo, what she sent to us and

what she sent out, one, exceeded her authority, and two, was it illegal or did it violate any policy that we have for her doing it. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. The motion on the floor, the substitute motion rather, is to hold by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Ms. Williams has indicated this is somewhat time sensitive. Commissioner Arrington, you still want to be heard? All right. Commissioner Hall."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I have a question."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's fine. I just -- like, the question that was asked, can she send out a memo? Absolutely, she can send out a memo."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The question is about the content of it. And does the contents of it --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I want to see the memo."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- having to be approved, if particularly --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- we're talking about changing prices and cities. And you send them a letter telling them that you're going to change the prices. What the -- what happened is, the city got the letter, and they took action to say, hey, we're not going to allow them to do it based upon that. And so this is -- this is politics, right? There is politics involved."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Do you have the memo?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "We have to be sensitive to that and our employees have to be sensitive to that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Commissioner Hall, you still want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I just -- because of all of this, I want to see the memo that is in question. Because I can't make a decision today on approving this now that this

question is here about the memo. But I've never seen the memo. And I don't know what it says. Do you have a copy of it?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "It was forwarded to all Commissioners. And I'll --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It may have been forwarded to us, but I don't have it."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I will --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And I haven't seen it. My father passed away. I have not seen it."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I'm sorry for your loss."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Thank you. So like I said, I don't have a memo to even vote on this. I don't know what you guys are talking about."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. The motion on the floor is hold. Let's vote, please."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The vote is open. And the motion passes; four yeas, one nay."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm sorry. Mine should have been a nay. I don't know why it didn't take, but I hit it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue, Madam --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And mine should have been, yes."

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

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Next -- are we going to do the --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's go back --"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "-- External Affairs?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- Legislative -- Ms. Corbitt --"

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**23-0042**, External Affairs presentation of the 2023 Legislative Session update."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good evening, Commissioners. I apologize for stepping away for a minute. This will only take an hour or so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What she say?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It's going to take an hour."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "We're going to pull these up real quick. So we are about a week and half into the Legislative Session. And I will try to go through this pretty quickly in case there are any questions. Next slide, please. Just a reminder and especially for our new Commissioners, every year, we come to the Board in fall and ask to approve a legislative package, a set of priorities that we advocate for during the Legislative Session. And in addition to Ms. Campbell and Ms. Calhoun, who's not with us today, we do have an External Lobbying Team who work with us on both state and federal issues. So today, we're talking about state issues. And these are the priorities adopted by the Board of Commissioners. And we'll talk a little bit about these. Next. The session has started, I think that is clear. We are now in the second day of joint budget hearings. The Governor, next week will give his State of the State Address. He has already talked some about some of his priorities including taxpayer refunds, increased two Hope scholarships, full funding for DFACS, and several other things. Next, please. Fulton County has the largest legislative delegation in the state of Georgia with 32 members. And we do have a lot of changes this year. With redistricting, we actually lost four members. We were at 36 last year. There are ten members on the Senate side and 22, I guess, on the House side. In leadership positions, we have several members. Representative Jan Jones is the Speaker Pro-Tem. Matt Brass was -- Senator Brass was just named as both Majority Caucus Vice Chair and Rules Chair, which is a very important position. Several other Committee Chairs not listed here are the House Chair Chairperson seats, which were just announced late yesterday. Representative Chuck Martin is Chair of Higher Education; Representative Silcox, Chair of MARTOC. And Representative Todd Jones, Technology and Infrastructure Innovation. Next, please. I'm just going back to the delegation one minute. We -- neither our House nor our Senator Chairs have elected their leadership yet or their Chairs, I should say. They're expected to meet next week. And we're told the House will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, we do not have the room yet for that. And that the Senate Delegation will meet upon adjournment on Monday. So we will be providing those notices to you. But this is the -- I kind of buried the lead here, because we were -- our very top priority was funding for the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center. This is something we've worked on for several years. The Board of Commissioners committed funding for the capital costs for this project and renovation of the facility to meet this need. And we were delighted on Friday to see the funding for about a half year of the project, which aligns with the timeline for construction in the Governor's budget. So we are very, very pleased with that progress. It's a very good sign. The County Manager talked about that earlier this morning. And we've been meeting with members of our delegation and other key positions to make

