

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECESS MEETING**

March 20, 2024  
10:00 AM



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



---

**MINUTES-RATIFIED**

---

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

**Ratification Date: April 17, 2024**

---

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:02 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)	<b>ABSENT</b>
Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair (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****24-0176 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 Thorne, to adopt the Consent agenda as amended by removing items #24-0178 and #24-0181 for separate consideration. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**24-0177 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Terracia Wilkinson Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Ramona Debreaux Overstreet Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Gocha Hawkins Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Damon and Ayanna Johnson Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Velvet Noble Ohlen Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Les Brown Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Contessa Metcalfe Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Erica Barrett Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 8, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Dan Moore, Sr. Remembrance Day." **(Arrington/Hall)**  
March 9, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Rev. Eric Vincent Thomas Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 10, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Karma Fouch Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
March 12, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Kindra Barnes Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
March 12, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Stacey Kimber Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
March 12, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Alexis Cohen Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
March 12, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Etoshia McFarland Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
March 12, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “YouthSpark Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**  
March 15, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “William Rufus Godfrey Remembrance Day.” **(Arrington)**  
March 16, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Meak Productions Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
March 20, 2024

Proclamation recognizing “Miko Evans Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
March 20, 2024

**Open & Responsible Government**

**24-0178**

**Finance**

Ratification of February 2024 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to ratify as amended by approving all grants with the exception of the grant for Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

---

**Arts and Libraries****24-0179 Library**

Request approval of a Resolution to accept the donation of blood pressure cuffs from the American Heart Association and approval of a contract between the County and the American Heart Association to facilitate receipt of the cuffs for provision to patrons of the Fulton County Library System to eliminate health disparities and improve cardiovascular health efforts, access to healthy blood pressure resources, and high-quality patron education. This agreement is effective upon signature and will remain in effect for three years. This agreement has no fiscal impact. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Health and Human Services****24-0147 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval of Subrecipient Award Agreements with the Atlanta/Fulton County Prearrest Diversion Initiative, Inc. (PAD) and Applied Research Services, Inc. (ARS) to fulfill a COSSUP Grant between Fulton County, on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) with Sub-recipients for the new grant award in the amount of \$1,599,999.00 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The two agreements are with PAD in the amount of \$564,093.00 to provide Diversion Services, and (b) ARS in the amount of \$150,000.00 to provide data collection services for this grant. The County Attorney is authorized to approve the agreements as to form and make necessary changes thereto prior to execution. The agreements are effective upon BOC approval through September 2024. This item is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0180 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), 21RFP000026A-CJC, Advancing Health Literacy Grant, in the amount of \$25,980.00, with The Black Cross Inc (Atlanta, GA) to implement health communication strategies in underserved communities and to form, lead and facilitate a community coalition board (CCB) and develop an online Hub as a part of the US Department of Health & Human Services (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health), Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19 grant. 100% grant funded. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Infrastructure and Economic Development**

**24-0181 Real Estate and Asset Management**

~~Request approval of a Resolution approving a Ground Lease Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Lessor) and Innova Solutions, Inc., (Lessee) for a site consisting of approximately 2.5 acres at the Fulton County Executive Airport—Charlie Brown Field; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Ground Lease Agreement and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Ground Lease Agreement and related documents as to form and to make any modifications thereto to protect the County’s interests prior to execution; and for other purposes.~~

Request approval of a recommended proposal, Real Estate and Asset Management, 23RFP032723K- JA, Ground Lease and Private Hangar Development for Fulton County Executive Airport, to enter into a Ground Lease Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Lessor) and Innova Solutions, Inc., (Lessee) for a site consisting of approximately 2.5 acres at the Fulton County Executive Airport - Charlie Brown Field; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Ground Lease Agreement and Private Hangar Development and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Ground Lease Agreement and related documents as to form and to make any modifications thereto to protect the County’s interests prior to execution; and for other purposes. Upon execution of the Ground Lease Agreement, the initial term will be for twenty (20) years, with two (2) five (5) year renewal options. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER**

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

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

**24-0182 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution to approve a Lease Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Tenant) and SELIG Enterprises, LLLP (Landlord) for the purpose of continuing the lease for the operations of the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office at 5210 Philip Lee Drive, Atlanta, Georgia; to authorize the Chairman to sign the Lease Agreement and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the Lease Agreement and related documents as to form and to make any modifications thereto in order to protect the interests of the County prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0183 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution to amend Resolution #23-0574 to approve a Right of Access Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia, and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (“MARTA”) to authorize the installation of ADA-compliant warning surface tactiles adjacent to County-owned property; to authorize the Chairman to execute the Right of Access License Agreement and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the Right of Access License Agreement and related documents as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0184 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution to amend Resolution #23-0575 to approve a Right of Access License Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia, and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (“MARTA”) to authorize construction of a new bus stop platform adjacent to County-owned property; to authorize the Chairman to execute the Right of Access License Agreement and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve a Right of Access License Agreement and related documents as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0185 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution approving the County granting three Right of Way Easement Agreements to Greystone Power Corporation for the purpose of relocating and adding new utility service poles on Cochran Mill Road; to authorize the Chairman to execute the three Right of Way Easement Agreements and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the three Right of Way Easement Agreements and related documents as to form and to make modifications thereto to protect the interests of Fulton County prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Justice and Safety****24-0186 Emergency Management**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for animal control services between Fulton County, Georgia and City of College Park for a period of time that shall terminate at 2400 hours on December 31, 2028. The purpose of this Intergovernmental Agreement is to provide vital and necessary animal control services for the County’s homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0187 Sheriff**

Request approval of the 2024 Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification with the U.S. Department of Justice for the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office, establishing the requirements for participation in the Federal Equitable Sharing Program and the restrictions upon the use of federally forfeited cash, property, or proceeds. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**RECESS MEETING AGENDA****24-0188 Board of Commissioners**

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

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt as amended by removing item #24-0215 as requested by Commissioner Ellis and revising item #24-0190. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to reconsider the Recess Meeting Agenda. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

**24-0189 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Recess Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2024

Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 6, 2024

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0190 Board of Commissioners**

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

\*Proclamation recognizing "Douglass Bell Appreciation Day." **(BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "Radcliffe Bailey Remembrance Day." **(Abdur-Rahman/Arrington)**

*\*added during the meeting*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****24-0191 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

**(CONDUCTED)**

**10 Speakers: Howard Billingsley (Fulton County Jail); Elbert Carter (Fulton County Jail); Duwon Robinson (Tax Commissioner Office); J. Wesley Day (Justice/Solicitor Office); L.A. Pink (Politicians); Janet Hill (Deed Fraud); Paul Hershey (Fulton County Jail); Maria Gaudio (Registration and Elections); Robby Caban (Lifeline/Fulton County Animal Services) and Ken Wayne Wright (H.B. 1398)**

**3 Zoom Comments: Ben Howard (Senior Services); Matt Rowenczak (Item #24-0177) and Lucia Frazier (Registration and Elections)**



**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**24-0192 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to terminate contract 21ITB130447C-GS, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups E, F, G, H & I) with Quality Cleaning Services, Inc. (Douglasville, GA) for Group G (South Senior Centers). Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0193 County Manager**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to direct the County Manager to notify the City of Atlanta that payment is due for Animal Control Services and if payment is not received within one (1) week (7 days) services will be discontinued with a friendly amendment by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman to increase the deadline to fourteen (14) days. The motion passed by the following vote:

Commissioner Hall made a friendly amendment to extend the deadline an additional seven (7) days for a total of twenty-one (21) days.

Commissioner Ellis did not accept the friendly amendment.

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

**Absent:** Barrett

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

**24-0194 County Manager**

Request approval to extend an existing contract with A & A All County Monitoring Services, Inc. (Lawrenceville, GA), in an amount not to exceed \$305,000.00, for an additional 30 day period in order for the Evaluation Committee to complete the evaluation process for 23RFP1208B-RT, Electronic Pretrial Monitoring Services. Effective March 31, 2024 through April 30, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0164 Human Resources Management**

Request approval of a Resolution renewing authorization for enhanced overtime compensation for designated Sheriff personnel until the allocated funds in the non-agency budget, specifically earmarked for this purpose, are depleted. **(HELD ON 3/6/24) (DENIED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Hall, and Arrington

**Absent:** Barrett

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett

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

**24-0195 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB128258C-GS, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups E, F, G, H & I) in an amount not to exceed \$7,200.00 with (C) American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) to add the Airport Recue Fire Fighting (ARFF) building located at 3965 Aero Drive, NW, Atlanta, GA 30336 to Group I to assume the janitorial services responsibilities according to the terms and conditions of the contract. Effective dates: April 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0196 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23RFP138825K-CRB, Standby Landscape Design and Installation Countywide in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 with Ed Castro Landscape (Roswell, GA), to provide standby landscape design and installation services for Fulton County. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0197 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB130447C-GS, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups E, F, G, H & I) in the amount of \$231,503.00 with (A) Chi-Ada Corporation (Atlanta, GA) to assume the janitorial service responsibilities for Group G, South Senior Centers. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0198 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22RFP041122C-MH, General Landscaping & Lawn Care Services for Countywide Facilities in the total amount of \$184,909.00 with (A) ReIMAGE General Contractors, LLC (Atlanta, GA), to add two (2) locations; Fulton County Animal Services Facility and the Fulton County Public Safety Training Center; and to add the purchase/delivery and installation of hardwood mulch as part of the 2024 Spring refreshing/upgrade for 19 selected Fulton County Libraries, Senior Centers and health facilities. Effective upon BOC approval, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0199 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138804C-GS, Electrical On Call Maintenance Services Countywide in total amount not to exceed \$375,000.00, with (A) Capital City Electrical Services, LLC (Norcross, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$165,000.00; (B) ALL-N-1 Security Services, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$160,000.00; and (C) Electrify Atlanta, LLC (Roswell, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 to provide standby on-site electrical on-call maintenance services on an “as needed” basis for all Fulton County facilities. Effective upon execution of contracts through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0200 Information Technology**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Information Technology (FCIT), 99999-SPD-SPD0000210-0006, Audiovisual Equipment and Related Services in the total amount of \$1,350,000.00 with Audiovisual Innovations, Inc. (Duluth, GA) to provide Countywide audio-visual systems, equipment, support, and services to be effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0201 Information Technology**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Information Technology, 23ITB140062B-PS, Countywide Structured Cabling and Physical Security in a total amount not to exceed \$6,966,300.00 with (A) GC&E Systems Group, Inc. (Norcross, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$4,528,095.00; and (B) NetPlanner Systems, Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$2,438,205.00 to provide countywide structured cabling services. Effective upon execution of contract through December 31, 2024, with two renewal options.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0202 Information Technology**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Information Technology, SWC98000-MNS1-0000001102 GTA, Telecommunication Services in the amount of \$932,943.50 with AT&T Corporation, (Atlanta, GA) to provide telecommunication services and products Countywide. Effective upon BOC approval through June 30, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

**Health and Human Services**

**24-0203 Public Works**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Public Works Department, 22ITB136990K-JA, 2023 Standby Miscellaneous Construction, Water System Services in a total amount not to exceed \$2,400,000.00 with (A) Site Engineering, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 and (B) Wade Coots Company, Inc. (Austell, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 to provide standby miscellaneous construction services for the Fulton County Water Distribution System. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: March 31, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0204 Public Works**

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 20RFP101320K-CRB, MS4 NPDES Permit Management Oversight and Administration in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 with River to Tap, Inc. (R2T) (Roswell, GA), to provide management, oversight, and administration services for the MS4 NPDES required Storm Water Management Program within the unincorporated area of Fulton County on a time and materials basis. Effective dates: April 1, 2024, through June 28, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0205 Community Development**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Community Development, 22RFP026A-CJC, Housing Rehabilitation Program in the amount of \$812,401.00 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 ending December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**24-0206 Senior Services**

Request approval to amend a Memorandum of Understanding - Department of Senior Services with Quality Living Services, Inc., for the provision of financial support in the amount of \$100,000.00 to provide Life Enrichment, Fitness and Congregate Dining services for the senior population of Fulton County within the County-owned facility located at 4001 Danforth Street, Atlanta, GA by Quality Living Services, Inc., as the Lessee of the building. Effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**24-0207 Senior Services**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Senior Services, 23ITB125742A-BKJ, Swimming Pool Maintenance Services in an amount not to exceed \$109,824.00 with United Pool Maintenance, LLC (Roswell, GA), to provide pool maintenance, repair and preventive maintenance for all four Senior Multipurpose Facilities. Effective upon March 31, 2024 through December 31, 2024 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0208 Senior Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) between Fulton County Georgia, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, acting through its Department of Senior Services, and the Fulton County Board of Health (“Board of Health”), a not for profit governmental entity organized and existing in Fulton County pursuant to state law, for the reimbursement of tuberculosis testing costs at a rate of \$30.00 per test, which rate may be updated from time to time by official action to modify the Fee Schedules of the Board of Health by the Director of the Board of Health. Effective upon execution through December 31, 2028.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

**24-0209 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval to amend an existing contract, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, 22RFP038A-CJC (B), Fulton County Behavioral Health Network with Chris, 180, Inc., (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,433,015.00 to provide behavioral health services and supportive services for diverted youth, as part of FY2023-2024 SAMHSA Grant, FY 2023 Behavioral Health Partnership for Early Diversion of Youth SM-23-012. The County Attorney is authorized to approve the amended contract as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett



**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**

**24-0210 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, to modify Code Section 101-42, to afford the Department of External Affairs a minimum timeframe to complete proclamations requested by the Board of Commissioners; to establish the form, scope and subject matter of proclamations; and to assess a twenty dollar (\$20.00) administrative fee for every drafted proclamation requested by the Board of Commissioners; to limit the number of proclamations to only one (1) per Commissioner at each Board of Commissioners' meeting as adopted at the January 16, 2024 Special Called Meeting; and for other purposes. **(Thorne)**  
**(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

**A Quorum was lost at 12:15pm**

**A Quorum reconvened at 12:17pm**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Hall to allow constituents the option to pay for the \$20.00 administrative fee for requested proclamations.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve as amended by capping the number of proclamations per year per Commissioner to seventy (70). The motion passed by the following vote:

Commissioner Ellis made a friendly amendment to cap the number of proclamations per year per Commissioner to fifty-two (52), rather than the \$20.00 administrative fee.

Commissioner Thorne recommended a cap of 70 proclamations per year per Commissioner, but to include the \$20.00 administrative fee.

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

**Nay:** Hall, and Arrington

**Absent:** Barrett

c. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to hold. The motion failed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Hall, and Arrington

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

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**24-0211 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urging the Fulton County Clerk of Superior Court to provide quarterly reports on the amount of passport fees collected by her office. **(Pitts) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett

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

**24-0212 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution transferring Fulton Films and FGTV from the Department of Arts and Culture to Select Fulton; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve with a friendly amendment by Commissioner Ellis to allow FGTV to remain with the Department of Arts and Culture and to transfer Fulton Films to Select Fulton. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

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

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Absent:** Barrett

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

**Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**

**24-0213 Board of Commissioners**

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (APPROVED)**

Nine (9) members serve on this authority. Seven (7) regular members (each Commissioner appoints one person to serve) and two (2) housing resident members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The enabling statute calls the Housing Authority Board members "Commissioners."

Term = 5 Years for BOC Appointees  
1 Year for Resident Members

Terms below expired: 7/13/2019  
Debra Allen **(Resident Member)**  
James Hank Harper **(Resident Member)**

**As a result of elections conducted by the Housing Authority of Fulton County, Interim Executive Director Tanray Garcia requests the formal Full Board reappointment of James Hank Harper and the appointment of Lena Jones for a one year term expiring July 13, 2025.**

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

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

**24-0214 Board of Commissioners  
BOARD OF ETHICS (APPROVED)**

Each member selected after the initial terms of office have expired shall serve a term of three (3) years or until the termination of his or her membership in the organization from which he or she was selected. The chair shall serve as chair for the remainder of the calendar year and until a successor is chosen. (See Fulton County Code of Laws, Section 2-80).

Term = 3 years

Term below expires: 2/12/2025

Vacant (**Atlanta Airport Chamber of Commerce/BOC**)

**The Atlanta Airport Chamber of Commerce recommended LaTonya Nix Wiley for a Full Board appointment to an unexpired term ending February 12, 2025.**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**24-0215 Board of Commissioners**  
Discussion: Time-keeping and use of temporary positions. (**Ellis**) (**REMOVED**)

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE RECESS MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ELLIS**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**24-0216 External Affairs**  
Presentation: 2024 State Legislative Session Update. (**PRESENTED**)

**24-0219 County Manager**  
Discussion: Elections Update. (**DISCUSSED**)

**Infrastructure and Economic Development**

**24-0217 Select Fulton**  
Presentation: Renew the District redevelopment initiative along Fulton Industrial Boulevard. (**HELD**)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****24-0218 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

a. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to enter into executive session. (**NO VOTE TAKEN**)

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to enter into executive session. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Absent:** Barrett

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

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to enter into Executive Session. The motion failed by the following vote:

**A Quorum was lost at 12:22pm**

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

**Absent:** Pitts, and Barrett

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

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

**A Quorum reconvened at 12:42pm**

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

---

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve the request for representation in item #1 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Barrett

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

f. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve the request for representation in item #2 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Ellis

**Absent:** Barrett

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

g. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve the request for representation in item #3 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Ellis

**Absent:** Barrett

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

h. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the request for representation in item #4 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Barrett

i. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve settlement authority in item #6 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Pitts

**Absent:** Barrett

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

j. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve the request for a transfer agreement with a new entity in item #7 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Barrett

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECESS MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC  
***“A Court Reporting Firm”***



(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.)