sure they're aware of the need for this project. Fulton County has 10 percent of the state of Georgia, but we do not -- of the population of the state of Georgia, but we do not have a standalone publicly-funded Behavioral Health Crisis Center. So we're really, really excited about that. We ask for your support as we continue to talk to members to make sure it stays in the budget and throughout this process. Next, please. Commissioner Barrett, you talked earlier this morning about the commercial, the commercial valuation issue, I guess, I can't even remember when that was today. But -- and I just wanted to mention that this is something that we are communicating with ACCG about. We're meeting with the city of Atlanta. They have actually worked with some folks doing analysis outside of Fulton County, which is very important because it is -- the appeal's process is governed by general law, not local legislation. And so we really need to make sure, as we're advocating for general law, we need to have bipartisan support. And we need to demonstrate that this is a statewide issue. So that is something that we're actively working on and have meetings -- I think we have one tomorrow actually. We're also -- have identified a potential sponsor for one specific homestead exemption that requires seniors, low-income seniors to reapply every two years. This is very burdensome for the senior, as well as for the department. And so we're seeking to modify that to take away that reapplication provision. And we have been working with our new Chief Appraiser and others of that. And there are two other ones I'll mention. One is about State Court Judges and access to a specific retirement plan, making sure they have the same options all other Judges do. And also, looking at legal representation for the Child Attorney's Office for minors and legitimation dependency and termination cases. They represent the same children. And abuse and neglect cases, I want to have clarification that they can represent them in these related cases. Next slide, please. I'm just going to kind of highlight a couple of these. We are just tracking these bills, you'll see these. And as we go further into the Session, we may occasionally ask you to take a position on these. But I'm just going to ask them to pull them up on the screen. And then if you have questions about one, we'll do our best to answer it. Next slide. Specifically, we're looking -- there are several pieces of Election legislation. Wanted to mention that the Board of Registration and Election and Ms. Williams and the Secretary of State's office and Georgia Election officials are looking very carefully at these and looking specifically at the operational impact and how -- and budgetary impact as you all just discussed. So, we're still in analysis phase on these bills. Next, please. Again, Behavioral Health will continue to be a very important issue in the Session this year. I wanted to mention also that Speaker Burns has created a Special Commission on health issues and looking at that. So we'll be monitoring that committee as well. Next slide, please. And this, I think I kind of went over this a little bit earlier. But these are some of the -- some of the Governor's highlights in his budget and of course, those are being heard through that Joint Committee this week. Next, please. And they have already announced the Legislative Calendar. So we'll be continuing to monitor that. So Sine Die is scheduled for March 29th. So we have a lot of work to happen in the next couple of months. And with that, we can take any questions."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I don't know -- well, this is not a part of our legislative agenda, but it is certainly part of my agenda. Apparently, Fulton County gets to appoint three Board Members to the MARTA Board. However, two of those members, for some reason, are chosen by the North Fulton Mayors --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's in the legislation."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- but one member is chosen by this Board to represent the South. Now, there are eight cities in South Fulton. And there are seven in North Fulton. So if anybody should have two representatives on the MARTA Board, it should be South Fulton. And they should be chosen by the South Fulton Mayors. If we're going to talk about parity, if they've had it that way for the last five to ten years, then the next five to ten years, it needs to switch. Or we need to come out with something all -- altogether different. But it makes no sense -- well, it is not logical that the three Fulton County employee -- the three Fulton County appointees to the MARTA Board are not chosen by this Board, rather our ability to appoint has been to two of the three people -- two of the three people that this Board is supposed to appoint has been delegated to the North Fulton Mayors."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The law changed."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It needs to change again."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner, we will -- why don't we start by pulling the originating legislation. I do seem to recall that changed, as you said, ten or so years ago. And we can start with that and review from there."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To be very honest with you, I mean, Republicans controlled the Delegation at the time, and the law passed."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Awesome. The Democrats control the Delegation now."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And they -- if we want to have a legislation introduced to, you know, to expand the Board or reverse that, we can."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Awesome. Let's do it tomorrow."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Madam --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Any other questions, Mr. Chairman?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. So I think we need to somehow -- I think a couple years ago, we really honored the Governor for his support of Fulton County. And this -- I don't know whether this has sunk in or not, but this money that's in his budget -- and that's just not a one-time, that's ongoing for us."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That's correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And I think we're the only county in the state that has this. So we need to be aware that the Governor takes care of Fulton County, Georgia. And I don't know what we -- well, we gave him a sword or something before, didn't we? We need to come up with something to give him fairly quickly, that's number one. Number two, the two pieces of legislation, one in Cobb County and one in Gwinnett County, dealing with population bills, I do not know whether they've been introduced yet or not. But we need to monitor those."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Because there are two bills -- well, it's a bill rather that Fulton and Gwinnett counties are the only two counties in the state that are impacted by these two population bills. It's populations of over 800,000, I believe is the way it reads. So Gwinnett is working to appeal that. And I would hope that we would join in that appeal, to repeal rather."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "What does it do?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "This is related to --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To repeal the population bills."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Is this --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's only two of them, right?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "-- related to compensation or --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "-- or -- I know there's been some discussion about elected official compensation is one issue --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. I'm not sure what the subject matter is. But it's a population --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "All right. We'll take a look."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- bill. This only relates to Fulton County and Gwinnett County. And I -- what's that county group that y'all go to?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "ACCG."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "They're supporting it as well."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And you don't go to it?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I do not. I could teach all the classes. But I do not."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I know you can."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, I can."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And we have been attending all the ACCG Sessions. And we'll certainly monitor that. I don't believe we've see that bill yet, but we will -- we'll take a look. Anything else, Mr. Chairman?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else, Commissioners? Oh, yes, Commissioner Hall, Vice Chair Ellis, and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. It's 6:56."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Did you say that time because you think I'm going to take a long time? I just have two questions. One is, can you please tell us about the recent State Review Board's findings or --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- recommendations because some -- I haven't seen that. But someone told me that they gave us glowing remarks and said that a state takeover would not be helpful. So if you could confirm that for me."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Sure. Thank you, Commissioner Hall. That was outside of the legislative process, but I happened to have a copy right here with me. And I'd be glad to provide this to your office."

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



**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "But out -- as you're aware, in SB202, they're created a -- there is language that provides for a process to review counties. And there was a very specific set of criteria that triggered that process. And one of those was a request from legislators. And some members of our delegation did request the Performance Review Board. And they have looked at Fulton County election processes over some period of time. And the members included General Counsel from the Secretary of State's office and two members who were both Election Board members from other counties. And the report is very detailed. They engaged -- or I believe through the Secretary of State's office initiated engagement with the Carter Center to observe Fulton County elections. And so some of those findings are referenced in this report. It does, you know, provide some opportunities for improvement. But generally speaking, is very positive, talks about the improvements in Fulton County elections since 2020. And it does state very specifically that they do not believe a takeover of our Election Board would be productive. And this report will be considered by the State Election Board at their next meeting on February 7th, which will take place in Macon.