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Recess Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. It is 10:02 a.m. Today is March 20, 2024. Chairman Pitts is enroute here; he had a meeting this morning at the state -- a very important meeting he had to make, but he is enroute. Madam Clerk, please call the roll for the purposes of a quorum."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Chairman Robb Pitts. Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Dana Barrett. Commissioner Natalie Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Vice Chair, you have a quorum."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Madam Clerk. 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.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Madam Clerk, please continue."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **24-0176**: 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. Vice Chair and Members of the Board, we have two items that have been requested to be removed for separate consideration. The first item is on page 3, Finance, 24-0178: Ratification of the February 24 Grants Activity Report. Commissioner Ellis has

requested this item to be removed for separate consideration. On page 4, Real Estate and Asset Management, 24-0181: Request approval of a Resolution approving a Ground Lease Agreement between Fulton County and Innova Solutions, Inc. This item has been requested to be removed for separate consideration to revise this item, to submit it as a purchasing item and to amend the requested action."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioners, we will entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion to approve by Bob Ellis, seconded by -- excuse me, Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Madam Clerk, next item."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 6, Recess Meeting Agenda, **24-0188**, Adoption of the Recess Meeting Agenda. Vice Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an amendment to today's Recess Meeting Agenda. On page 12, item to be removed, 24-0215, Discussion: Timekeeping and use of temporary positions. Commissioner Ellis has requested to remove this item and bring it back at a later meeting. Also on page 6, there's a revision to item 24-0190, Proclamation and Certificates. We're revising this item to include a proclamation recognizing 'Douglas Bell Appreciation Day' sponsored by the Full Board of Commissioners."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Madam Clerk. Entertain a motion to approve the Regular Agenda, please. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0189**, Ratification of Minutes. Recess Meeting Minutes, February 21st; Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 6, 2024."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "All right, Commissioners. We're going to entertain a motion for the ratification of the minutes. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0190**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Can we get Douglas Bell to the front and center?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So, every meeting we do the proclamations, and this is the most joyful, happiest person that comes around and gets us to sign the proclamation. He writes them, he prints them, as well as he does the proclamations throughout the week. He often is working overtime trying to get the proclamations out to the Commissioners. On weekends, he's working late at night; he's coming in on Saturdays. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty, and he always is wearing a smile on his face. He is the most joyful person to have around. So it is the Full Board's honor to give -- oh, come on down family. So, it is our honor today to reward a proclamation for the proclinator of the County today. And I'm so glad your family could be here. So, WHEREAS, Douglas Bell has served Fulton County residents with distinction for more than 25 years in the Offices of the Clerk to the Commission, the County Manager, and the Department of External Affairs; and WHEREAS, Douglas Bell is a native of South Carolina, who graduated from the University of South Carolina before moving to the Fulton County and making his home in East Point; and WHEREAS, Douglas Bell is a person of many talents whose hobbies includes home improvement projects, cycling, pop culture, and enjoying time with his wide circle of friends; and WHEREAS, Douglas Bell is a beloved son, brother, uncle, friend, and devoted colleague to many including dozens of people across Fulton County government; notably to include blood donors who he supports in his coordination of quarterly Fulton County Blood Drives for the American Red Cross; and WHEREAS, Douglas Bell plays a key role in the daily operations of the Department of External Affairs, and supports the Board of Commissioners with preparation of proclamations honoring Fulton County constituents and organizations; and WHEREAS, Douglas Bell is an unsung hero of Fulton County government, who without any hesitation frequently goes above and beyond to ensure that proclamations are provided to constituents and the Board of Commissioners. Has written hundreds of proclamations, but has never received a proclamation until today. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County commends Douglas Bell for his exemplary work on behalf of his Fulton County colleagues and the citizens of Fulton County; and does hereby proclaim, Wednesday, March 20th, 2024 as 'Douglas Bell Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Congratulations, Doug."

**DOUGLAS BELL, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you, thank you, thank you. The one day I don't bring a handkerchief. Thank you so much to the Board of Commissioners. It is an honor to prepare these for each of you in your districts and constituents. I enjoy learning about your constituents and the work they do in the community. And on behalf of my boss, Jessica Corbitt, who taught me this whole process each time I produce one, I want to make sure that it is a keepsake for the families because they do treasure them. And as the Clerk can attest, people will call 30 years, you know, "oh, my dad got a proclamation 30 years ago. Can you guys find it? So they do treasure these things, so. The time I put into them is all about the people. It's all about the people, and I am honored to serve in this role and I am thoroughly surprised. I spotted my sister-in-law here this morning, like, what are you doing here? And she made up -- I believed it. She made up a story about a neighbor on the agenda. So thank you so much for this. I

really, really am honored and this summer is year 26 with Fulton County government. So I've literally grown up here. And I do consider my colleagues and bosses and Commissioners all my family. So thank you so much."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "No, you don't."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Radcliffe Bailey Remembrance Day' sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and Commissioner Arrington."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Will all the supporters and family members of Radcliffe Bailey, please come down? All right. WHEREAS, Radcliffe Bailey was born in Bridgeton, New Jersey on November 25th, 1968, and his family relocated to Atlanta, Georgia when he was four years old. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Atlanta College of Arts in 1991; and WHEREAS, Radcliffe's passion for art was sparked when his mother took him to the High Museum of Art and introduced him to the works of James Van Der Zee and Jacob Lawrence; and WHEREAS, Radcliffe was trained as a sculptor, but experiment with paint and mixed-media. His work used paint traditional African sculpture, tiny type images of his family, clay and piano keys -- beautiful work -- to explore things of lineage, race, and cultural memory; and WHEREAS, Radcliffe developed layered and three-dimensional works relying on his personal background and the history of the African Diaspora; and WHEREAS, Radcliffe's artistic accomplishments were internationally recognized with him receiving the Joan Mitchell foundation grant in 2008 and the Elizabeth and Malory Factory prize for southern art in 2010. He held numerous solo shows including Memory as Medicine, which debuted at the High Museum of Art in 2011 and moved to other institutions across the country; and WHEREAS, Radcliffe's work can be found in collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Smithsonian Museum of American Art in Washington, DC, and the High Museum in Atlanta, Georgia. On a personal note, Radcliffe is a son of the South and we are all proud of him and the work and the mark he has not only made internationally, but he is a beacon and a pioneer out of Southwest Atlanta. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Radcliffe Bailey for his legacy of art that will endure for many generations to come; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, March 20th, 2024 as 'Radcliffe Bailey Remembrance Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. I'm going to have you to come to the mic and then Commissioner Arrington will follow up."

**MRS. LESLIE PARKS BAILEY, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning. I am Radcliffe's widow, Leslie Parks Bailey; and I came to Georgia from New York to marry Radcliffe. And I really want to thank the entire city for the support I was given during Radcliffe's illness, you know, through to his transition. And, you know, making me a daughter of Atlanta especially coming from Brooklyn, New York where it's a little bit different, but I feel very embraced and loved here, so thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Radcliffe was a very special guy. I remember as I was growing up, he was the first person that I knew who had art featured in the Smithsonian Museum, right? And that was inspirational. And it let us know, or let me know, that, you know, he could do it, others could do it. And so, just thankful for his spirit. He was just a great person. Just an all-around great guy; loving spirit, humble and, you know. We certainly will miss him, but his name and his legacy will continue on. So thank you to the family and everyone for coming out and we love you, Radcliffe."

**FRIEND OF RADCLIFFE BAILEY:** "They told me that I might speak, but I wasn't expecting to. But what I will say about Radcliffe: Radcliffe and I met the first day of art school at the Atlanta College of Art, and we were best friends ever since. We were twin spirits coming in the wake of what we will call the post Voting Rights Acts generation and we had a mission to accomplish. And that mission was to continue to bring dignity to our people through creative art; and he accomplished it better than any. Not only was he my best friend, but he was a mentor to me as well as an artist. His creativity was second to none. But what I want most people to understand is that he made his living as an artist, and his work ethic made him the artist he was along with his vision. And for any young artists out there, what I recommend to you is to look at his life, look at his legacy, look at his love, look at how much he loved his people, his history, and the world; and how humble he was in doing it. Not only did he mentor me as a friend, but he mentored many others as artist as well. And I want you, if you are artist out there, to continue his legacy of upliftment, joy, beauty, creativity, and extreme vision. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Madam Clerk, please continue."  
\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 6, Public Hearings, **24-0191**: Public Comment - Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing by registering on the county's website [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Vice Chair and Members of the Board, we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received nine speaker cards. Will the first five speakers please come forward: Elbert Carter, Howard Billingsley, Duwon Robinson, J. Wesley Day, and LA Pink."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Speakers, it is 10:24 a.m. I will alert you when you have 15 seconds left. First person, please."

**HOWARD BILLINGSLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Howard Billingsley, and I'm the Vice President of the Fulton County Lodge 64. I'm also a retired captain with the Fulton County Marshal's office. I'm here on behalf for the deputies and the detention officers at the Fulton County Jail. I'm here in support of them receiving overtime pay. We got issues at the jail, we're losing individuals at the jail. What is the solution? What is the solution? Our organization strongly feels that it should go to eight hours a day. They give them two hours overtime every day. We've got individuals that is burned out at the County Jail. We have one individual to work 24 hours in one day. This is -- it's unbelievable. He's not fit for duty. Nobody fit for duty with them many hours. And I hope you, please take this under consideration. Continue giving them overtime, and let us come up with some kind of solution for these individuals. Fulton County Sheriff Department has been a training ground for other agencies. Recently, I was down at Clayton County. I seen several individuals that came from Fulton County; got a job in Clayton County. They're doing this all over the Metro area. We is a training ground for other agencies. We're losing a lot of good people. Thank you for your time."

**ELBERT CARTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Elbert Carter. I am the second vice president for the Fulton County FOP Lodge 64. I echo what my colleague has said; and I would further elaborate and say that we have a lot willing men and women standing in the gap, prepared to facilitate what is needed by the way of overtime. And we're just asking that there would be thoughtful consideration to allocating the funds, you know, for that willingness to go out and go overboard. And so, we're asking, humbly that you all would certainly consider that, and allocate the funds that are necessary in order to continue to facilitate that function within the Fulton County Sheriff's office. And I'm also a retired Captain with the Fulton County Sheriff's office. Thank you."

**DUWON ROBINSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners, and everyone in the room. I'm here today because I want to cover some things and I'm ashamed that we don't speak on this and we speak on everything else. You guys have a Fulton County Tax Commissioner that has committed almost a criminal act, Mr. Anderson. Now, there's a thing called racketeering, influence, corrupt organization. And when you uncover, Mr. Ellis, what the Fulton County Tax Commissioner, Arthur Ferdinand has done for the last 27 years, I'm surprised he's not in jail. There's a saying in training day by the great Denzel Washington, a famous quote, 'you want to go to jail or you want to go home'? If we all just be honest and stop kissing his butt when you see him. It's criminal. Eighty-nine percent of African-Americans are losing their homes due to the Tax Commissioner; borderline genocide, Mr. Anderson. Borderline genocide, and I'm calling your name not that you have anything to do with it, but you're the County Commissioner -- no, the County Manager. I've looked into you, you're a decent man. It's not your job to call him out and stop it, but everybody in here knows this. People are losing their homes, going to homelessness. Most people are dying, Ms. Thorne because they are losing their homes. As African-Americans, all we have is our property. We don't have the fortune to have a million dollars -- two million dollars insurance policy,

Ms. Hall. All we have is our property to leave our loved one. When you take that away, we have nothing. We have to call this out and be honest with this. This is criminal and I hope, Ms. Fani Willis is listening, because here's a clear-cut RICO case that needs to be filed against Arthur Ferdinand, and Investor Services, and everybody else involved with this."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Fifteen seconds."

**DUWON ROBINSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you, ma'am. And we need to stop this. You have a better choice. We need to stop this and we need to call it out. Too many people are losing their homes; not just black, but whites also are losing their homes. It's outrageous."

**J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Fulton County Justice System is in a state of turmoil. Not because of Fani Willis or Natalie Hall, but because of Keith Gammage. Mr. Gammage has hijacked my life. Our black men are killing each other in the street like there is no tomorrow. But do we have black-on-black crime within the justice system at the hand of Keith Gammage destroying the lives of black men? Is it a part of Fulton County's Commissioners' job to manage Keith Gammage? Why do you make social injustices the lowest of your priorities? As a result of your failure to do so has provided an efficient -- inefficient justice system that is literally destroying lives. Here's how: In 2018, I was leaving a community meeting that I set up as the President of the Atlanta Nightlife Task Force. At the end of that meeting, I was approached by five men that called me sissies, fags, pussies, and punks; and told me they were going to kill me. I was in Grady Hospital, but guess what? I filmed my assailants. They're on camera. Why is it none of them have been charged? But guess what Keith Gammage did? He charged me with a misdemeanor affray: another injustice. He took that misdemeanor charge and recommended me for a felony. Meanwhile, Keith Gammage dismissed the charge of my assailant. How does that happen? How does that make sense when he's on camera throwing me, slapping me, calling me names? It just doesn't make any sense."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Fifteen seconds."

**J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "As a result, my son had to leave the University of Wisconsin. And then I went to Keith Gammage to submit expungement papers two weeks ago -- I see Keith Gammage up there, I believe I saw him. He had like eight, nine, ten, 12 guys --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Sir, your time has ended. Thank you, sir."

**LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Love ruffling feathers. And today is not going to be any different. Marvin, you are -- a couple weeks when I was down here, you had made a suggestion that the inmate welfare fund had already been taking care of. It was already, you know, done with. I don't know if you did your thorough investigation, evidently you

didn't because I got a couple of questions. Were you aware that the money was -- April -- Major April Moore. Are you familiar with that name? I know you are, because from my understanding you already know her and Labat has a relationship. But she was paid out of the inmate welfare funding. What about City Councilwoman Helen, \$5,000 out of the inmate welfare funding; South Fulton, Turkey giveaway? I know you're familiar with all these things. But let's jump into one of your serious situations that was going on down here at the -- intake. Are y'all familiar with Mr. Davis? He's a deputy sheriff? He works down there, Taylor -- Tyler Davis? Well, he choked out an inmate. It's on video, we've seen it. Choke the inmate out. I know, Arrington, you probably ain't got -- there's no problem with that because I need a one-on-one with your wife. But I know for a fact he choked out a inmate -- yes, Commissioner Hall, you look crazy, chasing balls because we got something for you, too. Because I'm pretty sure you're not concerned about Labat sleeping around on the job with Major Moore, and getting paid out of the inmate welfare fund, right? Because you did it on your job; the taxpayer dollars. So we know you don't have a problem with that. But we have problems here. We've got problems. We need to get the ones that he had sold out."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- 15 seconds, three seconds, two seconds, one."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next four speakers, please come forward: Janet Hill, Paul Hershey, Maria Guadio, and Robby Caban."

**JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I want to thank you for your time again. I'm back again with a respectful demand to resolve defraud. On August of 2021, Natalie Hall received a notice at least six times regarding this matter. September 27, 2022, a fake deed was filed on my property by Susan Property Management, also known as (inaudible.). On October 22nd, 2022, the magistrate judge ruled in my favor. January 6, 2023, a magistrate judge ruled in my favor saying that no hearing should be held on the fake deed. March 3rd, 2023, Magistrate Judge Rickman affirmed the private property matter was a title issue. January 10, 2023, magistrate judge without -- or excuse me, with an expired oath of office, initiated a fake writ against my property. At the end of the day, these fake buyers have gone before judges in Magistrate Court and admitted that there is no record of a \$746,000 cash transaction. It is impossible for \$746,000 cash transaction in real estate to totally disappear and no one know anything about it except for a magistrate judge and the opposing counsel -- excuse me, the opposing attorney for that transaction. I hold in my hand an order from a federal judge from 2019 stating that this action --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- 15 seconds."

**JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and title action and it has never been resolved. This is an atrocity that is happening and these judges and the Council -- Commissioners are aware of it and a federal person who has --"



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, ma'am. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Next speaker." Next speaker."

**JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "We are not going away."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next speaker."

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Paul Hershey. And I'm here again to talk about jobs. First of all, when you heard those two retired Marshals talk about the jail -- number one, the reason people are leaving the jail is because Labat couldn't lead a group in silent prayer; and he's forcing the people away. Number two, why do we keep talking about a jail and building a jail when the 2023 report basically said, you don't need a new jail? What you need to do is fix the jail you got. And then number two is, indict people under the 90-day rule of the state of Georgia. Next, make sure that bonds are set correctly; have some kind of agreement between the DA and the public defenders, who don't even want to talk to the DA because she's hell to deal with. And the bottom line is you guys have create your own thing. The other side of coin is this: why don't you create a self-help program inside the jail? You've got all these programs to talk about this, that, and the other, a bunch of woke stuff. The bottom line is, why don't you get together with a bunch of people that'll teach them how to be electricians, and plumbers, and carpenters, welders that could do the job. And I've got people who can do it. We're ready to do it. Give me the money and I'll fix your jail. And you ain't going to have to spend \$1.9 billion. But get off their butts and do their job. And as far as the overtime goes, the overtime was done so that they can pay the security -- correction guards, not the admin staff, and not the rest of the stuff that are getting the money. That's what's going on."