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** All right. Thank you so much for that."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And on page 5 of your legislative document."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "HB-4, I'm so happy to see that because just beds period, as it relates to homelessness is a big issue. And that's one of the boards that Jack Harden appointed me to for Atlanta Homeless Continuum of Care Governing Council. And we're always talking about, you know, we get millions of dollars of funding to vote on as it relates to the beds, transitional and temporary and otherwise."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And to see this talking about the psychiatric beds is very good. So do they maintain or do they already have some information on the beds that are available in the state or in Fulton County?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner, my knowledge is limited on this. But it is my understanding that there is a Bed Board of sorts that is used for tracking availability of beds. My mother was an emergency room nurse. And I know that's been something that hospitals have used for many years."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And so I think that part of the intent of this legislation is to modernize and broaden -- make it more useful for practitioners. So we will continue to monitor that. But I think that they are -- I think there is something, but it is more limited than what is being proposed in this legislation."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. I'll look forward to receiving that information."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Because it will, I think it'll be helpful to us on the Governing Council as it relates to just homelessness, beds, period. Because you know, mental health is a part of that issue. And any information about Milledgeville, because one of the last ACCG training conferences we went to, there was a Commissioner from the area of Milledgeville telling us that they have buildings that they're paying for lights, gas, and water, but there's nobody in those buildings. And but there is -- my Chief of Staff and I looked it up and they are using some parts of the facility. So it would be great to find out if this -- if anything is happening around that as well. Because as we know, we're putting people in jail when they actually need to be in a place where they can get the services and programs they need."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Absolutely."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Jessica."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair --"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And your team."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you so much."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, just one thing. Because you had on there following -- there's a bill I think, I don't know if she's introduced it or not -- that Kay Kirkpatrick has about putting restrictions on -- in disclosure requirements on Superior Court -- Clerks of Superior Court and Probate Judges for collecting fees associated with administrating passports. If you could put that on there and track for us."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Absolutely."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thanks."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And we'll be glad to do that. And Senator Kirkpatrick, although she's no longer a member of our delegation do to redistricting, is leading a -- she's chairing a committee on children. So we will also be engaging with her on some of that work."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. Do we have a Delegation Chair, yet?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "No, ma'am. I'm sorry, I'm -- you may not have heard me say that. So they will be meeting on -- both the House and Senate Delegations will be meeting next Monday. So they will be meeting on Monday at 9:00 a.m. They had an election that was tied. And they will be holding a new election we're told, next Monday. We do not yet have the room location. But we will share that with you."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. I just wanted to thank you for the great job that you're doing. And tell my new colleagues to the left and the right that they can reach out to you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Any legislation that of Fulton County that we are looking at and any legislation that they may come across that we think that we need to take a look at that your office is more than happy to accommodate. So you all can reach out to her with any questions when it come to that."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And please do, thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Continuing on page 6, **23-0046**, Information Technology request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$1,106,000 to create an internal facing employee intranet portal."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall and seconded by -- I'll second -- oh, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. Do we have -- oh, there you go. So when I saw this, you know, at one of the last meetings I brought up the fact that we've done audits on the IT Department and there were many findings. And what was interesting is that this is Covendis, which was in one of the last audits. And I just want to make sure that we don't have the same type of issue that we had before with the -- what are called the non -- what is the wording you guys are using? Because they were -- you guys were hiring Executive Assistants when that wasn't something that was supposed to be hired under this contract. So I want to make sure that we stick with the list of the essential critical resources that are in this contract, and we really pay attention to what -- who's being hired and what's being hired -- why are you --"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Sorry Commissioner, this is a different agenda item."

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "Correct."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "This is not that agenda item."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, wait a minute."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "This is the one for the development of the employee --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, I have a question about that too though, okay."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's good. Because this says this is an intranet, which is internal, is this ESS?"

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "This is an internal intranet portal like you said. ESS is self-service so it's a bit different. It's going to be primarily used for employee engagement, collaboration, and communications."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so do you not still have a website developer and your department?"

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "We do not. We're not a development shop. We have positions that are application developer roles. But those folks that are currently in that capacity are more applications support and application operations analyst. We don't have that skill set in-house."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So that skill set went away?"

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "I can't speak to the history on the last time that we had a developer in-house."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I can. I can speak to it as recent as when I was Chief of Staff to Commissioner Garner, because I literally was told that there was a -- that you had a website team in the IT Department. And I was literally sent to training by your IT staff with other people from around the County who were identified as those key individuals in their departments who would provide the necessary information to update the departmental pages. And so we were in this class, and it was maintained internally. So I'm -- that's why I'm trying to figure out how did we get here and what's the difference in this?"

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "Well, I will -- I will say this, for the past almost two years, we have not had actual web developers in-house."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "But we do have folks on the web team, for example, that support the Fulton County GA.gov site. But that is primarily in a tier-one capacity. We do pay the manage services provider for tier two and tier-three support."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So this is internal, but then when -- as I read through this -- hold on second, please. As I read through this, what caught my eye was page 2, where it says project implications. And it said, the project enhances a positive external facing website. And I was like, so what part of it is external if it's an intranet?"

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "Great, great question. So I'll give a little bit of context --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, and I'm sorry, let me finish the sentence though, so that you get the full gist of what caught my eye. And provides an internal employee portal service to amplify employee satisfaction and engagement. But the part that jumped out at me was external facing."

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "Great question, Commissioner Hall. So just by way of context, my predecessor fit two problems into an RFP."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's what I thought."

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "So then -- in the RFP, we had a RFP to build the intranet portal, make sure that it had a mobile application as well. And then the third component was specific support for our Fulton County GA.gov site which is external facing. So that's why you see in that particular agenda item, language that addresses the support for the external facing site. But the initial RFP was primarily to build an internal employee intranet portal."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. That -- that explains it. I didn't want to assume, but I felt like that's what was happening. There was something else buried in here. Thank you."

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "You're welcome."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, followed by Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Is this the same firm that designed our Fulton County GA.gov website?"

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "No, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. All right. And I see there's another agenda item with Juvenile Court is asking for some money for a website as well. And I guess I'm just trying to understand, I thought when we did our other website, when we did -- hired the firm to do Fulton County GA.gov that we were kind of consolidating websites, but it doesn't look like we're doing that. Help me understand."