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

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and the bottom line is, you guys are all tolerating it. All you want to talk about is what a great job you guys do. He couldn't lead a group in silent prayer. And the bottom line is that's a fact; not a joke."

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Maria Gaudio, Fulton County. With regard to the Elections: I watched with dismay the BRE meeting earlier this week. There were members who are requesting data and information, forms, lists, and there was no supporting documentation provided to them. How are the board members supposed to do their job without the supporting documentation? How can you certify an Election without the data being evaluated by board members? How did that happen? I felt that Patrise had a curt disregard for other board members, and her position was that this is just going to take place and she steamed rolled it through. There's -- why is there noncompliance with board members' requests? Nadine did not provide the information. What is her job for that \$185,000, a year that she gets? You could have two homeless shelters for that amount of money for her doing nothing. You know, I met Patrise up in Alpharetta at a Town Hall meeting with Commissioner Thorne a few months back, and

she was touting Georgia law; and I said cite your references, and she gave me the big Buckwheat eyes because I took her off guard. She doesn't know the law. She can't reference the law. I would challenge each of you to give her a quiz, true/false, multiple guess. She doesn't know the Election Code. No wonder we don't have standard operating procedures. I was a poll watcher for three different poll sites this Election."

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

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "And they all operated differently. There's no standard operating procedure, and I saw plenty of evidence for no -- improper chain of custody, which I will be making an affidavit over."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go ahead, ma'am."

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Sorry. I'm here again on behalf of the Fulton County Animal Services Contract which is managed by county contractor, LifeLine Animal Project. I'm here as a taxpayer. I was here in 2022. I sympathize with these people who are losing their homes because I'm a broker and I'm happy to give you my information. Walking around and driving in the community, there's loose animals. I walk into homes. There's animals chained in backyards. There's dangerous conditions and the reality is our County contract that we pay \$9 million a year for has been hijacked by an NGO, and you all are allowing it. And I don't think they're going to do anything about the real estate component: I'll tell you why -- I can meet you afterwards because their budgets increase when the values of properties go up; so all of that malfeasance happening in the real estate industry is being ignored. Just like the malfeasance happening in our County facilities is being ignored. You all know about it. In 2022, I came here with six whistleblower statements. I met with Bridget Thorne for an hour. Marvin Arrington and Natalie Hall, you blocking me on social media when I tag you in these horrible cruelty conditions and abuses and so on happening in our shelter, this complete neglect, and counter to our County contract, it's not helping anything. If I have to come here again, which I came last year, and I guess you told LifeLine to clean house, but we still have another problem. Guess what? There are three new whistleblowers out of Fulton County now. And you know what they have to say? They have to say that out \$9 million County contract; the field director is never there. The ACO's clock in when they want; even though we're paying them. Nobody answer calls. In fact, staff who attempt to follow the law or enforce ordinances are targeted, discriminated against, harassed, and eventually terminated due to the toxic culture. You'll be receiving an e-mail. You got an e-mail yesterday at 1:52 --"

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

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and we're on it. What is it going to take? How many people have to be bit, how many diseases have to be spread? This is a mandated public service affecting safety and public health. What are you doing?"

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

**KEN WAYNE WRIGHT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "All right. So, is it, okay?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Come on, sir."

**KEN WAYNE WRIGHT:** "Okay, I got you. Well, first off, I want to say, thank you to all the --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- speak up here. Thank you."

**KEN WAYNE WRIGHT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "There you go. Thank you, Commissioner Pitts. It's a pleasure to be here. I just wanted to give an update of – my name is Ken Wayne Wright. I've been working with organized labor to be able to get additional representation for the Uber/Lyft drivers. And we have a House Bill, House Bill 1398 which was written to get additional representation for the Uber and Lyft drivers, and that this will big -- and all of the United States -- Fulton County would be the first to recognize Uber and Lyft drivers as far as additional representation for the three problems that's been happening the most. One has been dealing with safety as far as carjacking's; another one is dealing with cyber security. I know Fulton County has had an issue with cybersecurity, but the legislation deals with being able to get additional protection for the cybersecurity. And as we can prevent problems, but a lot of the drivers are very open to being victimized when it comes to their information, their license plates information. Even as a passenger, you're subject to being a victim if someone steals your information and has your debit/credit information. And another one is additional representation when someone is wrongfully let go. We have support on the state level. We have support, and the legislation has been introduced along with support on a city level; but we also need the County involved because we need partnership -- partnership with the Sheriff's department as well to be able to reduce the crimes and to be able to make sure that there's additional permit requirements for someone who wants to have restaurants. I want to thank -- give a special thanks --"

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

**KEN WAYNE WRIGHT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to Commissioner Hall for making the time of -- for representation. Arrington -- Commissioner Arrington as well as you and Commissioner Khadijah, you were the first person to know about this, thank you, and a special thanks to Commissioner Pitts for being a mentor and a friend. I would like to reach out to Commissioner Thorne -- Ellis, your team about this as well."

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

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning, Commissioners. The first person to speak is Ben Howard."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings, Commissioners and staff; and a special greeting fellow citizens; Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. Kudos to Office of Aging administrators in their role as secretary to the Commission on Elder Affairs. They now delineate and publish unfinished business. About this time last year, the keepers of the Housing Authority of Fulton County abruptly and unilaterally stopped allowing members of the public to Zoom in on their meetings via Zoom. Citizens seeking to curtail secrecy will crack that board's wall of correctness one crevice at a time. Let's start with having them explain why their website states, "The Board of the Housing Authority of Fulton County consists of nine members appointed by Fulton County Commissioners." But in juxta positions, they boldly list a tenth board member and the person or the person appearing as the Attorney for the Board. Stay tuned."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Matt Rowenzcak."

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Morning, Commissioners. I want to share two things with you this morning. The first is on the Consent Agenda, there are 19 proclamations, and 17 are from Commissioner Hall. Is the goal here, Commissioner Hall, to give a proclamation to every single resident in your district, in a year when you're seeking reelection? It sounds like we have an employee spending his entire time issuing proclamations. I support Agenda Item 24-0201, and I would support this item if it was \$50 for proclamation, and adding the limit on the number of proclamations allowed per Commissioner per month. Commissioner Hall, you're out-of-control. You have no regard for spending taxpayer money. Secondly, we still have fundamental issues in the Elections department. I still don't believe that they have standard operating procedures. Remember when the shocking audit came out in the department in August of 2021? One of the findings was that there was no standard operating procedures. And when the follow-up audit came out last year, there still weren't complete standard operating procedures. And for this most recent Presidential Primary Election, I requested the qualified electors list; meaning a list of all qualified voters, specifically for that Election. The department said they couldn't provide it. How do you run an Election and certifying an Election without a list of qualified voters? I also saw Board of Elections members have requested documents as well. And to my knowledge, they haven't received any of them. The Chair of the Board continues to come up with excuses like Fulton County is too big. The qualified electors list is a simple document; the size of the County has nothing to do with it. The public is tired of Patrise's excuses for not doing her job."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Lucia Frazier."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, everybody. We are paying taxes that are allocated to Fulton County Election staff. The staff is requesting 40 million for this year. This is still really high when you compare costs per person versus other counties, and I've been saying this for the last three years, that we're budgeting

way too much, and the Election Department needs to continue to reduce cost. And for all of this money, the main function is to run Elections with as little errors as possible and with complete transparency. So, I'm not seeing enough transparency because every time there's a certification, there's not enough data shown to the public on how things balanced out. And nothing is proprietary in Elections, because we pay for them, and actually all that data is our property. The Election staff also stated in the February meeting that anyone who has moved out of state who registered to vote in another state can still remain on the Fulton County voter rolls. So now we're also paying taxes to have equipment and staff available for voter registrations for people who moved away and they filed that they moved away; they're telling us they moved away. You know, they're filing NCOA. So we don't have to babysit adults, like the onus is on voters to register properly. Thank you."

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, County Manager's items under open and responsible government, **24-0192**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval to terminate a contract for janitorial services for selected Fulton County facilities."

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0193**, County Manager, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Chairman and Commissioners. We do not have a traditional report and that access is still limited, but if acceptable to you, I'll provide a brief update on our cyber event restoration efforts, and then also an update on our animal services contract, if that's acceptable. In terms of IT update or cyber event update, a lot of this information is already out in the public, but just to reiterate where we are, first and foremost, we continue to mediate -- remediate the damage that was done to our systems. Telephony access is now fully restored, and I'm proud to report that and we continue to test that system. It does have some variability to it, and we're looking at both the providers as

well as the network in terms of that, but it has been fully restored. The property tax system was one of our major focused area is one of the big three. It is now fully restored. Public access to the Fulton County property tax system, again, with a press conference that we held last week and discussed with the public again is fully operational. The property tax payments now may be completed online or by phone through the Fulton County Tax Commissioner's office. Property tax records are now available through the Fulton County Tax Assessor's website. So, I want to thank Dr. Ferdinand as well as Roderick Connolly for their leadership in those two offices as well as Mr. Chairman, your leadership in terms of communicating to the public, and then Dr. Ferdinand who provided a little bit more detail last week in terms of that -- that success. That'll be the template going forward in terms of continuing to keep the public informed of our progress. We continue to work on the justice system issues. And then, of course, those are more complicated and there are still some remaining. There are vendor personnel on site this week as there have been for some period of time to continue to make progress. For example, public access is now available to Fulton County Court Records through Research Georgia. This site includes many publicly available filings for superior, state, magistrate, and probate court; and if users do not have a Research Georgia account, they will need to create one. E-filing is also available for most courts at this time with the exception of file and serve express through the state court, and the juvenile court's JCAT system has been restored. Some filings that were made prior to the incident in late January may not appear at this time while restoration continues. For more information, the public should contact the respective court with which they are interacting. I also wanted to speak specifically to third-party background checks which have been in the news. Background checks conducted by the Fulton County Sheriff's office or Fulton County police office were not affected by the recent cyber security incident and have been continuously available. However, third-party background checks completed accessing court records were affected by the outage, and we've heard from a number of constituents who are personally impacted. Those checks can now be completed following the transition to a new record -- to a new record search site. That information is available online for the companies that are conducting those checks. As always, residents can find information on our website or by contacting our office customer service at customer service@fultonGA.gov or calling 404-612-4000. Again, work is ongoing in these areas of restoration that we talked about today, and there are others that I won't go into, but we'll continue to keep you and the public apprised of our progress. We do have now very detailed plans at both the department, the service level, and the system level that had been supported with a PMO, project management office that we've established that is also being assisted by Ernst and Young. I do think that we're now within weeks as opposed to months and, in fact, have termed it a forced march and a positive sense to get to restoration as soon as possible. So again, we are feeling better each day. I think Dr. Ferdinand said it well, when we get to the end of this journey, we will be in a better place, both from functionality as well as from a security perspective. So, Mr. Chairman, that concludes our report on the restoration efforts, and if there's no questions, I'll give a brief update on animal services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any questions? Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I just wondered -- it was mentioned to me that our justice partners might have some issues on-boarding new staff; has that been rectified?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. Thank you for raising that question. I probably should have included that in this as well: So one of the significant breakthroughs that we've also had is with our ERP system. So now there's connectivity between us at scale and the vendor where it's being housed, and that was the limitation to hiring as well as other personnel moves. We had call with all department heads yesterday to inform them that they are now able to begin the hiring process. And Ken reminded me of the date of April --"

**KENNETH HERMON, JR., CHIEF HR OFFICER:** "-- April 10th. Good morning, Commissioners."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "April 10th?"

**KENNETH HERMON, JR., CHIEF HR OFFICER:** "Yes."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So they are now able to make offers, on-board employees, again with an effective date of April the 10th. So, of course, it wasn't just justice partners, it was all departments were under that same restriction. The only exception that we worked with a very limited access that we had was for law enforcement vacancies in the Sheriff's office, Police Department, and Marshal's area."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Was the solicitor's office affected at all?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, they were affected like everyone else. They were not exempted in any sense of the word. In other words, they were restricted in some way every other department was restricted."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "But they should be good now?"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, thanks."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "All right, a brief update on the Animal Services IGA. As you recall, in the last meeting we reported that we had completed IGAs for animal services for all 14 cities with the exception of the city of Atlanta. These are five-year agreements through 2028 reflecting new costs that are being incurred with the construction of a new shelter, the staffing of that shelter; and as you know, we had several Department of Agriculture audits and findings that had to be brought into full compliance. We have met with the city of Atlanta on 02/28 as well as had several

discussions with them subsequently. I did receive another e-mail late yesterday indicating that we did not quite have an agreement and they desire to continue to discuss costs as well as perhaps some other issues, those were not clear. We have consulted with the County Attorney and believe there are some issues to operating this service in Atlanta's jurisdiction without an IGA, and I'm going to defer to Soo to explain -- to explain that to you. The conundrum right now is, of course, we are incurring these costs directly through the contracts with the provider, LifeLine, as well as any direct cost that we have, and they're about a million per month. Atlanta represents more than 50 percent of that both activity and ultimately what would be those costs for reimbursement. So, I think we are in a situation where we need guidance from you after you hear from the County Attorney as to what approach to take to try to close this out one way or the other. So, Mr. Chairman Pitts, if it's acceptable, I'll ask Soo Jo to comment and then we'll seek your guidance."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, sir. Madam County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. County Manager. Without getting into too many details in the open record about our legal positions, in terms of operating, as we are currently without a contract in the provision of animal services. I will say that I have concerns about the fact that the County has no jurisdiction or authority to provide animal control services in the absence of a written contract with the municipality within which we are operating. So as you can imagine, that puts us in an untenable position with increased risks and may impact our legal protections that we normally have in the provision of governmental services. So it's -- which is why we are pressing urgently for the County to have a legal contract to define our rights and risk and responsibilities as -- relative to the city of Atlanta."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. So that's -- I think that lays it out again pretty well. We have IGAs; they've been signed by 14, still in pending with Atlanta. It represents the most significant one. We do have increased costs consistent with all of the things being put in place to be compliant with the Department of Agriculture. There is some issue with continued operations without an agreement, and I think we're here again to provide this update today since I provided in the last meeting and then again to seek your guidance on approaching next steps."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So you need -- you're asking for direction from the Board?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I think that's appropriate. Vice Chair and then followed by Commissioner Ellis."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. So, County Manager, do I understand that there is an ask to go back to a previous cost structure that we had with them before as opposed to -- I just want to make sure I understand what you're saying."