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "Yeah, I'd like my partner, Jessica Corbitt, to speak a little to that. We did have some initial conversations around policy."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you so much. Commissioner, we have, for the most part, have been working toward consolidating sites. We do not currently have what I would describe as a functional intranet site. So that is a separate platform, it allows -- it allows for log in within the network, and it also allows some integration with tools like ESS and other applications, like our payroll log in for employees, things like that. So that is why the intranet is separated. But in terms of other public facing sites, we have been working toward consolidation. The Court and sites that have -- that have an integration with their case management system in some cases, like an Odyssey log in. Those are some of the cases where -- and also, because the Courts are led by elected officials, they have made some of other choices, I'll just say it that way, in several instances. But for the public facing sites, we really have been working toward consolidation. It helps with security and it helps with branding and consistency and those kinds of things."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And then I assume this intranet site would also be subject to open-record requests?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes. As far as I know, everything we say and do here is subject to open records."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And it just seems duplicative to have -- I mean, employees communicate now via email, I assume, and phone and now we're going to create another way for employees to communicate internally. And then, you

know, going back to the unintended costs, right, unintended consequences, incidental costs. What are the incidental costs that go along with having this intranet site and having someone have to search that site and those communications for open records requests?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "So, if I could say, when I -- when we talk about communication, Commissioner Arrington, my office is responsible for employee communication today. And we -- we have found it challenging, especially managing in a hybrid environment. Employees are accessing information through different channels, many of them are doing that electronically more and more. And when we communicate with employees about all kinds of things, open enrollment, safety and security issues, where, you know, where their evacuations are, wellness programs. All of those kinds of things that we need, we and every other larger employer need to communicate with our employees, we're relying solely on email, really to do that. So we sent out -- I'm sure you see the Fulco News blasts that come from our office. But having a hub, an information hub where that kind of content can be housed specifically for employees where it lives, where people have a place to go and check in and get that information when they begin their shift every day. That is really the -- the home that this project would create. And that is something that almost every organization has."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. That's fine. But whoa, I need another website to log into like I need a hole in my head."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Well, and I'm sure, you know, again, many -- we've looked a lot at employee communication best practices, which have of course, changed a lot in a more hybrid environment. And this is something we feel like will help us keep employees engaged and informed and something we don't have today."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I just wonder, you know, if we got a master services agreement with Google, all of this could be in Drive and operated that way. But I'll let y'all -- y'all -- that's more of y'all's specialty. It just -- it's a lot going on and -- but we -- it's late."

**LATEEF ASHEKUN, INTERIM CIO IT:** "I was -- I was also just going to mention that, I think some of the self-service capabilities and search functions that you mentioned, the idea is to consolidate all of those services into the intranet portal."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "If I'm reading this correctly, this is 1.1-ish million dollars that's -- says it's coming from an ARPA grant or from the ARPA money; is that correct?"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And how is this related to COVID?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The ARPA resources allow for certain technology improvements that make it easier for employees to work remotely. So we had a allocation within the ARPA bucket that was allocated specifically for Information Technology for some -- some improvements in that arena. So this is the -- this is one of those projects."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, it seems to me that it's 2023 and we got through the worst years of the COVID crisis without a \$1.1 million custom design tool. So I'm a little bit confused about why we're doing this now. And I guess my question to you all is, I am sure that there are a whole host of products on the market to do intranet and to have -- I mean, I think to Commissioner Arrington's point, Google Drive, One Drive, which we already have to house documents and to communicate. So I'm really perplexed about why we would spend a million dollars of ARPA money on this when we have, you know, we just sat here all day and talked about the things we need for Public Safety, et cetera, et cetera."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Commissioner, if I can, I would suggest that you let us come back and answer some of the questions. I do think that we need to be a littler clearer in terms of the value proposition, who our internal customers are, what the benefits are, both internally as well as externally. And perhaps, provide a bit of a five-page overview, a presentation on that one advance. This one, I think -- I think it makes a lot of sense. But I think we can do a better job of providing some context for it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Do a substitute --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Oh, I want to make a substitute motion to hold."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Second."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. Substitute motion to hold by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, I believe. Commissioner Thorne, you are in the queue."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I was just going to make a motion --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "She was going to make --"



**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Barrett, did you have anything further? Did you have anything further?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Sorry?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Did you have anything further?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "No."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. Motion to hold is on the floor. The votes open."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Next item."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**23-0047**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval of a statewide contract, not to exceed \$700,000 to provide natural gas services."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Any discussion on this item? Okay. All right, let's vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Next item."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**23-0048**, Public Works request approval of an intergovernmental agreement between Fulton County and Forsyth County for water main sewer line relocations."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. It's been moved and properly seconded, no discussion. Let's vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Next item."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 7 --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And I -- these folks have been -- they've been up there waited in the back since about 9:45 this morning. So I want to make sure that they're still up there and ready to discuss this. Y'all come on down, if we got some questions or not. Go ahead, sound the item."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 7, **23-0050**, Juvenile Court request approval of a statewide -- request approval of a statewide contract to provide, configure and develop a website and provide ongoing maintenance service."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. There's a motion on the floor, is there -- all right. We're -- come on down here. Y'all can articulate, kind of, what -- what's before us. And then we'll have some discussion on that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Is this time sensitive?"

**TIMOTHY EZELL, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER, JC:** "It's not time sensitive, Commissioner."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I mean, out of -- just out of respect, I know they've been up -- they're been here and present with us this entire meeting. I'd just like to give the opportunity to at least give -- if we don't vote on it, at least give you some backdrop, so."

**TIMOTHY EZELL, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER, JC:** "Tim Ezell, Chief Administrative Officer for Fulton County Juvenile Court. Our ask today is for 115,000 for statewide contract approval. The new website that -- one of the things that we did was, as a court in 2020, we went through and we actually created a five-year strategic plan. A part of our strategic plan was identifying the needs of the Court as we work to become an trauma-responsive court. And one of those things was engaging our youth and the public and the community. So we've identified our traffic for the website and our ability to update and make integrations and better assist processors. And so, working and using the Superior Court model, because they just recently updated their website, we identified the need that we could be able to use a new website that will allow us more in to be able to automate some of our processes. So for instance, if there's a children in need of services case, which deals with unruly, trancies, or ungovernable kids, currently, they go into our website, they click on it, they type in some information and it sends an email to someone. And then it's stuck in that box. And then we have to print it out, call them, do that. This new website will allow us to create forms that will actually be mapped directly into our case management system. Previously, you all approved us to upgrade our case management system. So we're going to e-filing in other areas. So this new website allows us to really automate a lot of our processes with case initiation, intake, and request forms that are -- as you know, Juvenile Court provides 24-hour support to DFACS workers as well as the legal community with officers calling to detain or remove a child from the home."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Any questions? Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Hall in the queue."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. My question was, I guess number one, about the urgency of this. And then two, you also heard us talking about this other website. And obviously, I understand you all have special needs. And I heard you say it may tie into your case management system. So, you know, I -- I'll support it. I just, you know, I really want us consolidating a lot of this stuff more, operating off of one site instead of 37 different sites. Every elected official has their own website. And whew, it gives me a headache thinking about it."

**TIMOTHY EZELL, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER, JC:** "I understand."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Yes, we spoke about this earlier. And Mr. County Manager was here when we started doing the consolidation of HR, Finance, IT, and all of that and bringing them back in to their respective departments. And so, this -- this is one that we should also be looking at. Have -- is this part -- are they not part of ORCA? They said it's about their cases."

**TIMOTHY EZELL, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER, JC:** "It's about our case management system and building out a process so we can automate it. So, yes, we are a part of ORCA as well."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You're part of ORCA. This is about your case management. So that's not a discussion as far as ORCA is concerned?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "The actual underlying system was in place before ORCA. And some of these enhancements, in fact, are going to go well beyond. And so some cases, I guess you could -- you could say that the part of it would be addressing ORCA cases. But this is a system that was in place before these enhancements would be required even if we didn't have the -- if we didn't have COVID. So we can certainly take a look at that as a fund --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Please."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "We have looked at that before. And so they can take a look at that in terms of where, you know, whether it might fit either all of the -- whether we could fund part of it or all of it via -- via ORCA if necessary."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. That would be very efficient. And so you said this is not time sensitive?"

**TIMOTHY EZELL, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER, JC:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And they're actually going to help you and possibly fund part of it. You said, okay, real quick then."

**TIMOTHY EZELL, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER, JC:** "I like the fund part."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "First of all, I'm all for automation, so -- and 115,000 is not a heavy ask. That said, I have the same concerns that Commissioner Hall brought up about consistency across all of our websites. And, you know, I think this has to be part of that discussion in some way, at least that it ties in. And I -- we're using two different sets of developers, we're -- I mean, I'm just not sure how this all works together with the broader County, you know, IT, I guess is the best way to say it. So I'm -- I'm all for hearing more and all for make sure you guys get automated, because I know that's really going to help your work. But I just want to make sure that this is the right way to do it. Which, I guess what I'm saying is, I need more time."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. When you say this is not time sensitive, I just want to make sure that I understand. Because I understand with this, this was a well-needed improvement. And so I kind of think it may be. But I just -- I just want to make sure. Because I saw the information, you know, that you sent over. But I also know, you know, Juvenile Court is one of the things that hold to heart. And I know some of the challenges that you all have had over there. And this has been a very big challenge. So I -- I would beg to differ with you that it is time sensitive. But if you feel like we need to hold it in order to find out if we can get additional funding, if you -- if that's on the table, I'm fine. But my understanding, from following what you all have been going through and dealing with, this is something that was well needed, and kind of is pass the time of us doing it. That's just my personal opinion from following you all. So is that -- is that what we're saying, Alton, that we're going to look to see if we can -- that's the reason we're going to hold it to see if we can get, maybe some partnership funding or see if any of that other funding is available?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Absolutely. And Tim and his team actually do a great job -- certainly, partner with them. So we've been working on this together. And they also are very aggressive in terms of looking for grants that can help support this type of thing."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yeah, that's why --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "So we'll go -- we'll go back to him --"

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

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "-- so we'll go -- "

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "That's why I kind of thought it kind of --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "-- and come back to you with --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- time sensitive, so -- okay. All right. Well, if it can wait, then I will support until we can get that information. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. There was -- there's a motion on the floor, but you've removed that, I guess, at this point in time."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'll tell you what --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Motion to hold?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- if you want to just do a --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Hold."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- a hold, then I'll --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So the motion on the floor is sub -- is to hold by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Hall. So this is the motion to hold, vote on that."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The vote is open. Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

**TIMOTHY EZELL, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER, JC:** "Thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Commissioners, the next items are Commissioners' action items. And the first one on there is from Chairman Pitts. We do have an item from the -- it was removed from the Consent Agenda. Without objection, I'd remove -- I'd propose that we amend the agenda and take that item next. Any objection? So it was the item that you had asked to be removed. Any objection to hearing that? Okay, go ahead. You can sound that item --"

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The Consent Agenda?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- that was removed from the Consent Agenda."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**23-0030**, Information Technology request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing for on-call IT services in an amount not to exceed 1,500,000. This was removed by Commissioner Hall."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. So you've already heard -- you ready, you're ready, right? I just want to make sure that we follow the contract. Because in the past, it had been found that we did not. And so if there's something in place now to keep track of what we're actually hiring for and sticking with that critical position list that is the contract. All right."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Yes, Commissioner. In addition we -- (off-mic) --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "What did you say?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "I'm sorry, Commissioners. In addition, we do include in the contract that have to utilize the County's Kronos, Kronos time-keeping system. And this contract is only through December of this year. It is -- it doesn't have renewals. It's a nonrecurring request."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Is this time sensitive?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "It is, Commissioner. This is -- last -- at the last Board meeting, you approved the funding to go ahead and hire in some of these critical resources, Network Managers, individuals who understand SharePoint and the like. So we got the approval to move forward with the funding. This is actually the approval to engage the firm that can actually go out and get this people in the door."