**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. The latest, and we have not discussed this directly, but the latest e-mail indicated that their preference would be to stay at the previous 2023 costs while we continue to negotiate. And, of course, that I think is something that would be untenable for any long period of time."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "See, with all due respect, colleagues, I have a problem with that. And the problem I have is that is a, what, 40 million-dollar facility that sits in District Six? The charges that we're going to incur are not going to go to the 2023 prices. And so, it puts a undue -- very unfair burden on the County. I have to be -- I have to be candid about this. I'm disappointed. I'm disappointed that the city of Atlanta has taken a position that is going to affect city of Atlanta taxpayers that are housed in Fulton County. Fulton County -- City of -- okay, I'll tell you what, if the city of Atlanta don't want to pay, then the city of Atlanta need to take over their portion. And I'm a city of Atlanta resident. I'm a city of Atlanta pet owner. I'm a city of Atlanta individual that's trying to figure out why at this juncture are we starting the process all over again, based on what you're saying? That's what I'm getting from it. And that is an undue burden on the County. Those bills are going to continue to come in. I tell you what; they can go to the old shelter. How about that? They can go to the old, dilapidated shelter if they want the 2023 tax -- I mean, the prices to pay, they can go to the old shelter. Because it's unfair to put that kind of burden on the taxpaying citizens, or more importantly, Fulton County without taking responsibility that the bill's got to still be paid every day. The bills still have to be paid. So, Chairman, I think this warrants some type of action. I know that the County Attorney, you know, can't get into it. But I think, based on what I'm hearing, that's a very unfair predicament for us to be in because we got to continue to pay the bills, am I right, Chairman? We got to continue to pay the bills. And so, I think whatever action we need to take, it needs to be swift because you don't get to after a center -- \$40 million structure has been open and all of city of Atlanta is using it; and using the services of it and decide, wait a minute, we don't want to pay. I have concerns with that. I have concerns with the situation -- some of the things that were brought up in public comments that I'm going to look in to myself, but I think it sends a very bad message to the Fulton County taxpaying citizens who have to continually foot the bill if the city of Atlanta wants to use the services or allow the services to continue and not pay the bill."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'll just say that this is unconscionable on so many different levels. And the fact that in the Atlanta City Council Chambers last week, a council member did a proclamation recognizing LifeLine for the great work that they do in Fulton County in the city of Atlanta, but yet they're not paying their bills so that services can be provided. This is a mandated service to be done by the cities which they don't want to do, that they've IGA back to us for a number of years and we've done; and they want the city of Atlanta when we go through loss negotiations, wants to squeeze us and every other loving city in Fulton County so that they've got the most money coming into the

city of Atlanta. They've got the most sales-tax, one of the higher millage rates of all the cities, and the highest lost allocation. And then they want to come in and squeeze us on this, two months and 20 days into it. When did we provide this information on the IGA's going back to October, I want to say is when it was originally provided to them and the cost stuff?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. I think the first meetings were actually mid-year."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So this has been going on for over six months. You've had long enough to look at the information. There is no negotiation to be gone. These are the bills, pay them, or cut the service off. And I'm going to motion right now that we direct you to tell them that the bills are due or the services are cut off, and their obligation within one week. That's my motion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. That's a motion by Commissioner Ellis. Is there a second at this time? Is there a second at this time?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Can we legally cut off the services?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam County Attorney?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Currently, we are operating without a contract, so in addition to the other issues that I previously mentioned, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman touched upon another potential issue which is a gratuities clause violation. We're now currently giving valuable services at the expense of the taxpayers without a proper contract in place defining what is going to be reimbursed. And the other thing I would mention in terms of the negotiation is that this is a not-for-profit service that we're providing. So in terms of negotiation, really what they would be asking for reduction in costs to them would be a subsidy from the County, and that's also going to run into a potential gratuities issue. So, I think the risks of continuing to provide the service without having a defined payment structure that covers the costs outweighs the risk of ceasing the services at this point if Atlanta is not willing to enter into a contract."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So do we have the permission to cut off the service? I mean there's nothing that's -- there's nothing that's legally preventing us from cutting off the services if they aren't going to pay for it, right?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. I second the motion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne, I didn't hear you."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, I'm going to second Commissioner Ellis' motion as well as, is there any way that for every -- that we start charging interest if they do not sign the contract?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So again, one of the dangers of operating outside of the contract is that our rights are undefined at this point. We are -- typically, we would use the contract that is in place to define what happens when a County doesn't -- excuse me, a party does not pay. But we don't have clearly defined rights. We would have to research what rights we have and what we could pursue given the absence of a structured IGA."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah, because I see we have 14 cities that are paying their fair share; and we have one city that just doesn't seem that they need to follow in line, and they're the biggest offender, and they don't seem to be doing anything to try to curb their pet intake in our shelters by passing any legislation at all. So, I just feel like if they don't pay, then we just keep raising -- raising their rate to cover for not paying for every day that they don't pay, because they've been slow-walking this for nine months now."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion on the floor. It's seconded by Commissioner Ellis -- it's been seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Colleagues, I would caution us to think deliberately before reacting with the seven-day deadline with one of our city partners -- with our largest city partner. I would hate for us to paint ourselves or push ourselves into a corner. My understanding -- obviously, we got 14 other cities that have signed on. I think it's a lot easier for the 14 other cities to sign on because all of their numbers are pretty low. When I look at the numbers, Atlanta's got almost 10,000 animal complaints or animals that they're servicing and, you know, the other cities have a lot less, right? Atlanta's numbers looks like we are asking them -- basically, they have the most people. They have the most stuff that has to be looked at. So we've got to -- certainly, I think we need to move quickly. I think we need to have, you know, as many more meetings with them as we can to try to resolve this issue sooner than later. I don't know that it necessarily benefits us or them or our residents -- our joint residents and our non-joint residents for us to kind of start drawing lines in the sand. I got a text message today asking why DeKalb, Cobb, and Gwinnett don't charge their cities for animal services. I think that's a good question. It might not be relevant to what we have going on now, but certainly, if DeKalb, Cobb, and Gwinnett are not charging their cities for animal services, maybe there's something else that we can do. Additionally, whether they pay the bill or not, the new facility is still there. We still got to pay for the new facility whether we provide services to Atlanta or not. So, I don't know necessarily that the new facility should weigh into this, right? That was a capital cost. Cost of the new facility was a one-time capital cost. So I don't know how the price tag, \$35, \$40 million for the facility weighs into the provision or the operating cost, right? The ongoing every

day operating costs. LifeLine -- same provider, same provider provide services for DeKalb; however, DeKalb eats that entire cost. So I think there are some other items -- I think this is -- it's a tough issue, right? Because nobody wants to see, you know -- it's easy to draw lines in the sand and point fingers until a child gets attacked by a pitbull, right? And so, I think we need to move a little more cautiously, but with some expediency so that we get this issue resolved one way or the other. I think we can take it up at our next meeting without drawing this line in the sand -- the seven-day line in the sand. I think we could address some of these issues, have as many additional meetings that we need to have with them to see if there is a path forward; and if there's not a path forward, then, you know, it is what it is. But I think we owe it to our citizens to move a little differently and not again draw lines in the sands and, you know, oh the city's did this and the city comes back and says the county did this like -- it's a real issue, and we're incurring real costs right now. But those costs are operational cost, not the cost of the facility. And so, I just think we need to be -- move a little more careful, but still operate with expediency. Today is the 20<sup>th</sup>; seven days will take us to next Wednesday; I mean, there's no reason that we couldn't -- I mean, if we've provided the service for two days and 20 months, there's no reason that we couldn't finish out the month, right? And provide the service and bring this back up at our next meeting in April. Well, I guess I need a little bit more information on the operational cost versus the capital cost. And I don't know, maybe that's something you can share with us now, County Manager that could maybe answer some more questions or shed some more light."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. I can do that."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So the only thing included in the IGA are the operating costs with one exception, and that is there's 500,000, and correct me, Sharon, if I don't get this correctly -- for capital improvements, as you move along, and, you know, in the life of that building. But generally speaking, the operating costs including that is almost \$12 million a year, 11.7 million. So think of it as about one million per month. The cost to construct and then service the debt on the 40 million-dollar building is not included in any of that. It's separate and apart. So it's not included. The IGA then, with each city is structured around the percent utilization of services, meaning how many calls for service that a city had for animal control in the previous year, and Atlanta had 54 percent of those jurisdictional responses last year. So they bear then the cost of 11.7 times 54, 55 percent, and that's what the IGA is based on. The one reason that the facility comes into play is not the direct cost of the facility. The facility is twice as large as the order facility; so driven by that in the necessity based on the population of dogs, the overcrowding, the department of agriculture audits that we receive, we also expanded the staffing to adequately staff a facility twice as large. So that is a -- that is a cost driver. The other cost driver overall, in terms of increase, in terms of term over term, is that the previous term did not have any cost increases for the previous five to six years. So if you think of everything that's

happened from the inflationary perspective in terms of labor cost, veterinary costs, supply costs, all of that was held in advance for five years. It's now in the new contract at market rate, which is significantly higher. But it is -- I've forgot who said it, but these are all a passthrough. In other words, we're not billing cities and then keeping the monies for some other use. We are passing through these costs that were either bid or procured to staff this facility and provide all of the field operations and vehicles and everything that go into the securing of an animal that's -- that's in the community."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. So, I guess for me, you know, obviously if it was a passthrough, a straight passthrough, I assume that there's got to be some type of administrative expense that is also added on just for how we add on all of our general administration expenses. There's got to be something allocated for finance or people --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- well, let me take a check on that. I don't -- I think these are all direct costs, but Sharon --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We've not allocated any indirect cost to the animal services fund in the \$12 million that we're looking to recover through the IGA."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, let me ask this question: How do Cobb, DeKalb, and Gwinnett -- how are they able to provide these services without billing their cities? DeKalb has LifeLine. We don't have to go to Cobb and Gwinnett. DeKalb has the exact same provider. They have the exact same provider, yet they do not ask the cities for any money. So we might need to sit down at the table, and maybe it's too late to sit down at the table -- I get what Commissioner Ellis is saying: hey, we've been going down this road for a while, but if there are at least three -- the three other major counties -- three of the other top five major counties that are able to provide this service with no additional costs, and one of them uses the exact same provider and still does not pass costs along to the city, we might need to look at how we have our deal structured."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, Commissioner, you'll recall that we talked about that several years ago, that the County -- constitutionally, we are only responsible for rabies. But through the years we've done all things animal and we've made that decision. But we talked about several years ago the County paying for it, to your point, pay for all animal control as well as all Elections out of the general fund, but the Board decided not to."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, I mean, I think there's a -- I mean, you know, we've got a new item right now -- I don't think we are precluded from making a decision now based on a decision that was made in the --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- no, not at all. Not at all."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And all I'm saying is, to the extent that there are potentially at least three other counties that provide this service without any additional costs to the cities, we might need to look at what we're doing and what we're charging. How much do we charge? How much is generated through the contract? Are we charging the same rates? I mean, if you want to go get your dog spayed or neutered, is that free? Is there -- what are the costs? How much money is LifeLine generating in DeKalb? How much are they generating in Fulton? All I'm saying is, hey, we got this bill, we need to get there. I just don't know that it makes sense to necessarily draw lines in the sand and start issuing deadlines. I mean, we don't even have another meeting before seven days. I don't know when the city council's next meeting is or when they could take action or if they can even take action in seven days. So I think -- you know, I would argue that the more prudent thing to do is to get back to the table, try to get something hammered out by the end of the month, if at all possible. And certainly, you know, maybe we need to look at some other alternatives or raising fees or anything at any additional ways to generate revenue from the provision of this service."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So are you suggesting that the -- well, what's contained in the motion by Commissioner Ellis, it was seven days, I believe, you take it to the end of the month or until -- continue to negotiate until our next meeting, and if there is no agreement by then, then we take some definitive action. Is that what you suggest is sort of?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Basically. I think that, you know, might be more beneficial not only to us and the city, but also to the residence -- our joint residence and our non-joint residents."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But we've tried, Mr. Manager. Help me out here now. We've tried everything. I've made myself available 24 hours a day. Mr. Manager, will get a call from -- what's his title, Mr. McDonnell --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- Chief of Staff."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Chief of Staff. He's going to call him at 4:30 one day, don't hear from him for another 24 hours, and it's just pushback, pushback, pushback. And we told them, we had a meeting today and still nothing. But if we need to buy more -- I mean."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I got a text from him -- I got a text from the mayor this morning; several, in fact, about this specific issue. So, hey, the will of the Board is the will of the Board. I just, you know, think there are some other things that we need to consider and, you know."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What do we say to the 14 cities that have -- I'm not opposed to continuing to ask them to step -- they got to pay at some point, but what do we say to the other 14 cities who are paying? It's just a question."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Hey, I mean, I think it's a good question and, you know; hey, again, the motion was for seven days and I'm saying, hey, you know, we could probably wait till the end of the month or until the next meeting. So, you know, but before making a final decision, right? But whatever the will of the Board is."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Vice Chairman and then Commissioner Ellis. But I hear what you're saying."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sir. Sir. Sir."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I actually am trying to figure out who in here would say, okay, I'm going to come to work and not get their pay? Because we're looking at the exact same situation. The failure in leadership to make a decision with a partner that benefits the taxpaying citizen is a failure in leadership. At the end of the day, city of Atlanta does not get a pass and you tell the Fulton County taxpayers, oh, we just got to take it on. We just got to deal with it. It is about being stewards of tax payer dollars. I live in the city of Atlanta; I am a Fulton County taxpayer. City of Atlanta does not have the authority to decide we're not going to pay our bill, and it affects the citizens of Atlanta. That is not fair. Let's look at the numbers: over 50 -- I think, County Manager we're talking about 55 percent of the usage of that service is by one city. Have we looked at that? One city versus the other? That is not fair. Do I want to publicly be quoted as saying something against city of Atlanta leadership, no? But right is right. You have to stand on what's right for everybody. You can't look the other way because it's city of Atlanta. That's not fair. And to sit up and say well, let's keep going and let's give them more time and let's do this and let's -- it's disingenuous when you're a Fulton County Commissioner. I was elected as a Fulton County Commissioner; not a Cobb Commissioner; not a Gwinnett Commissioner, but a Fulton Commissioner. And my job first and foremost is the steward of taxpayer dollars. Do I want to see this happen, no? And I hope that if we are in the signal sending phase of this, we need to send a signal. Now, I want to make a friendly amendment that instead of seven days, make it at least 14 days and, hopefully, the calls that are going to Commissioner Arrington will go to the County Manager, or better yet, the Chair. Because at this point, Fulton County taxpaying citizens should not bear the burden of somebody that decided that they're going to use 54 percent of the service, not pay the bills, not go into a contract and say oh, well. So I would like to make a friendly amendment that it's 14 days instead of seven."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'll accept that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. He accepts that. All right. Fourteen days will take us to when? Is that the next meeting?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "That's April something first, third."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "When is the next meeting?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Tenth."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "April 10th."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And 14 days is when?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "April 3rd."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And, Chairman, please understand why I said 14 days."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I understand what you're saying."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "If in the 14 days the decision is the message that's sent here, that in 14 days we are going to move to discontinue service. Is THAT the understanding, Commissioner Ellis?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "We will discontinue service."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "We will discontinue service in 14 days if an agreement is not reached. You don't get to change the game after the end of the fourth quarter. And we way past the fourth quarter."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'll be real brief on this. Like, if I'm a citizen and I don't pay my electricity bill, my electricity gets cut off. If I don't pay my mortgage, it goes into foreclosure, right? And there's a reasonable window with that, but it happens. Certainly, within a fairly short period of time, you know, and we're exceeding that period of time where we are here. You know, this is a -- this is a service we're providing. This is the way these contracts -- this is what they agreed to, you know. We didn't have a different agreement when we negotiated the loss and all that sort of stuff that we were going to assume it, and I'll just give the citizens sort of a frame of reference for -- you know, the revenue we're receiving for loss in 2022 was 18.6 million. The city of Atlanta received 149.8 million in loss dollars. In addition to that, they received general fund money through your millage rates, received other money through sales taxes, for your roads that some of you say don't get paved, for sewer upgrades, et cetera. So plenty of funding coming in there; and here we are sitting here March 20th and we're being put in a posture of basically seeking and negotiate against ourselves. I don't have time for that. We have much bigger problems to deal with within Fulton County to address. We -



- you know, all of this stuff about, you know, we should look at the Cobb and we should look at DeKalb, we've already done our own study around this. We did a very thorough study when we built -- constructed the new facility. We stayed out of trouble with the agriculture department, unlike some of the other counties, even though we may have the same provider; and we looked at cost allocations we're in other metro areas and where we stood, and we're below that. I don't like the fact that I paid 25 percent more for my dog food than I did two years ago. I don't like the fact that I have to pay significant increases for veterinary care, but those are the realities of what you -- what you have to bear when you have to provide a service, which we're doing. It costs more. It's clear. It's plain and simple. I don't know what we've even continue to sort of talk about this for, because we've already gone through the work, done a study, presented the information. It is what it is; the numbers are what they are. Do you want to pay for the service, pay it. If you want to go do it on your own, go do it on your own. You have two weeks. Let us know."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Madam County Attorney, would you explain one more time the liability for us continuing without a contract, in simple language what that means. Commissioner Arrington, while you were out, there was a friendly amendment to go from seven days to 14 days, and that was accepted by Ellis. And if within that, if we continue to negotiate within the 14 days; but if we do not have an agreement -- not an agreement that's not signed within 14 days, then we take some definitive action. All right. Madam County Attorney, explain the liability once again for us to continue to operate."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Just to recap very briefly, my concerns are in three areas: the first one is we do not have the jurisdictional authority to provide animal control, which is specifically reserved in the constitution for --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- wait. We do not have what?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Authority or jurisdiction to provide animal control services within municipal boundaries absent an IGA, absent a written agreement. That's the first concern."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So if we're operating outside of that, then we potentially have legal ramifications should there be an incident. The second concern is the gratuities issue, if we provide valuable services at taxpayer expense without seeking recovery of those expenses it's essentially a gift that is prohibited. And the third concern is we can operate -- we have been providing services beyond the December 31st, 2023 and of the previous agreement. So now we are outside of an agreement, and with governmental entities like counties and cities, there is no such thing as a quantum (indiscernible.). You have to have a written agreement in order to recover monies against cities and counties. So although I do not -- I hope that that would never happen."

We could be in a position where we have provided, you know, months of valuable services and have no right of recovery."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, just those three are significant. Commissioner Natalie Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. You mentioned operating outside of the IGA; so how long have we been doing that so far?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "At this point, we've been doing that since January 1st, because the negotiations that have occurred in good faith since at least October, if not summer of last year, have not yielded a finalized executed contract."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So we've been operating outside of the IGA since January 1<sup>st</sup>; and do we have insurance that covers us? How are we doing that, now?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm not aware of any insurance that applies, which is why the County has been pressing for a signed agreement with the city."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And I'm just a little shocked at how we are dealing with our city of Atlanta on this. I cannot tell you how many times I've received phone calls from vendors who are not paid on time by Fulton County; and one thing that I know for certain is that having been the Commissioner of the previous District Four, the way that it was drawn before it was changed through the Governor's signature at beginning of 2023 and now serving the newly drawn District Four, is that animal services are absolutely needed within the city of Atlanta. And I've seen in my own neighborhood two stray dogs that have been running around the neighborhood, and the school bus stops almost directly in front of my house. So I know that animal services are needed. So I think we absolutely need to take the time to continue to negotiate with the city because these services are needed. How would we look if a child is mauled to death by an animal? By a stray dog, and we're up here fighting about a contract. The services need to continue. Now, Commissioner Arrington spoke -- and I think it's very rude when my colleagues continue to talk while other Commissioners are taking their time on the microphone to talk and have been called by the Chairman to speak. Nobody does that to them. So as I was saying, we need to tread lightly. And if 14 days only takes us to April 3rd, which is not the next BOC meeting, was it said the next BOC meeting is April 10th? April 10th is the next BOC meeting. We should really take it up until April 10th. So that would be an additional seven days which will make it 21 days, since the next BOC is actually April 10th. So I'd like to make a friendly amendment to add the additional seven days so that we actually are taking this up to the next BOC meeting, which is April 10th."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Do you accept that, Commissioner Ellis?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "No, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. That's not accepted. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess my question is, let's assume city of Atlanta doesn't want to pay and we cease the services in the city of Atlanta, do we still owe LifeLine 12 million? I mean, if the city of Atlanta has 10,000 responses per year and it's 54 percent of that contract, does the value of our contract go down to \$6 million? If the city -- if we exclude the city of Atlanta, and only pay for the first three months for the city of Atlanta?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "That's the analysis that we'll have to do, Commissioner Arrington. It's a very valid point. We will clearly reduce the demand by 50 percent, and then having done this many times in a different environment, then it'll be question of, for example, what costs are fixed or semi-fixed and are completely bearable? So, for example, people who are being dispatched as field service officers into the city of Atlanta, totally variable, and I would think those costs will be eliminated and the contract would be revised. But if you have one supervisor, one supervisor that was supervising the folks who are going into Atlanta and out of Atlanta, then you can't cut that person in half. So that 'll be a cost that will be fixed. So there will be some sorting of all that, and we can certainly do that over the next several weeks. We have not done that heretofore, to look at again what costs would be eliminated with a 50 to 55 percent reduction in volume?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I mean, I think, we -- you know, we need to start looking at that, right? I mean, given the conversation and where we are now, I mean -- because it doesn't -- in my mind -- even if I wanted to support this, if we still are going to have to pay the \$12 million; it doesn't make any sense."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. Now that would not be the case. But what I've cautioned all along is, again, having done this, the likelihood that you'll eliminate all of the costs that were associated with Atlanta's payment, is probably not likely. So we will end up with some costs that will not be covered because you will not have the ability to eliminate 50 something percent, but it won't be 12 million. It will be something less than that. The real question is will it be -- will it be if Atlanta was going to pay 6.4 million, will it be 12 less 6.4 or 5.6? Will it be that? I suspect it will not. So your point is still valid; it's just a matter of degree."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And when did we negotiate this LifeLine contract? I mean, what I'm going to ask you is what comes first, the chicken or the egg, right? How do we get into a 12 million-dollar contract with LifeLine without already having the city secured? Especially, the one city that has got all over 54, 55 percent of the stuff. Like, that would be the first city to get locked in before committing to a 12 million-dollar contract, right? Well I mean --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well again, I think your point's valid. I think the assumption was made all along that everyone was in alignment as it relates to the necessity of the service, the requirement to increase the facility, the then corresponding cost that would go along, is very valid to say could have every city been negotiated with before we got to the end of the year? I think that's now obvious that it would have been helpful to have that. The offset to that is, if these contracts are not binding in the sense of, in other words, any change can necessitate us renegotiating the contract. So we certainly have the ability to do that now, and we're not committed to a 12 million-dollar contract that we can't alter."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Well, it is what it is. I think it's a very important issue. Certainly, I think the concerns that the County Attorney brought up are important. I think the other 14 cities paying, that's important. But more important to me than all of that, is making sure no child gets mauled by a dog on the streets. I -- you know, that other stuff, hey, you know, I can live with us violating all that stuff she mentioned. I can't live with another child being mauled on the street. So that's where I come down on that issue. I understand the Board may have a different will -- Commissioner Ellis, what is the motion and what was the friendly amendment and what happens after the 14 days? Let me just make sure I understand exactly what is on the table."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis, go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "The service will be discontinued at that point."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You had spoken about the 14 days, so that was made and he accepted that as a friendly amendment, but at the end of those 14 days, and I will commit to continue to make myself available to the mayor and his team, just waiting for them to sign."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So at the end of 14 days the service stops. Regardless of whether we have to keep paying the 12 million, or are you saying -- well, there may be a reduction and then we'll be -- you think you can get kind of just a full reduction or get a reduction, but it will not be a full reduction?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. And I asked for that analysis to begin last night."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I mean, because it sounds like a 54, 55 percent reduction in the work which, you know, maybe with some of those people that got hired, I mean, I guess, you know, if you hired twice as many people and now we're back down to the regular number of people because if we don't have the city of Atlanta and half the cost. So don't we have a different agreement with the city of Palmetto? Aren't they charged differently? Don't they -- aren't they charged on a per-call basis or something?"

Didn't they ask for something to reduce the impact of the amount of calls or they had their police response first or something like that?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "They do have. I'll have to ask Joe Barrosin to give us some details on that, because he just met with the new mayor who may have a different philosophy based on what he told me a couple of days ago then the previous mayor. So I'm not sure if they -- for sure if they didn't have a call for service to us, meaning that they deployed their police, they handle the situation without involvement of our animal control officers, then that was never calculated as a use of service. But I don't know of any other differences beyond that."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "We can vote."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "We can vote. Just the -- I was going to call the question, but I'm just ready to vote."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, anything else? All right, the motion before us then -- the friendly amendment was accepted by Commissioner Ellis to extend and we can continue to negotiate for an additional 14 days, and if at the end of the 14 days there is not an agreement, then we will cease providing the services within the city of Atlanta. And on top of that, there will be, as expected, a reduction in -- a possible reduction in the cost that'll be evaluated by the mayor -- strike that, by the Manager. And also the County Attorney mentioned three, I thought, very relevant issues as to why this agreement is needed. So that's what's before us. That's the motion. Let's vote, please."

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 7, **24-0194**: Request approval to extend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$305,000 to complete the evaluation process for electronic pretrial monitoring services."

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** " 24-0164, Human Resources Management: Request approval of a Resolution renewing authorization for enhanced overtime compensation for designated Sheriff personnel."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. A couple of things on this. I know we had asked for some additional information from the Director of HR on some stuff and asked for some other questions. But I just -- to be quite frank on this; I think time and a half is where we should be on this. I don't think that -- I think the double time was a short-term measure -- should be a short-term measure. It's not something that's sustainable, and as I understand it, just so I'd make sure about this sort of the ability to pay time and a half, that's within the purview of the agency at this point in time, correct?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Yes. The Sheriff has the authority to authorize time and a half in lieu of comp time right now."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So there's nothing that needs to be done with that? They've got the ability to do it? They've got the ability to pay that and have had the ability to pay that, correct?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, all right. So with that, I'm going to have a motion to deny."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to deny. Is there a second? Is there a second? Motion to deny; it's seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I just wanted to let the Fulton County taxpaying citizens know that I never got an answer to my question. Here again, I'm going to continue to ask the question until I get an answer. Unfortunately, the conversation that I had with the Sheriff -- and I know he's not here to defend himself -- but from my understanding, the conversation I had with him was that the money that was paid out, was accidentally paid out, should have been paid out from a different fund. If that is not true, then I need clarification on that. But I just want to let the taxpaying citizens know that I did not get the answer from the Sheriff of who made that statement to me. And so, the person that made the statement to me should give me clarification on it. I'm still waiting on an answer from that question."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, the answer to that question is the same answer that I gave last week. The money was spent inappropriately, the man was fired, and the money has been spent. It's been spent. If you want to go back to the vendors, you can go back to those vendors yourself."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I didn't have a conversation with you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Hold on, I'm talking, I have the floor. If you want to go to the vendors, you can go to those vendors yourself and try to get that money. You can -- hold on, I'm talking. I'm talking. This is my turn. It's my turn."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute. You have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It's my turn."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. It's my turn. So the money has been spent. The person that spent it wrong was fired. That's where the money is, and she's trying to use this as a political ploy because she is supporting another candidate. This is drama. This is political melodrama. This is so crazy that we're down here doing this. All of this. It's so crazy, and I'm telling you this -- look, let me -- look, I try to be calm and collected in these meetings. Went and got me a fresh haircut. Look, let me tell you something. These people -- these people are going to put the Sheriff's deputies in danger. They're going to make the jail even less safe than it is today, all right? All of this is because they are supporting somebody else, all right? This has nothing to do with governing Fulton County. This has to do with who they want in office. They want somebody else in office. This has nothing to do with governance. And to sit there and to repeat -- and every time you ask that question, I'm going to answer it the same way. I'm going to answer it the same way every time. You want to ask it ten times? I'm going to answer it the same way ten times. You didn't put any money back in there. You want him to take the overtime money? You want him to take salary money to pay the money back? Did you put some money in the budget for him to pay that money back? If you didn't put any money in the budget for him to pay it back and you took away all the money from the inmate welfare fund, where do you think the money is going to go? The money didn't go into the Sheriff's pocket. The money didn't go into his hands. It went to vendors. Those vendors were paid. So if you want to get the money back from the vendors, go call them your damn self."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion on the floor is to deny. Commissioner Natalie Hall, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "In order to try to get this resolved, I contacted the Sheriff myself and asked him to please respond to Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman's question, and he said that he tried to call several times and received no response, no answer. And I said well, you still need to call, e-mail, do whatever you need to do to respond. And he said he did that. So I don't know where all of this is coming from. Communication goes both ways. So, Commissioner Arrington answered the question. That is the truth of the matter, and it is what it is."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. Just to clarify: the person that gave me the answer is the person that should answer. Nobody else can answer for the Sheriff. And as far as support, there are Commissioners down here that support whoever they want to support. That is their God-given right. And so, I put forth again, nobody down here is sitting in my cell phone and has a crystal ball and can tell me that somebody tried to reach me. The best thing to clear this up, if that's the case, is for the Sheriff to come down here and stand in front of everyone and answer the question. So the question is still out there and I would like a question answered from the person who stated it to me."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. I mean, there -- there are different layers of conversations going on here, but I just want to be clear specifically about my remarks as it relates to whether or not we should fund double overtime, period. All this other stuff about whether -- that's not the subject of my remarks, and why I have moved that this be denied. I want to be crystal-clear that I feel like time and a half is adequate and is more customary and it's moving towards that. If this was a point in time where maybe it made some sense, I don't think it does anymore. The Sheriff has the ability to pay time and a half; has always had that ability to pay time and a half, and I feel like if there are excess funds on top of that, they should be focused in on hiring more detention officers and increasing staffing. And I made these remarks, now going over, I want to say, you know, probably going back a year and a half now, that I felt like this was more -- this should be more of our priority getting the staffing up for detention officers and folks that are doing that work within the jail. We asked for reports to be provided in terms of where we were on that, how we were tracking that, because we did provide specific funding for it. We have not really seen any of that. When we asked for what we did, we got, I think, one update and that all it stopped. So I think that's where the priority should be, and that continuing to pay double time is not a practice. It doesn't make sense and it's really going to address the issues that we have, so thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. If the question is still out there, the answer is still out there. And, yes, I'm supporting who I want to. I'm supporting, Ali Carter, for your seat."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute, everyone. Just a minute. We're not playing politics here. Commissioner Natalie Hall, you have the floor. You have the floor, Ms. Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Were you done, Commissioner Arrington?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Believe it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. So I do recall that the Sheriff came down here, and he provided a very detailed report. He gave it to every one of us. Why does that not suffice as a response when he tried to provide a response? Is there a new question on the floor? Is there a new question on the floor? You can talk while I'm talking, but you can't answer a question that I ask? I just think it's really immature; the behavior of the people who are supposed to be leaders. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis. All right. The motion on the --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'd call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The question has been called. Let's vote on the call of the question, Madam Clerk. The question's been called by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote on the call of the question."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the call of the question. And the motion passes; four yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now back to the main motion which is to deny. Let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the motion to deny. And the motion passes; four yeas, two nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Continue, Madam Clerk. Vice Chair, I need to get back over to the Capitol, would you --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- yes, sir."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0195, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval to amend an existing contract for janitorial services for selected County facilities in an amount not to exceed \$7,200."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0196: Request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to provide standby landscape design and installation services."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, 24-0197: Request approval to amend an existing contract for janitorial services in the amount of \$231,503."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0198: Request approval to amend an existing contract for general landscaping and lawn care services in the total amount of \$184,909."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0199: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders in total amount not to exceed \$375,000 to provide standby on-site electrical on-call maintenance services."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote. Excuse me. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Ellis."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion fails -- motion passes with Commissioner Hall; four yeas, zero nays."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0200:** Information Technology: Request approval of a statewide contract in the total amount of \$1,350,000 to provide countywide audio/visual systems, equipment, support, and services."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ellis -- I'm sorry. It's not showing on my -- who is this?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Hall."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0201:** Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders in a total amount not to exceed \$6,966,300 to provide countywide structured cabling services."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 9, **24-0202:** Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to -- in the amount of \$932,943.50 to provide telecommunication services and products."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **24-0203**, Public works: Request approval to renew existing contracts in a total amount not to exceed \$2,400,000 to provide standby miscellaneous construction services for the Fulton County water distribution system."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion made by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0204**: Request approval to extend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to provide management on-site administrative services for the required storm water management program within unincorporated area of Fulton County."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion fails. It's, yes, for Commissioner Hall. Motion passes; four yeas, zero nays."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0205**, Community Development: Request approval to amend an existing contract in an amount of \$812,401 to provide housing rehabilitation services."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0206**, Senior Services: Request approval to amend a Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of financial support in the amount of \$100,000 to provide life enrichment, fitness, and congregate dining services for the senior population of Fulton County."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion made by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10, **24-0207**: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$109,824 to provide pool maintenance for all four senior multipurpose facilities."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion made by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0208**: Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Fulton County and the Fulton County Board of Health for the reimbursement of tuberculosis testing costs."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion made by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order. What was that, 208? Yeah, never mind. Keep going. I'm sorry."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I apologize, Madam Clerk. Favorable motion made by Commissioner Bridget Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**CLERK GRIER:** "That was for 208."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Oh, I'm sorry."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes. So the next item will be **24-0209**, Behavior Health."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** Madam Chair -- I mean, Madam Clerk, I want to make a motion to break for lunch. It is 12:11. And so, I make a motion that we break for lunch and deal with any items for executive session."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order. We just -- can we at least vote on 209? We had a motion and a second."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, no problem. No problem. Thank you."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0209: Request approval to amend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,433,015 to provide behavior health services and supportive services for diverted youth."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Favorable motion made by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Now, I apologize. I'll entertain a motion to break for lunch and executive session."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion for executive session --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I have a request to reconsider the agenda."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Wait, wait, wait, wait. Point of order: She has got to announce the vote from the last thing before we start trying to go anywhere else."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And that motion failed; three yeas, one nays."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I have a motion to reconsider the agenda and take the Commissioners' Action Items after we take forth some discussion items. And I make this request because Chairman Pitts has an item that -- one of his items is a Commissioners' Action Item. So we have two discussion items, presentation items, External Affairs -- well actually three; Elections update and Select Fulton. I'd like to reconsider it so we get to have those presentations be made at this time."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Motion to reconsider made by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Bridget Thorne -- excuse me, Commissioner Thorne."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open to reconsider the agenda. And the motion fails; three yeas, one nay."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Colleagues, I have the floor and I just want to openly say the Chairman asked -- because he does have an item that we have a particular time that we adhere to. If we're not going adhere to that time, understand the concessions that you unfortunately will not make for the Chairman may not be afforded to you. And so, I just wanted to let the public know that the Chairman is at the State in a very important meeting headed back to here, and he has an item. Before he left, he asked that we break for lunch between the 12:15, 12:10 mark for Executive Session and lunch in order to give him an opportunity to get back for his item. And so, if we're not going to do that, I want to openly say that I -- that request was made by the Chairman. If we're not going do it, then so be it. Madam Clerk, you can call the next item."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 10, Commissioners' Action Items, **24-0210**: Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101, Article II, Division I of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances, to modify Code Section 101-42, to afford the Department of External Affairs a minimal time frame to complete proclamations requested by the Board of Commissioners; to establish the form, scope, and subject matter of proclamations; and to assess a 20-dollar administrative fee for every drafted proclamation requested by the Board of Commissioners; to limit the number of proclamations to only one per Commissioner at each Board of Commissioners' meeting as adopted at the January 16, 2024 Special Call Meeting; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Madam Clerk. I've just been informed that we do not have a quorum; so therefore, we cannot handle the business of the day at this time without the stated quorum that we need to have. So it looks like we're in limbo at this point."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "They couldn't get the votes so they walked out y'all. They couldn't get the votes, so they walked out y'all."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "You're out of order. Commissioner Arrington, you're of order."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I sure am."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Oh, happy day. Madam Clerk, make sure you keep time at what point we lost a quorum."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, ma'am."

**(Whereupon, a quorum was lost at 12:17 p.m.)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Officially, we're not at lunch. We don't have a quorum. And so, if you all want just to stay close by, at which time a quorum returns, we'll start back with the agenda. Thank you."