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

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "We -- a number of these positions have been open for months. And they really are critical to making sure we keep our infrastructure up and going."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So it's been moved and seconded -- go ahead."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote, please. Motion is to approve."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The vote is open. Motion passes, unanimously."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Back on page 7 under Commissioners' action items, **23-0051**, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to change the membership of the Commission on Elder Affairs to allow appointees from the Atlanta Housing Authority and the Fulton County Community Action Authority and for other purposes, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. A motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Where is -- come on up. Commissioner Ellis, followed - Vice Chair Ellis, followed by Commissioner Hall. I think this is the one that Mr. Howard was speaking to this morning. Commission -- Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Oh, I would, you know, I -- I was just going to get in the queue to suggest that we might hold the Commissioners' action items to the next meeting. But I'll listen to the discussion."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Am I next, Chair?"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So since the Atlanta Housing Authority is on here, I noticed that Fulton County Housing Authority was not represented. And I just wanted to know is there a reason why they were left out?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Department of Senior Services. The department did reach to Fulton Housing -- Fulton Housing to seek their interest in being a part and appointing a member. We did not hear back from that agency. You want me to go further and -- okay. Now, in terms of the Atlanta Housing Authority and the recommendation and the resolution that's strategic, one of the greatest concerns that senior advocates have raised is affordable housing. So the Board of Commissioners has approved an IGA between the Department of Senior Services and Atlanta Housing to collaborate and support seniors to successfully age in their homes. So there -- our focus is a housing-plus approach, where we can provide in-home services, transportation, Meals on Wheels, home-delivered meals. But the Atlanta Housing Authority and the Fulton/Atlanta Community Action Authority will add value to the Commission on Elder Affairs from the lens of discussing housing issues, supporting the advocacy that the Commission on Elder Affairs does provide. So that's my response, Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. I understand and I'm glad to hear you explain it out loud. Because we've heard from our senior advocate, meeting after meeting, about this. But I do -- I am concerned about Fulton Housing not being a part of it, because one of the previous Chairs and the Board reached out to me early on. And they were talking about, they needed to all be in partnership and collaborate so that all of Fulton County, not just Atlanta, but all of Fulton County can have input. So I just don't want to miss the opportunity to include everyone, so there's better collaboration across board. That's all, thank you."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, SENIOR SERVICES:** "You're welcome."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The vote is open."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, I'm sorry, what about QLS?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, SENIOR SERVICES:** "So Commissioners, some of the questions that you're raising is based on comments that we've received in public comment. There was no intention or ill will to not consider the Quality Living Services as an agency who can appoint a member to the Commission on Elder Affairs. The Department of Senior Services has had a long-standing relationship with that organization. Commission on Elder Affairs is an extension. It is a Commission established by the Board. So it is -- it is up to the Board if -- if you would desire to hold this, we can go back, I can work again with the County Attorney's office."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "(Off-mic comments) -- QLS to also appoint members to the Commission on Elder Affairs."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's go."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**23-0052**, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners requiring that all funds returned to Fulton County from a Tax Allocation District shall be placed in a multiyear facilities capital project fund to be used to support Fulton County Facilities Capital Programs and Projects, sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis. Is there a second? All right. I'll second this will only place this placeholder for the funds, right?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, I was going to ask -- Mr. Chair, point of order. I was going ask that the matter that I added, got added to the agenda, be held with this at the same time. I mean, they're both talking about the TADs. I don't -- I'm not necessarily opposed to this, but I think I have at least heard from in the City and Invest Atlanta that they would like to talk to us about that and. And I'm hoping that we can either tell staff to hold off until those discussions can be had and until it can be brought back to us."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So what -- this was just -- this is just a placeholder for the funds. I know what you -- you want to talk about yours at the same time. I don't have any objection to that. Sound Commissioner Arrington's as well."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Okay. 23-0063, Discussion of Tax Allocation Districts, sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Now, Commissioner Ellis, why don't you explain this. And this is pretty straightforward. I think it is anyway."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I guess, in terms of anybody wanting to come over and discuss something with the management team, there's nothing prohibiting them from doing that, right? I mean, we ask them for information and if they need to come over and talk to us about explaining the information they got, there's nothing that's prohibiting them from doing that, correct? No? And in the previous resolution, right, I mean, if there's no time sensitivity to, you know, what we sought from them, right? We just asked for a response."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "There was no timeframe designated, no."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So there's no ten-day limitations that we placed upon them, they have to give us this information by?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a ten-day limitation? I don't recall any timeframe being included in that legislation. Oh, we did? Okay. So the information was to be brought back within ten days."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "Yeah, just -- sorry, Samir Abdullahi, Director of Economic Development. Just for clarity sake, the Board did pass this resolution 12/21/22, directing staff and the County Manager to initially approach Invest Atlanta for both the Princeton Lake and Eastside TADs, whether they met two criteria, where there was no outstanding bond obligations or no redevelopment obligations as well. So to effectuate that resolution, we had sent a letter to Invest Atlanta requesting that, those two pieces of information for those two TADs and requested they provided a response within ten days. But it was not in the resolution that is time sensitive. It was just to make sure that we're continuing the progress."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So if we can, you know, I would certainly like to extend the time in which they respond to have the conversation. I think they're fine with the closing of the Princeton Lakes TAD. And I think they're also fine with the closing of the Atlantic Station TAD. But I don't think they're fine with the closure of the Eastside TAD. So I think it's really just a conversation that needs to be had. And frankly, again, before we start taking actions, we ought to talk to our partners on the front end."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Well, in the time limitations that can -- there's no time limitations put forth in the resolution, so y'all can do that. And the resolution didn't close any of the TADs. It just said that we were going to stop paying any increment into it and assume -- based upon if there were no ongoing obligations that needed to be continue to be funded. So we didn't -- we're not shutting down the TADs. That's -- I mean, that's the -- their purview if they wanted to close that down, correct? Okay. All right. So that was a discussion related to this thing. So there's no -- there's not force majeure in terms of in that resolution on the ten days. So if that's a -- you know, if that's a request that we waive the -- waive this ten day, Commissioner Arrington, then there's -- I don't think there's any objection to that. It wasn't anything that's spelled out in the resolution either."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I think there's -- thank you, Vice Chair, I -- I mean, I think number one -- and I know you have -- this is a really hypothetical -- rhetorical question. The midnight letters, right, I mean, this was done by Commissioner Morris on his way out at the last meeting. We got a whole new Board now. I think our knew Commissioners should have an opportunity to look at it and examine it and see if it's something -- and I think the City's on board with closing a couple of them anyway. But either way, I'm fine."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Well, so that's -- dispense of the that. The -- in terms of this particular resolution, just by way of just some brief background. There are 15 to 19 TADs, I think we -- or they're 19 TADs, we participate in 15. There's roughly, I think, about 42 million in dollars that -- or if they weren't going into this, would be coming into the Fulton County general fund. That's not all the funds that the TADs receive. That's Fulton County Government's participation. We are, in many of these cases and particularly of the ones in the city of Atlanta, we are the -- we're a larger participant than the City is, right, in terms of a percentage going in. They're a number of these TADs, two of the ones in which we took action on, to say, hey, if there aren't any continued obligations, we want to stop paying our increment and have that start to renew back to us for our purposes. Those two were Princeton Lakes and Eastside, the Eastside TAD. So we're waiting to confirm that information back. Some of these TADs in addition to potentially not having any ongoing obligations, also may have a substantive fund balance that may sit there and be in residual at the point in time in which it does close. And at that point in time in which it would -- does close, those funds that were there would be, you know, reverted back to the individual parties proportionately with our -- you know, whatever their contribution was. What this resolution would say -- does is, at the point in time where our increment stops, then the value of that increment at that point in time, would move into this capital reserve fund. And then any -- any access at the time of a closing, our proportion would revert into this capital reserve fund. And the purpose of that is to start to build, you know, funds to deal with the significant capital projects that we know that are before us. We all know that we've got to, at some point in time, we'll be getting this, you know, a final feasibility study on the jail. We know it's going to cost -- a new jail or modified jail or whatever it is, it's going to cost a substantive amount of money, upwards of a hundred million dollars in