\*\*\*\*\*

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. I'll entertain the -- the motion to break for lunch and executive session."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open for executive session."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Vice Chair, can I make a comment before we move on this?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, if you don't want to choose to vote on it and make -- continue to make us all look like an embarrassment that falls upon you, not upon the rest of us."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Can I say something? I just hope we can have the executive courtesy to our Chairman who is doing State business down at the Capitol to allow him time for to come back."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "You know --"

**CLERK GRIER:** "-- and the motion fails, three nays."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- the Fulton County taxpaying citizens are watching this; let me just remind my colleagues. Fulton County taxpaying citizens are watching this."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "They want to break for lunch because they know they don't have the votes to get these next items --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- point of order, Vice Chair --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- and we don't want --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- point of order. He's out of order. He's out of order."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- you're out of order Commissioner Arrington. You're out of order; decorum. "

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "As usual."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Decorum."



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "As usual. Make that my nickname."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Decorum, Commissioner Arrington. You're out of order."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So are the people that walked out when the next agenda item came on; and then walked right back in. I can walk out and walk back in myself."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Like I said, I apologize to the Fulton County taxpaying citizens that are watching this, at this point. This is your taxpayer dollars at work. We do not have a quorum. Executive staff, I apologize. I officially cannot dismiss you all, I don't believe. County Attorney, I cannot. And so, contrary to the belief that people can break rules down here, I'm not going to break the rules; so we'll just sit here and wait."

**(Whereupon, meeting back in session at 12:43 p.m.)**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam County Attorney, how much do we have for executive session? How much -- how many items?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "We have eight items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Eight? I got to get back over to the Capitol. Let's -- all right, I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and executive session: items for real estate, litigation, and personnel. All right, motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

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

**(Break taken at 12:45 p.m.)**

**(Resume Regular Session at 1:24 p.m.)**

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have six action items from Executive Session. First, is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item 1 of the agenda?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Second, is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item 2 of the agenda?"

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item 3 of the agenda?"

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item 4 of the agenda?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the request for settlement authority in item 6 of the agenda?"

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the request for a transfer agreement with a new entity in item 7 of the agenda?"

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

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madam County Attorney. Madam Clerk, continue."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 10, Commissioners' Actions Items, **24-0210**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to afford the Department of External Affairs a minimum timeframe to complete proclamations requested by the Board of Commissioners to establish the form, scope, and subject matter of proclamations, and to assess a \$20 administrative fee for every drafted proclamation requested by the Board of Commissioners to limit the number of proclamations to only one per Commissioner at each Board of Commissioners meeting, as adopted at the January 16th, 2024 Special Called meeting, and for other purposes; sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner -- Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I'll be brief in my comments. I believe that proclamations are representative of what individuals have done for Fulton County or something in respective to impacting even the state of Georgia. I do believe at some point there should be some type of limit on proclamations. When you start giving out proclamations for people just breathing hard, I mean you dimension the -- the impact of it. And no one here can say who deserves or who doesn't deserve a proclamation. But I think it's in all fairness, everybody, every Fulton County citizen cannot get a proclamation. All of the voting constituents of District 6 cannot get a proclamation. And so I think at some point, we have to take the position of if the proclamations are truly going to be what they're for, which is to actually give a person a day in their name, then you can't hand them out like Tic-Tacs. And so I'm in support of this, in that I believe it speaks to the validity of not only what the proclamations are for, but also keeping the costs and the work down. When it comes to a point that any particular Commissioner, External Affairs have to work to make sure that that Commissioner has all of their proclamations done in addition to ours, I think it can be a hardship. And so for that, I'm going to support it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Natalie Hall, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is -- can Jessica Corbitt please step up to the microphone?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Hey, good afternoon, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Hey, good afternoon. Good afternoon. Proclamations are currently under your department, right?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, ma'am, that's correct."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so how long have Fulton County Commissioners been sponsoring proclamations?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "They have sponsored proclamations, I don't know, Commissioner. But I've worked here for 25 years, and that has been the case the whole time."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The whole time, okay. And so how have they been paid for all of these years?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner, to my knowledge, those, the supplies for proclamations have -- to my knowledge, have been included in our department budget during that time."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So the supplies to create the proclamations have been paid out of your budget for as long as you know?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And has something changed with your budget? Did you not receive the funding to continue to -- to --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "No, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- purchase those supplies for the proclamations?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That has not been a change, no, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That has not changed?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So you still have the funding in your budget to actually create the proclamations?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "About how many proclamations in a year do you think that your funding would cover?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I don't know, Commissioner, specifically. I'm sorry wasn't -- I -- just to back up a little bit, we were -- we were aware of this agenda item. I understand this came out of the Board Retreat. So I wasn't prepared, I'm sorry, to present the details of proclamations. But we provide several hundred proclamations every year for the Board, and have been able to do so, so far."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm sorry. So -- I'm sorry, you threw me off because you said that you weren't prepared to speak on this?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "This wasn't -- it was not -- this is not our agenda item. So I would -- I'm sorry, didn't provide details about the number proclamations that were represented each year."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "You could ask the sponsor of --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Excuse me, I have the floor. What is going on here with all this childishness? So you are correct, we had a Board Retreat. And in that Board Retreat, we all had our assignments that we paired up on to work on. This particular item was supposed to be handled by me and Commissioner Bridget Thorne to come to you and your employee and work out something concerning the proclamations. So are you telling me that that did not happen? Because I know I didn't have any part in this whatsoever, even though that's what we all voted on in our retreat. But did you at least - did you at least hear from Commissioner Thorne?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I did, Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Thorne did contact us. We provided some information to her at the time, and again, I apologize for not bringing that material with me today. But I was not prepared to provide those details. But I will be glad to get them for you."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And I'm sorry that you were not given the adequate time to be prepared for this, I was not either. I was not even included, although that's what we agreed upon. So what exactly, do you know what the current budget is for proclamations in your department, the total number? Or should I ask --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "So I will -- let me see this. The amount of supplies per proclamation is about \$16 for a mat, I do happen recall this, and is a few dollars, the paper that is used for proclamations is a specialty print job, it has foil and special paper, and it's a few dollars per piece. So that's -- that's the hard cost. And then again, we replenish supplies throughout the year as we run out of materials or we come close."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. How do you replenish supplies when you run out if --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "We order them."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So you're not saying you run out of money, you just run out of the supplies?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yeah. I think I said earlier that we do have the budget to purchase the supplies, yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, all right. And so -- so I had a few questions from my constituents when they found out about this. Because let me give some clarity to those who were given scripts to read during public comment. And those scripts that they were reading were unfortunately, incorrect. Any time that I sponsor a proclamation, it is due to a constituent contacting my office and asking me to sponsor the proclamation. You can't make them up. The constituent sends the whereas language. Now, if there's someone on this Board who's making up their own whereas language, that's not what happens in my office. That whereas language actually comes from the resident, and it comes via email. So you can open record my -- the emails of all the -- the request for proclamations, and you'll see that in the email. So -- but I really -- I really appreciate the language in here because it is necessary, and it is needed. I appreciate that this says, Commissioners are encouraged to limit the subject matter of proclamations to milestone birthdays, 90 and above; milestone wedding anniversaries, 50 years and above; retirements after at least 50 years of service; local events that enhance public awareness organizations, individuals, or events which have a direct connection to Fulton County; significant achievements, such a state or national awards, state or national sports championships and/or military honors; significant public service and/or heroic actions in significant community events, such as annual festivals, parades, grand openings and/or unveilings. And the language saying discourage -- amended to discourage the presentation of proclamations for national organizations that do not have a local contact or connection, the endorsement of extreme ideological positions in matters of political controversy. Now that part, I have a question about because who makes the determination, what falls under the endorsement of extreme ideological positions and matters of political controversy? Because as we could see from this Board meeting, there was some of that happening right here that couldn't be resolved."

So who actually is going to be responsible for determining the endorsement of extreme ideological and matters of political controversy?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Can I answer? I drafted this."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I think you --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Excuse me. My recollection from the language of the resolution, Commissioner, was that that was the -- a recommendation. So I don't know that my staff and I are in the position to police that, so to speak. I think those were, as I recall, those are guidelines. And so we would, perhaps, point that out to a Commissioner that these are guidelines. But we would -- you're elected officials, and we would assume that you would interpret those to the best of your ability. So again, I don't know that if a Commissioner chose not to follow the guidelines, I'm not the author of the resolution. But if a Commissioner interpreted those differently, I think that is somewhat up to you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Unless the County Attorneys or someone else --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Madam County Attorney --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "-- would have difference of opinion --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- can you weigh in on that?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm sorry. Was the question, who would be the arbiter of whether or not the --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, how do we make that determination that a proclamation that it's endorsing of extreme ideological positions in matters of political controversy?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The way that the resolution is currently drafted, it does not include a definition of those guidelines. Those are just general principles that are being encouraged or discouraged. But there is no specific definition. It would be difficult to craft a definition that would be easily applied in every situation. So it is left as a recommendation only as an undefined category. And it would be up to the Commissioners to choose whether to be guided by those guidelines and to make that interpretation."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I would not want to put Jessica and her team in a position to have to discourage a Commissioner and make a determination like this at all."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I don't interpret --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm sorry."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Go ahead."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I don't interpret the language to indicate that the Office of External Affairs would be policing that, but rather as a statement of policy that the Board will make a determination whether to approve or disapprove. But I believe that that is something that is a guiding principle for the Commissioner bringing the item forward and not for the Office of External Affairs to -- to referee."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "How would the Board make a determination?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I think it's just a policy statement. If approved, it is --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "No."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- a statement that the Board generally favors or disfavors certain proclamations. But there's no enforcement mechanism, and therefore if a Commissioner put forward something that was even arguably in the one of those categories that might be a subject of debate for the Commissioners. But it's not defined, nor is there an enforcement mechanism provided."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "But you keep saying that the Board would approve or disapprove. And we don't have proclamations coming through the Board for approval or disapproval. Is this is --is this resolution going to put that process in place?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I'm sorry. Let me clarify. If the Board approves this resolution as a statement of its policy, that's what I mean. Not that you --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- would vote on individual proclamations."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So it reads right here, be it further ordained that the Fulton County Code 101-42 is hereby amended to discourage the presentation of proclamations for national organizations that do not have a local contact or connection; the endorsement of extreme ideological positions and matters of political controversy."



So it makes -- it's saying that it has to be discouraged. That means there's an action that has to be carried out by someone."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I do not read it that way. I read it as, if you adopt this resolution as a Body, that it is a statement of this Body's policy that those types of topics are to be encouraged or discouraged."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "By who? How? How will that happen?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "There is no enforcement mechanism included in this --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "No enforcement --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- resolution."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, there's no enforcement mechanism. How do we approve a resolution that says something that doesn't have an enforcement rec -- that doesn't make sense. But anyway, so the other question that I received from constituents was, if there is a \$20 administrative fee assessed for per proclamation, are they able to pay that directly themselves? Who should I -- Hakeem? Madam County Attorney?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The way that it's drafted now, absent an amendment, does not make provision for payment by individual recipients."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. That's one. And let's see what else do I have here. And the other question is, which area of the budget would the proclamation fee be taken from? No, that's probably a Finance question I would assume. So Hakeem is there."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** "Commissioner, if this is considered to be funds that will go towards External Affairs' supplies budget, so it's going to come out of supplies budget, out of the Commissioner's supplies budget."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, okay. Office supplies, gotcha. All right. Let me make sure I've asked all the questions that I've received. Oh, wait a minute. Wait a minute. There's a question right here. Sorry about this. I wrote the constituent's question down, just trying to figure out which part they were questioning in the resolution. Hold on one second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You want to yield the floor, and come back to you while you find that, find it?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Let me go ahead and make a motion to allow constituents who want to pay the \$20 for their proclamation, to be able to do so. And because they have asked about doing it. So I'll make the motion for them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You make a motion to amend the resolution that's on the floor?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a second? Is there a second? Is there a second? It fails for lack of a second. Anything else?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's it, thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Hi. Thanks, Jessica. Sorry, sorry to put you on the spot. But --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- we had multiple meetings, didn't we?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "We did."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And our meetings last several hours, or a couple hours. And I really, really wanted to hear the concerns of the department. And quite honestly, Commissioner Hall, you are very hard to locate in the building. I really haven't seen you in off -- in the office. My staff --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You didn't have to see me --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- we have phones."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You didn't call me. You didn't email me."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "My --"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You didn't call me or email me --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute, Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- or text me."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "No communication whatsoever."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And so my staff --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, this is customary, you allow everybody else to --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- has -- we've been researching, we've been pulling up what other entities, counties across the nations do to make sure their proclamations are special, that you're getting a proclamation because of something that you did that was extraordinary and your service and it's an achievement and it's an honor. And it's not just simply, oh, let me come to your event and I'll give you a proclamation for your event. There's rumors that these proclamations are used as tickets to get in events. You know, you say, hey, I'll give you a proclamation and not going to pay the \$100 fee or whatever to come in, but I'll give you the proclamation. The cost is less, just less than \$20 to the county. We pay for postage, we pay for our supplies out of our office budget. I just look at this as another way of paying for when we use our proclamations. Not to mention the time that it takes to do a proclamation, the time to draft it. Douglas is great about researching, writing, rewriting, revisions, printing, getting signed. It is a quite an ordeal for him, and honestly, it's put a strain on your department because it's become a full-time job, basically. And Douglas still has his other duties to do. And he's having to do proclamations after hours, late at night, on weekends, come down here and print them because somebody needs it last -- last minute. So that's why we thought as a common courtesy, we would give him three business days to get a proclamation completed. I did email this to your office before I submitted it on the agenda, and I assumed that, okay, there was no amendments. And I just thought we had done our due diligence with our research. You said that Commissioners -- you complained about H, commissioners are discouraged from presenting proclamations. We didn't want to sit there and specialize, you can do a proclamation for this, and you can't do one for this. We just wanted to have some basic guidelines. So that is why we made things that we suggest or encourage and things that we discourage. But we're not saying you can't do a proclamation. We just ask that you use judgment. And maybe when people -- if it's a full Board, you have -- we put it that you had to have two members sign off. Then you have to find another member on the Board that says, oh, I think this is a good proclamation too. And then you can present it full Board consent, you can do whatever you want still. But we just set up guidelines on what we encourage, what is right to do a proclamation for and what is not. We also drafted the -- that you could only have, an individual or organization can only get one per year. If you're getting -- if you have two or three hanging in your -- in a year, it's just not that special. So we just want a limit that we honor individuals or organizations. And that was pretty much standard in several

entities that we looked at. In our retreat that we had, Commissioner Hall, you had 71 proclamations in 2021. The lowest was Lee Morris with 27. Most people are -- were around the 40 or 50 mark. Everybody kind of stayed about the same. Commissioner Hall went up 143 the next year. 2023, she went up to 174. This year, I don't know what the number is, but we're almost -- we're at 80 -- about 80, I think so far this year of proclamations. So we're hitting a record-breaking year. And I just think it's important that we reel in the proclamations, that they truly are special, that it's something that somebody really deserves. And it's not simply a prop -- like, one of the commenters said that it seems like you're just trying to buy your popularity with a proclamation. And we don't want that. We need to reel that in."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You read the script. She --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And I'm sorry, like, I would have, you know, if there were some changes you would have made, we needed clarification instead of wasting 20 minutes at this meeting going over this, my office door is open too. My staff is down here pretty much five days a week from -- I think Edward gets here around 6:30, 7:00 a.m. and is here all day. And if we're not here, we're down at our uptown office working. I just want you to know, we're always available, we're always here. And I hope that we will pass this as is. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm going to do a substitute motion to hold. The agenda item says Exhibit A, and has a list of items, and then on my desk is an updated proclamation policies and procedures. And so I'm not sure about the due diligence that was done because there are at least two different versions. And I don't necessarily -- I don't know which one is the correct one. I assume it's this one that's updated. But I just got this right before lunch. You know -- well, let me ask you this, if -- I mean, even if this went through, which I don't believe that it should. I think we already adopted a new policy to limit proclamations presented by Commissioner to one per meeting. We already adopted that policy, right?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That's my understanding."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So that, that's already policy. So it's duplicative to -- to do it, try to do that again here, it's already been done. I mean, maybe, this could make sense if the budget that you have proclamations was transferred to the Commissioners. I mean, what -- if this goes through and everybody pays \$20, then what would you do with your proclamation budget, Ms. Corbitt?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner Arrington, I -- just to be clear, we didn't -- we have not sought additional funding. If I can -- if you don't mind me speaking to the concerns that we raised with the Commissioner --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I don't have a problem with that, but --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- I want to know that, if every proclamation was paid for by Commissioners' budget, then what would you use the budget that you have for proclamations?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner, we certainly have lots of needs. But your point is well taken. We would talk to Mr. Oshikoya, who I assure you is not going to let us have one extra nickel that we don't need. So he would probably reduce my budget by that amount if -- I haven't discussed this with him, but I know him pretty well. And that's what I suspect will happen. Sorry, Hakeem."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So does -- what's 20 divided by seven? What happens when the Full-Board Proclamation, who's budget does it come from?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That's a great question, Commissioner. I would --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Wait a minute. But if there are two Commissioners, who's budget does it come from?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner Arrington, I was not the author of this resolution --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Would it be split between the two Commissioners or four Commissioners? Due diligence?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner Arrington --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And Jessica, I -- I mean, I'm just saying, like, we've got to do a better job. And we need to really circulate these things amongst ourselves before we start putting stuff on an agenda, so that we can really say that we did some due diligence. There -- what about death? We just did one today for Radcliffe Bailey. Is death on this list, or this list? So we couldn't have done the proclamation for Radcliffe Bailey today because he died, because death isn't listed?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner Arrington, do you mind if say something?"