interest expense a year. So while we don't -- we haven't prescribed a funding -- funding mechanism for it, you know, we sure as day need to start figuring out a way to begin to establish, you know, kind of some form of funding and seed money for that. Two of these, we could start to see increments early as this year from those two TADs. And then I think the Atlantic Station TAD closes at the end of 2024, I believe, right?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "Correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And that's -- that's one of the largest one in terms of our increments. So that build could begin to become -- could become a substantive fund that'll allow us to meet some of those capital needs at the point in time that we begin, you know, construction. So that's the purpose of this particular resolution, is to start to create this, you know, reserve fund for purposes of, you know, these major capital programs that we're going to have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I said, I second. Madam Clerk. I need to -- what do I do now? Second. Yeah, seconded. How do I do this? Me?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You did it."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "You're in there."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You did it already."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I did, okay."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You did it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Where is it at?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You can't -- when you do it, you can't see it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Oh, I can't see it?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "But it lets you be able to withdraw it. So you know you did it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, it's not even on it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "No. He just -- his name --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's go."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You can see his name on his screen."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You still want to be heard, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I just was wondering -- oh, I'm sorry, Commissioner Hall."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm sorry."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "No problem. All right. I just -- just a couple of things because I was trying to read this and figure out, where do the funds go right now? And how would they move through our system? Because I heard someone say the general fund, but then I did ask this question of Sharon, and can you respond to that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, currently the tax increment is paid directly to the redevelopment agent for the city of Atlanta that would be, Invest Atlanta. The Tax Commissioner collects the tax revenue, the portion that's attributed to the growth in that Tax Allocation District after the base year, is submitted to the Tax Allocation District redevelopment agent directly. And the County receives its portion and that's deposited into the general fund."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And so have we ever had funds returned to us before?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "No, we've not had any -- any TAD funds that have been returned to us -- oh, I take the back. There was a Tax Allocation District that the County itself created and served as the redevelopment agent. That would have been in the area of Sandy Springs, but then they incorporated. And so once that happened, we closed that TAD down, and the monies were placed into the old Special Services District. Other than that, no other Tax Allocation District has closed or had any monies that have been returned to the County."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So in the last meeting, it -- there was -- made reference that there was some account where we had money just sitting. Do we -- has someone confirmed that? Because when I asked about it, nobody could confirm where it was or who was holding it and how much it was."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The County isn't holding any Tax Allocation funds. We receive ours as a --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Is it Invest Atlanta holding --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So Invest Atlanta --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- any of the County's contribution?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yeah, Invest Atlanta receives the tax increment that comes from the County that comes from the Atlanta, city of Atlanta, the Atlanta School Board, whoever has agreed to participate in each individual Tax Allocation District. So they are the holder of the funds. We did receive a copy of a

report that was dated, I believe November 30th that had some financial information included in it. I don't know if we have an updated report through December."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And so the report said what, November 30th?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "It gave a good financial breakdown across all ten TADs within the city of Atlanta, especially those two elements that we were looking at per the resolution passed at the end of last year, around outstanding bond debt as well as any redevelopment obligations and funds necessary to fund those obligations. But more than just, take this document for what it's worth, that's why we sent the letter. And per the resolution, to have Invest -- actually confirm that information before we move forward with the County Manager to withdraw our funding."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'd like to see that, if you can email it to me."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "Absolutely."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Was it emailed to you?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "Yeah. I'll do it right away."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, thank you. And so how much does Invest Atlanta have on account that we're trying to get? Is there an amount that we're looking at trying to retrieve from them?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "No. And again, it's really those TADs that are not performing. So the Beltline is a good example of --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So what's that amount?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "The -- either the increment hasn't increased dramatically, so the funding is too small to actually support redevelopment activities or there have been no --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So what's that amount?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "I'm sorry, what?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "What's that amount?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "For which --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That you're trying to get moved over utilizing this resolution?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, ECONOMIC DEV. DIRECTOR:** "So --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, if -- if the County ends its participation in the Eastside and the Princeton Lake, in -- the Eastside TAD, the increment that has been going to -- to that Tax Allocation District from the County has been 6.6 million. And for Princeton Lakes, it was most recently 1.2 million. So those are the increment, the annual increment pieces that are going to those Tax Allocation Districts from the County. The amount, once the Tax Allocation District closes at the end of its 25 or 30-year turn, the amount that would come back to the County would really depend on whatever residual is left in those funds at that point in time. But currently, the -- the total amount of the increment between these two TADs is about 7.8 million on an annual basis."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "7.8, okay. So do you know what's left in -- okay, so, you said a lot. Let me break this down. So you said, if we pull out of the Eastside TAD and the Princeton Lake TAD, but I heard Commissioner Arrington say that -- that Invest Atlanta is not necessarily trying to close the Eastside TAD. But if we pull out of both of those, do you know what the amount is that we would get back?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We would, on an annual basis, we would no longer be sending that tax increment so --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So for East Lake, that's 6.6 million. For Princeton Lakes, that's 1.2 million. Atlantic Station, you mentioned Atlanta Station --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I didn't say Atlantic Station."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "But are you saying Atlantic Station?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, I'm just -- it -- Commissioner Arrington mentioned Atlantic Station. The tax increment for Atlantic Station is 5.6 million on an annual basis. So those -- those monies would, instead of -- they're technically, a general fund tax that are being collected. So instead of being collected and remitted to the Tax Allocation District, they would be remitted to the County. And then in this case, Commissioner Ellis' resolution would have those funds then dedicated to a capital improvement fund for facilities."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so does this -- is this resolution going to make it where we have to vote on when we want to pull out of a TAD? Because what I've heard so far from Commissioner Arrington is that he has been told that Invest Atlanta is not