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "We -- Commissioner Thorne contacted me after the retreat, I guess in the last month or so. Some of the things that I

addressed as concerns that we have had are ensuring that we have adequate time to serve the Board and in providing the proclamation drafts. Mr. Bell, as I mentioned, is here. I leave the office many evenings, and he is still at his desk working on proclamations. So I did ask that we have some consideration for the notice that we're given so that we can adequately manage staff time. I did share that there have been times when the Board has had a lot of passionate support for someone. And there have been times when we were not clear who should be the -- who the sponsor of a proclamation would be. Sometimes there've been times when multiple people have asked for a proclamation. And I think there's some recommendation in the language about the sponsor being a person who's the district Commissioner for a district where that person lived, or if they were appointed by the Board. So that's been something that has been -- that has come up a few times. And again, really, we are here to serve the Board. We want you to be successful in delivering proclamations, and we would like to ensure our staff has clear guidance. So that's really my only request in this process. And we're here to serve at your -- as your -- at your direction in adopting whatever policy you all see fit."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, I mean, I think we need to hold it. I mean, this updated policy says \$20 for each proclamation spread on the minutes. Well, the \$20 sounds like the cost of the actual production of it. So the idea that you would be charged only if it's spread on the minutes doesn't make sense. I mean, if in fact, you're going to charge and it costs \$20 to do it, right, then why would we only charge the \$20 if it's spread on the minutes? Why wouldn't it be applicable to every single one, right? I don't think we should charge it at all because you have a budget. And if they are -- if we are going to charge it, then that budget that you have for it needs to come to our budgets. But we've already made our budget decisions for this year, right? \$20, each proclamation spread on the minutes. Extreme ideological issues, matters of political controversy. We did a proclamation earlier this year in support of the Israel war. Matters of political controversy, are you kidding me? Are you kidding me? 1.1 million people are about to die of famine in Gaza. 1.1 million people about to die of famine in Gaza, matters of political controversy? Extreme -- this is -- this language is vague, and it's unconstitutional, Madam County Attorney. There is no way that this language could be passed and meet constitutional muster. There is absolutely no way. And there's nothing that you could say that could convince me otherwise. It's vague, it is vague, and it's extreme -- it's no way that this could pass constitutional muster. And there's no way that you or anyone else in your office or anyone else in this world could convince me any differently."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Just to -- I've been trying to bring some sort of sense of sanity to this conversation because this is ridiculous that we're sitting up here having to do this. And the reason we're having to do it is because we -- we've had people that can't exercise self-control and good judgment about what the purpose of a proclamation should be, make judicious use of them in a way that is respectful for all of us. And that's

what's bringing us here to try to have to put some guidelines forth because we have some people who have abused the process. You can't exercise self-discipline, and has worked and placed our staff in an adverse position when it comes to resourcing, time, et cetera. So I don't want to sit up here, being the proclamation police. This is not why I came down here, not what I came in here to do. I'm going to ignore some of the comments that are coming to me from my right. The language in here is respects the type of proclamations that can be made is encouraging language, it's not mandated; am I correct In that, Commissioner Thorne? Yeah. So Commissioners are encouraged to limit to certain things or discouraged from whatever. This is urging language, this isn't mandating language. Nobody's going to be in here, you know, reviewing these and censoring these, et cetera, right? These are our guidelines."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Commissioner Ellis, that's --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "The -- I am -- this is Exhibit A right here. This is what I'm reading from, Commissioner Arrington, what the terms would be passed, Exhibit A. I'm reading from this right here, okay? This is what Exhibit A says. And I'm asking the maker and the provider who sponsored this. These are encouraging things. These aren't -- correct?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes. We didn't want to make anything mandated."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. The signature by two members of the Board of Commissioners, those are for proclamations that are made at the meeting, correct?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right. The items that would outside of the meeting, spreaded on the minutes, then we do -- you know, that's one signature or two signatures, whatever, correct? Okay. On the administrative fee, I have a suggestion, which I would -- would offer in lieu of this. I don't really care about this being one -- that much, one way or the other. If we want to do a fee, that's what we want to do, then I'll support that. But an alternative, I will offer up, rather than the fee, would be to cap the entirety of proclamations that any one Commissioners could do, whether it's spreading on the minutes or at the meetings, of 52 per year."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Now that sounds reasonable."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "That's one a week."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I don't know which one goes with the agenda."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I would cap it at, how about 70? Because sometimes you do multiple proclamations. I think of myself, I do Eagle Scouts. And I have to do four a five at a time."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So cap it at 70?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Um-hmm, for the year."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. What about the fee? Do you feel like the fee is -- should remain in there along with the cap."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, I feel -- I want to keep the fee."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. What I would offer the friendly amendment to cap it at 70."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'll accept."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, yes, I'm in --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion on -- actually, the motion by Commissioner Arrington to hold, haven't gotten a second yet."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Properly moved and seconded, motion by Commissioner Arrington to hold, seconded by Commissioner Hall. You want to dispose of that, and then --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, I -- I have a question that I'd like to ask before disposing of anything. I -- which version is being adopted? Which version goes with it? Is it this updated proclamation policies and procedures, or is it Exhibit A?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "It's the one that was included in the agenda. Yesterday, we sent out the Exhibit A just because I thought people might need further clarification after talking to Commissioners who did come to talk to me to discuss the item. And as a courtesy, we just wanted you to have a little bit more information, a little bit more background."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, because this updated one says proclamations will not be granted for the following topics. And that's not what Exhibit A says. And there's -- I mean, this is so vague and ambiguous, because there's nothing that addresses what happens if multiple Commissioners request it or if it's a Full-Board proclamation. Is there still a \$20 fee? How is the fee split? Is it \$2.37 per



Commissioner? I mean, what -- what -- I would submit to you all that we may need some additional policies and procedures regarding proclamations. I will submit to you that this is rushed, and I would rather see us do it in a more orderly fashion. \$20 coming out of somebody's budget, when there's already a budget for proclamations and we already passed a budget period? A limit on the number of proclamations per year? Now that makes sense, right? Hey, we're going to limit the number based on what the budget is. We're going to list the -- limit the number based on what the budget is for proclamations. Hakeem, what's the budget for proclamations?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner Arrington, it's included in our office supply budget. So we -- if you don't mind, I'll be -- if the Board would like, we're glad to provide the cost that we incurred in 2023 as a baseline as information."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. I mean, I guess 2023 or 2022. I mean, I don't know if one year --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- was an anomaly or not, right? Like, I mean, but for me, I --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Point of order."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I certainly could benefit from having the information -- I certainly could benefit from having the information of knowing what is the budget. I think Commissioner Ellis' idea makes sense, put a limit on the number so that we're not exceeding the budget. That makes sense, right? That makes sense. But charging Commissioners for an item that's already in someone else's budget --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Point of order."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- doesn't make sense."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Hold on, hold on. What's your point --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "My point of order is Commissioner Arrington asked for a question to the maker to decide if he was going to go for the -- further with the hold or not. He is going away from what he had asked. He was not in the queue to speak again. He was only in the queue --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's a lie, I'm in the queue right now."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Excuse me."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's a bold-faced lie."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Let me finish."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's a bold-faced lie."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "He was not in the queue to speak again --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm in the queue, and I got the floor. I'm in the queue, and I got the floor."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "He was not in the queue --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And I was acknowledged by the Chair."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- except for after Commissioner Thorne --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm in the queue, and I got the floor, and was acknowledged by the Chair --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- so the hold, we --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- to have the floor."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- need to vote on the hold. Point of order."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "After I finish talking."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "No. You asked to ask a question of the maker."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm -- I know what I'm doing. Shit."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington asked the question about which is before us, and you answered that question --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Exactly."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- I think you answered that question, correct?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Um-hmm."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, but I still had the floor."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And I'm still in the queue."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And you asked me what I wanted to do."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Wait a minute, hold on."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "You asked me what I wanted to do."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You still --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I said I want to go forward --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I want to do this before --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm just -- just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Because it's a lot of lying going on out here."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's that --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So we going to get the record straight --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- with all this lying."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The motion on the floor is to hold. Motion made by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Natalie Hall. The motion is to hold. Is there anything else on the motion to hold?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, you still have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. Thank you for acknowledging that I had the floor. Yes, Ms. Corbitt, I would like to hold this until we know what the budget is, so that we can know what we shouldn't limit the number of proclamations to. I completely and vehemently disagree that there should be a cost associated to Commissioners for providing proclamations or that money should be deducted from a Commissioner's budget when there's already a proclamations budget in your office. The -- it does make sense to have a limit. I agree that there should be limits. But the language that I have is vague and ambiguous, and it is -- does not meet constitutional muster. And so y'all can pass it if you want to, but it's -- it'll be overturned."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. Motion on the floor is -- substitute motion, rather, on the floor is to hold. Let's vote on the motion to hold."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the motion to hold. And the motion to hold fails; two yeas, three nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Back to the main motion, which was to approve. Let's vote. It's to approve. To approve as amended with the 50."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open to approve as amended. And the motion passes; four yeas, two nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0211**, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, urging the Fulton County Clerk of Superior Court to provide quarterly reports on the amount of passport fees collected per her office, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. I support this. One thing that I would like for us to look into before the end of the current term of the Clerk is, I think when we set these, we were unaware of the amount of additional compensation that was coming to the Clerk in the form of passport fees when we increased the salaries for the Clerk. And I would like for us to revisit the salary for the Clerk that we pay from our general fund before the expiration of this existing term. So we do that with full awareness of the

additional compensation coming in the form of passport fees. So that's just an aside to the, I support the resolution."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 11, **24-0212**, Request approval of a resolution transferring Fulton Films and FGTV from the Department of Arts and Culture to Select Fulton and for other purposes, sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, followed by Commissioner Arrington, followed by Commissioner Thorne. Vice Chair, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. Fiscal accountability is a crucial responsibility of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. The proposal before us is to move Fulton Films and FGTV from Arts and Culture to the -- our Economic Development wing. As with any -- as with anything that comes up that people have gotten comfortable with because it benefits them, there has been a whole bunch of debate, opinions, or what have you. The primary reason for moving Fulton Films, especially from Arts and Culture is not only to capitalize on the economic growth of the film industry of Georgia, with the state becoming a hub and when we look at similar states, their film division is either standalone with the Mayor or it's in the Economic Development wing. And so it only makes sense that Fulton County can benefit significantly from significant financial opportunities by aligning resources and focusing on supporting the film industry. The county can attract more production, create jobs, and stimulate economic activity when we have the best model forward. This is an exceptional act, it is not a move driven by petty politics, nor is it being used as an HR management tool. And I will also put forward that because of the decision to move forward, this should not be looked at as the Board getting into the business of operational. The person that is responsible for that is our County Manager. However, the Board does understand or this legislation speaks to what is best with the decision to move. It is not an HR, it is not a promotion, it's a move only. When the Board was considering raising taxes to generate capital, it was imperative to show that the resources were being used efficiently and effectively. By making strategic moves like relocating Fulton Films, the Commissioners can prove that they are making prudent decisions to generate revenue without burdening taxpayers. Now, the point that I want the listening audience to know today is, when you move those entities over and Arts and Culture stands by itself, it has an opportunity to be strengthened with outside private organizations, donors, grants, to have its own -- not only its own budget that we should

make recurring in every year, but has an opportunity to flourish on its own. It can neither -- neither organization can flourish being under Arts and Culture because Arts and Culture is by itself. Fulton Films and FGTV is by itself under Economic Development. This resolution is a responsible decision and aligns with the economic opportunities presented by the film industry in Georgia. While I know there may be objections, we must prioritize fiscal accountability. And we also must prioritize individuals that want to partner with us. There are individuals that want to partner with us that can't partner or choose not to partner now because we are not operating at our best. I'm not staying that we're not operating well. But there are entities at the state level that could do more, and we could tap into more if we move that away from Arts and Culture and strengthen it and put it where it should be, which is under Economic Development. Now, what I want to do is take this time and say to County Manager, my position on this, County Manager. County Manager, my position is not to undermine your authority. What I'm hoping what will come out of this is, expanded duties of those over Fulton Films in conjunction with FGTV. If, in fact, that person is going to take that over, they need to be here. They need to be here at the Board of Commissioners meeting. They need to be here and be present. More important to me is that I do not want to send a signal to any employee, let's say for instance, if we have an employee that's an accountant, and they may have a gripe with the leadership there, and they want to go to another department. That is not the signal that I want anybody to take from this, because at the end of the day, the operation is yours. I'm not -- it's not my intentions to be in that lane. And I think it's very important and imperative that we do what's best for the county in attracting more grants. And we also do what's best in the breaking apart and putting it with economic development. But I wanted you to know, openly in front of everybody that this is strictly from a strategic point of view and not an operational point of view. And I don't want any employee, any division head, or anyone -- Dr. Roshell, I don't want anyone to think that they can get mad with their boss, run down here and get four votes. This is not what this is. Now, this is a rumor that I heard, so that's why I'm addressing it. It has nothing -- whether it's Shaunya or who's ever at the league with that over that, that's under Samir. It is strictly a strategic move to put it in Economic Development for that. And more importantly, I wanted you to weigh in on it. And if you had any questions that you wanted me to address, I'm more than willing to address it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes, please."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, thank you, Ms. Vice Chair. First of all, it was very helpful to talk to you yesterday and better understand the driving imperative as you saw it for this. I do have a concern, which I expressed to you yesterday, not necessarily as it relates to this, but what you've already said. And that is if it's perceived that the Board of Commissioners is going to get involved in reorganizing the organization at any point in time, I think that's an inappropriate action to take. In other words, the definition of management is planning, organizing, directing, and

controlling. Organizing is number two, so when and if the Board gets involved in that, I think it does set a precedent potentially. But you've already addressed that. I think the - you know, the issue of who this reports to is one that I probably don't fully understand all the nuances if there are either grants or other activities that potentially are available. So I think that's a very valid issue to under -- you know, to understand better and appreciate. I have seen this move, you know, obviously, from External Affairs to Arts and Culture, and now to Economic Development. So there's something that's driving this that raises a concern. In other words, that's not happening with any sub -- other subunit of government that we have. And again, this is not a department, it's a subunit of government. So -- or subunit of a department. So I want to make sure that that's not the driving end, and it doesn't sound like it is. And then the last thing, you know, that you may want to consider as you talk through this, and you and I talked about yesterday briefly, and that was, you know, should you consider a potential splitting of FGTV and Fulton Films? In other words, they're there somewhat together because of the individual. But the functions are completely and totally different. You know, one is running production TV and supporting the Board of Commissioners meetings as well as other activities of that nature's, which have nothing to do Economic Development initiatives aimed at the film industry. So there is the potential for consideration to split the baby, in effect, and let the thing that is Economic Development oriented go to Economic Development. That's what Samir's expertise is. He has no background in production TV. And leave FGTV with Dave Manuel, who does have production experience and the like. So that may introduce unnecessary complication, but it's one more -- one more option to consider. And thank you for, again, your -- the conversation that we had yesterday."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, County Manager. Chairman, I'm finished."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "As the Board Executive Sponsor for not only Arts and Culture, but also for Economic Development, it doesn't matter to me where it goes. I'm the Board Sponsor for both of them. I'm also the founder and the creator of Fulton Films, it was my idea. And I got the money in the budget for it. It is interesting to hear this discussion because there's something else driving this, and I haven't put my finger on it yet. But the arts is economic development, so are we going to put Arts under Economic Development too? Will -- oh, Fulton Films is Economic Development, but the arts isn't? The arts is economic development, they're probably a lot of other things in Economic Development that could go under Economic Development as well. But, you know, there was a change from Fulton Films and FGTV to the Arts Department for a specific reason, and that was done by our County Manager. Our County Manager is responsible for deciding who he's going to have as a Chief Operating Officer, the structure and flow that he talked about just a moment ago. Who's going to be the Director of the department? Who's going to be the Deputy Director of the department? And here, we get this thing that says, hey, transfer this department and make this

person the Deputy Director. They already have a Deputy Director in Economic Development. So now, what have you done? You've put someone -- you make someone scared that they're going to lose their job because the Commissioners going to replace the existing Deputy Director with someone else, and make them the Deputy Director. I mean, oh, Lord, have mercy. I don't know long I'll be able to stay down here, y'all. I don't know how long I'm going to be able to stay down here. What? Let's see what happen on May 21st. Because Good Lord, have mercy. Good Lord, have mercy. People have agendas, and they want to push their agendas no matter what, regardless of whatever is going on. There is no reason for this Board to circumvent the authority and the power of our County Manager. If someone on this Board believed that this were the right action to take, they should go speak with our County Manager and ask him about this, and ask him if that is something that he believes he should do. For example, after I saw this on the agenda on Friday, I called the County Manager and asked him, had anyone spoken with him about this before this was placed on the agenda. He said, no. I called the Arts Director and asked him had anyone spoken with him about this before placing this on the agenda. He said, no. I called the Director of Fulton Films and asked her had anyone spoken with her about this before putting this on the agenda. And she said, no. So no one spoke to the County Manager. No one spoke to the Arts Director. No one spoke to the Director Fulton Films, yet we get this agenda item on a printed agenda saying that somebody going to lose their job because somebody else is going to be appointed as the Deputy Director of a department that already has a Deputy Director. And it doesn't want Fulton Films. So apparently, Samir says he doesn't even want Fulton Films. He doesn't have anything to do with film, doesn't know anything about it. So we're going to take a square object and put it into a round hole and disregard the autonomy, authority, and discretion of our County Manager to put departments where he wants and how he wants? I don't know how long I can stay down here. Let's see what happen on May 21st. This is insanity at the highest level, asking questions that people already know the answer to, because they want to try to undress someone in public. I mean, I'm a filmmaker. I'm an entertainment attorney. I actually produce films. I'm actually in this industry, and founded and created this department and got the budget set aside for it. And no one came and talked to me either. Y'all, we in the battle for the soul of Fulton County. We are in a battle for the soul of Fulton County."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The question has been called. Madam Clerk, is there a second? All right. Properly moved and seconded. Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on call the question. And the motion fails; three yeas, one nay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Continue. Go ahead."