trying to close the Eastside TAD. But we keep saying here that we're going to get our funding back from the Eastside TAD. So I really don't want to impact a TAD negatively by pulling money out when they're still trying to use it to do the work."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, the action that the Board took back in December was to cease to County's participation in and the East Lake TAD and the Princeton -- the Princeton Lake TAD and to direct the staff, as Samir indicated, to confirm there were no additional outstanding bond obligations or continued redevelopment costs. So that's where we're at. The resolution that's before the Board today, we just established how those resources will be used in the future when they are returned to the County. It's not --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm so glad you said that because during that last Board meeting, it was presented as if Invest Atlanta was on -- was shutting those TADs down anyway. And now, we have Commissioner Arrington say that they do -- they don't want to shut down the Eastside TAD. So, yeah, I know -- I believe I voted, no, on that to begin with because it was no confirmation as to what Invest Atlanta really was going to do. So I'm glad you said that. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Just for clarification, the resolution that you are proposing, Vice Chair Ellis, has -- it's not about any specific TAD closing, it is solely saying, when they shut down that funding will go for capital projects instead of to the general fund, correct?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And so, it -- I honestly, I'm not sure quite sure what Commissioner Arrington's add-on item really is about. So -- and I don't know procedurally, where we are now, because we sort of put them both on the floor at the same time. I'm inclined to support Vice Chair Ellis on this. Because to me, that's just about us saving for the big-ticket issue items that we know are coming, like the jail and, you know, public health and all of that. So that to me, makes complete sense. And honestly, given that Commissioner Arrington is not here at the moment, it would make sense to me to hold his item for further conversation --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That was just for a discussion."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- yeah, but to go ahead and move forward on a vote on this one."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Hall, you want to be heard again?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah. I just want to reiterate that Madam CFO just said that this is related to the Eastside TAD and the Princeton Lake TAD. So it is related to TADs. And it's based on the vote that was taken at the last meeting, because they were saying that they were closing down the Eastside TAD and the Princeton Lake TAD."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. But I -- I mean, just to respond, I hear what you're saying, but I think this resolution doesn't specify that any one TAD --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- should or should not close. It just says, if and when a TAD closes, the funds will go --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- into this, capital projects."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, we already voted on this TAD (off-mic comments) --"

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

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "The vote is open. The motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**22-0083**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 101, Article II, Division 1 of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances related to budgetary controls for Members of the Board of Commissioners by reducing the travel-conference budget for Members of the Board of Commissioners and for other purposes, sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Mr. Chair, I'm going to hold this until we have opportunity for full Board to be here to discuss it."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Out of respect for Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Without objection, we'll hold. Continue."



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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 8, under Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, 23-0053, Administrative Committee of the Fulton County Defined Contribution Plan, Chairman Pitts and Vice Chair Ellis has nominated Commissioner Abdur-Rahman for a Full-Board appointment to replace Commissioner Morris to a term ending December 31st, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to -- is to approve, please vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 9, **23-0054**, Atlanta Beltline, Incorporated Board of Directors. Chairman Pitts and Vice Chairman Ellis has nominated Commissioner Hall for a Full-Board appointment to replace Commissioner Morris to a term ending July 12th, 2026."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion is to approve, please vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 10, **23-0055**, Atlanta Fulton Water Resources Commission. Chairman Pitts and Vice Chair Ellis has nominated Commissioner Thorne to replace Commissioner Hausmann for a Full-Board appointment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Cast your vote, please. The motion is to approve."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**23-0056**, Audit Committee. Vice Chairman Ellis nominates Chairman Pitts for a Full-Board appointment to replace Commissioner Ellis to a term ending December 31st, 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion is to approve, please vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 11, **23-0057**, Board of Trustees of the Fulton County Employees' Retirement System. Chairman Pitts nominates Commissioner Barrett for a Full-Board appointment to the replace Commissioner Morris to a term ending December 31st, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "As my designee. Motion is to approve."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**23-0058**, Fulton County Facilities Corporation, Chairman Pitts and Vice Chairman Ellis nominate Commissioner Barrett for a Full-Board appointment to replace Commissioner Morris to a term ending November 3rd, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion is to approve, please vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Page 12, **23-0059**, Invest Atlanta, Atlanta Development Authority Chairman Pitts and Vice Chair Ellis nominates Commissioner Barrett as Fulton County's appointee to the Atlanta Development Authority, doing business as, Atlanta -- Invest Atlanta to an unexpired term ending April 1st, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion is to approve, please vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "**23-0060**, Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust, Chairman Pitts and Vice Chairman Ellis nominate Commissioner Thorne as the Chairman's designee to a Full-Board appointment to replace Commissioner Morris. Chairman Pitts and Vice Chairman Ellis nominate Commissioner Hall to a Full-Board appointment to replace Commissioner Hausmann to a term ending December 31st, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion is to approve, please vote."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Record Commissioner Hall as voting, yes."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "Oh, the vote. I'm sorry, I thought you meant the item."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next."

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "I believe that is it. No more items. That's it."

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

**DEPUTY CLERK PETERSON:** "No more items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No further business today, all right. No further items to come before today, we are adjourned. Thank you so much."

(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.)