**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Commissioner Arrington, I don't know the background that you with discovering Fulton Films and with --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Speak up a little bit, please."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Oh, sorry. With founding, I mean, you said you're the Commissioner over this area. I think we broke it up, where we don't have areas anymore; is that true? Didn't we decide that, that none of us are over anything?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. I just want to make clear -- I did want some clarification on that. I wanted to also say, you said that you are the Board Sponsor, you put the money in the budget, it's your idea, and that you have the -- every right to how this is going to be controlled."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I did not say that --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, it was --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- it was an implied -- it was --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "It was implied."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner, Commissioner --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's a lie."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "It was implied."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That is a lie."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So I just -- I was new last year. And I've been following, because I'm an arts person, I love the arts. I'm actually a digital artist, that's my profession. I've been in arts my whole life. So I've been following the arts and the films. And I look at the amount of money we're spending to sponsor things. And my very first month in office, I went to NACo, I went to visit the DC Films. Commissioner Arrington was nice enough to invite me. It was a great event, a nice event in DC. And I went

back again this year at NACo. And I don't see the value of spending \$15,000 last year and \$15,000 this year for a Black Film Festival in DC that serves nothing for the community, the citizens of Atlanta. It's -- I'm not saying it's a bad event. I'm just saying that, do we need to be spending money that way? And I feel like we need Fulton Films to be helping Fulton County, not DC. I look at, you know, the money spent to go to Sundance Film Festival in January. The -- I think it was a \$25,000 sponsor there, plus a \$15,000 C-suite sponsor plus airfare. I know I flew to Salt Lake City over Christmas, it was almost \$1,000 a ticket. Hotel rooms in Park City have to be at least \$800 a night. It's an expensive proposition. So what's the benefit to the residents of Fulton County? I look at the Miami Film Festival, the Black Miami Film Festival that we spent \$25,000 there. I look at the Martha's Vineyards AA Festival, \$25,000 there. I just wonder, we're not even really advertising to our citizens that, hey, we're going to be at this film festival. You know, it's -- there's nothing to the benefit for the citizens of Fulton County. But when I look at some of the events that are going on, Commissioner Arrington, I look at, you know, there's the Networking Brunch, hosted by Marvin Arrington Jr. last year at the DC Film Festival. All the things tag, District 6, Marvin Arrington --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "District 5."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I look -- District 5, sorry. Oh, I'm sorry. I look at these Production in the Heart of the Peach panel, featuring Commissioner Marvin Arrington; networking brunches in the Black Film Festival. Oh, I guess there was two, there was the Networking Reception, and then there was a screening event hosted by Marvin Arrington Jr. Birmingham, Alabama, we do something there. I mean, it's just -- I feel like it needs to be reeled in. And I feel like if we try to focus on it really helping the economic development of Fulton County, that is where it needs to be. It doesn't need to be promoting. I feel like there's a conflict of interest, especially Commissioner Arrington, given that you're an entertainment lawyer and you're hosting networking brunches. I think I learned in my ACCG law class that, even the appearance of an impropriety, is an impropriety. And that was a quote from Marvin Arrington, Jr. So with that being said, I just think we need to try it, see how it works. It was moved to Arts -- or it was moved from External Affairs to Arts. I think it's best that we try to see if we can reel it in in Economic Development under Samir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Ellis, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I don't want to belabor this discussion. I mean, I may have a different sort of -- I may land at a different point that everybody up here did, I think."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Not necessarily."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I mean, I -- quite honestly, I think in terms of this -- the things that we need to be focused on and what are the priorities for Fulton County, I question, you know, both of these entities in terms of the value and return that they're bringing for our taxpayers. And I think, you know, we really need -- we need to relook at

both, whether FGTV as model makes sense in today's world, and whether it should be revisited in its entirety. And then similar for -- for Fulton Films, I question whether what sort of real benefit it's providing to Fulton County taxpayers for the expenditures. So I -- I may be to the point of just, maybe we should eliminate both of them or repurpose both of them or fully relook at them for sure. But I'm not going to go in too heavily into that, but I do think that both those two things need to be done at some point in time. I am not, you know, pleased, I guess in terms of the way this was brought forward, and it not coming forth through our Manager versus it coming forward through a Commissioner. And I have some -- and I have some challenges with that in and -- and I've had that conversation with the Commissioner that sponsored this, expressing my concerns about it. I was interested to hear the Manager's comments and, you know, you get a lot of your plate. I'm not really sure in terms of kind of like, the largest priorities that you have, given what's coming to our attention, you know, over the course of the past month when it comes to IT and other issues or whatever. This is probably, most citizens would look down here and say, what in the heck are you guys talking about this for an hour? Well, but I liked what you presented as if you were really wanting to look at this and consider it from a true management standpoint that you would potentially split these. And FGTV would remain with Arts, and the Fulton Films piece then would go to Economic Development. And I would like to ask the sponsoring Commissioner of this whether they would be supportive of that modification to the resolution?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Repeat that, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "That FGTV would remain in the Department of Arts, and Fulton Films would flow under Select Fulton. In other words, there -- and from the reporting stand -- from a responsibility standpoint, the Arts and Culture would keep responsibility for FGTV, and Select Fulton would have responsibility for Fulton Films."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes, I will accept that."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. You'd accept that as an amendment? Okay. All right, nothing further."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Oh, one other thing. You did change the language in here that this person, the movement is not going to create a Deputy to direct --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "No, it will not."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. That amendment was accepted. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So Commissioner Ellis, I think your idea that you just came up with is almost a good one, except that technically, FGTV should be in External Affairs under Jessica, right? Where -- that's where it was. It was moved over by the County Manager because the same person was running both of them. And Fulton Films -- and it was brought over to Fulton -- to Arts with Fulton Films because you had one person running them. You know, I always talk about the unintended consequences. The unintended consequences of this, you going to -- if you split those as you just proposed, you going to have one person reporting to two different people. If FGTV goes to -- stays in Arts and Fulton films goes to Economic Development, the person that is running both of them would have two different bosses instead of one. Again, you're invading the province of the County Manager's authority. Those are all his decisions to make. It's not our decision to decide. This isn't even a full department, this is a sub department. This is a division. Oh, well, we don't want -- we're going to tell you where -- how you, County Manager, where you should put your departments. And worse yet, we're going to go down two, three levels to a division, and tell you to put this division here and put that division there, and have the one person reporting to them. Like, hey, y'all can do whatever y'all want to do. You know, this just -- yeah, hey -- let's do it, hey, what -- however y'all want to do it, that's how we'll do it. But this does not make sense. We are interfering with the County Manager's authority. He decides who he wants to run his departments. He decides what, where he wants those departments. And then those departments decide who's going to be the Deputy Director. Like, this is insanity that the Board will be sitting up here contemplating a policy. Now, let's talk about Economic Development. Commissioner Thorne, it sounds like you just don't like any of the Black film festivals, because there's the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, the Latino Festival. There's all these other festivals that they sponsor, and you didn't mention not one of those. You only mentioned the Black ones. Further, Economic Development, our budget is driven by property taxes. 80 percent of our budget is driven by property taxes. So we've been successful in getting actors and producers who are working here that come here to work for six to 12 months to actually buy properties in Fulton County, and to pay property taxes to us. That is economic development. And because you may not see that because you may not know that Lamman Rucker moved from DC or LA to Fulton County because of this program. Then if you want to know, then you should ask somebody and not make assumptions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open to approve as amended. And the motion passes; four yeas, one nay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0213**, Housing Authority of Fulton County. As a result of elections conducted by the Housing Authority of Fulton County, the Interim Executive Director

request a formal Full-Board reappointment of James Hank Harper and the appointment of Lena Jones for a one-year term, expiring July 13th, 2025."

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0214**, Board of Ethics, the Atlanta Airport Chamber of Commerce has recommended LaTonya Nix Wiley for a Full-Board appointment to an unexpired term ending February 12, 2025."

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 12 --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. Could we take the action items from the consent agenda before these discussion items?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No objections."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 3, **24-0178**, Finance, Ratification of the February 2024 Grants Activity Report."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. So I'm going to recommend approval of and ratification of this with the exception of one item. I don't know procedurally, if you would want me to recommend denial of a -- of this specific item on there, Mr. Chair, or removal of it in ratification of the others."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So there are four items; is that correct?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Actually, there are one, two, three, four, five, six, six on Exhibit 1, the Board Grants Ratification Summary."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So you want to recommend approval of six of the seven?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "One, two, three, four, five -- I to -- five of the six."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Five of the six."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. I mean, I'm at -- or actually, yeah -- yeah, five of the six."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Or maybe there's more than five of the six. But it's -- there's six under the Justice and Safety piece. And I guess, there were two more on a -- for health -- one for Health and Human Services and one for Arts and Libraries. So --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just eight?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, eight in total. So I don't know procedurally, I -- and I'll speak to the one that I do not recommend ratification of if you'd like."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So you're going to move approval on seven of the eight and speak to the one with which you do not recommend approval?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, so --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- my motion will be to ratify, you know, all but this one that I'm about to speak of."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right. How would you like me to proceed on that?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "On the seven that you're going to move to ratify, which ones are those?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So I want to -- I want to move to deny on the first item, the grant for Highway Enforcement and Aggressive Traffic, and approve -- for the Sheriff's Department, and then approval for the -- the following, the next following items to Sheriff Law Enforcement Operations, Veterans Court, Behavioral treat -- Health Treatment Court, Adult Drug Court, DUI Treatment Court, and AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program, and the Fulton County Library Best Buy Teen Technology Center."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Does everybody understand the motion?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And I'll speak just briefly in terms of the recommended denial on the first item. This would be to accept a grant from the Office of Highway Safety to combat, reduce the number of impaired aggressive drivers in Fulton County and cover overtime benefits and compensation for staff on Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (HEAT) Task Force. And while I think that's certainly a good pursuit, you know, that -- but I think that's a pursuit that other law enforcement entities in the county should be focused on. That's their role in terms of traffic and motors units and whatever. We've got bigger challenges within our Sheriff's Department and operations, and the focus should be on the principle of core services that they're supposed to be providing, running their jail, process service, courtroom security."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Questions? So the one that you're -- the motion would include to deny would be what? To deny their approval and accept, just assuming they were approved; is that correct?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. You've heard the motion by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Any questions? All right, let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open to approve as amended. And the motion passes; four yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Continue. Is there another?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next item on consent on page 4 -- and one nay for Commissioner Hall."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Page what?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4, **24-0181** Real Estate and Asset Management, as amended, request approval of a recommended proposal for a ground lease and private hangar development for Fulton County Executive Airport and to enter into a ground lease agreement with Innova Solutions, Inc."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Any questions? All right, let's vote."

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 12, **24-0216**, External Affairs 2024 State Legislative Session update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So what happened to 0215, Commissioner Ellis?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I held it. I mean, I removed that from the agenda at the start of the agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So was that coming back at the --"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- next meeting?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Thank you for having our slides up. We will give a brief update about the Legislative Session we are about a week and one day from Sine Die. And the Session is moving pretty quickly at this point. Next slide, please. Again, just to recap for the public for -- of our Legislative priorities for this Session. Next slide, please. The House did pass the FY25 budget on -- since our last meeting on March 7th. We were very pleased to see that there was additional funding for the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center, which we'll go into in the next slide, or in a couple of slides. We've had a number of meetings with our Legislative Delegation about a number of topics. And we have one more of those meetings tomorrow. Also, just want to thank the Commissioners and the Legislators who joined us last Friday for a hardhat tour of the Behavior Health Crisis Center. It's very exciting to see that project coming along. And we can't wait for the grand opening this spring. Next slide, please. Also, just wanted to give another shout out to our Youth Commissioner who has continued in advocacy and testified again on March 7th, the day after our last Commission meeting. Next slide, please. So coming back to the Behavioral Health Crisis Center, there was an additional 1.8 million added in the House budget from the Governor's original budget."



And that met the full funding request that was made by our -- by Fulton County as well as by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. We are hearing rumors that the Senate may reduce that again. That happened last year, the Senate Appropriations is meeting tomorrow. And as is typical, we expect the budget to go into Conference Committee, where the two Chambers will negotiate. So we're going to continue to fight for this additional funding. This will really allow the facility to operate successfully from its first day. So we will keep you posted as we go through that process. Next slide, please. House Bill 1185, which has somewhat, I guess you could say, merged with Senate Bill 349, has continued to work its way through the process. This is a Bill that we worked on very closely with ACCG. And it makes a number of positive changes in the property assessment process related to the three-year freeze, it implements a statewide floating homestead exemption. It also removes the tax estimate from assessment notices. It has a number of other positive changes in the process that we believe are citizen friendly. And we'll address some challenges that we faced here at Fulton County. So we're continuing to track that. And again, we -- we believe this one is on the right track to move forward. Next slide, please. Just a couple of other updates here. House Bill 463 passed Senate retirement on the 7th. It is currently in Rules. And I believe there were some meetings today or were some conversations today to get that Bill out of Rules. The Commissioner's salary adjustment, that Bill will -- we believe is on slow go this afternoon. And so we're continuing to track that very closely. Senate Judicial Officers, at the last meeting we expected that to be a local Bill. That is now being attached to a general Bill. And we're continuing to track that process. Evictions process, the Squatter Reform Act is House Bill 1017. That has passed out of Senate, so we expect that one to also move forward. Senate Bill 19 does require the Superior Court Clerks across the state to provide statements about passport application fees. And that addresses something this Board discussed back in 2023. Next slide, please. Just a couple of others. There are still about five or six, isn't it, Jasmine, Election Bills. But this is the one, House Bill 1207 is one that includes one specific element that Fulton County was tracking, which is related to equipment allocation, and giving Superintendents the flexibility to consider early voting turnout when they determine the allocation of equipment to polling places. So we think this offers an opportunity to create greater efficiency in that process. House Bill 1339 is a very important Bill that addresses -- the Senate version had a number of amendments that address exemptions to certificate of need process. And we're not going to go over all 34 of those. But there are amendments that would allow for greater opportunities for hospitals in South Fulton County specifically, as well as in our rural parts of the state. So it's a very exciting piece of legislation. There were a number of amendments in the Senate, so we also expect that this is going to go into Conference Committee in the last days of Session. There is a, I think, Senate -- the Senate Human Services Committee is meeting this afternoon as well. That Bill is not in the agenda, but there are other Bills where we expect there to be discussion about health access issues and potentially Medicaid expansion. So a lot of really interesting discussion around healthcare, again, in this last week of Session and we're watching that very carefully, and we'll keep you all posted. Senate Bill 533 is another Bill that we think offers some opportunity for the Fulton County Jail. There is a new program, I guess, some

resources in Georgia DBHDD budget related to competency, which happens to be an issue that has greatly affected our jail. And it creates some, I guess, guidance for how Georgia DBHDD would address individuals who are found not competent to stand trial. It does rely on a mutual agreement. It is not DBHDD taking over that process. But it could create an opportunity for a partnership. And that passed the House today. Thank you, Jasmine. Also, really quickly, Senate Bill 439 is one of two Bills that creates an additional homestead exemption. This is one for seniors over 65 in Atlanta Public Schools. A different Bill, House Bill 1481, creates some new homestead exemptions in certain ZIP Codes within the city of Atlanta. We have asked the Tax Assessor to -- or the Chief Appraiser to look at that House Bill 1481, it was on the local calendar, just to make sure that it's something we would be able to successfully administer. So we'll continue to keep you all posted about that. Next slide, please. On the Sports Betting Bills, these have both had hearings. These both started in the Senate, passed out, made it to the House. They had hearings for -- there has not been action on these Bills at this time. So I think those are the ones we wanted to highlight, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. So please let us know if you have any questions about any of these or others. There are some others in your presentation. We just -- there's a lot in here, so we didn't want to take too much time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Are there questions for Ms. Corbitt? No preguntas. No questions. Thank you."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you very much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Clerk."

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0219**, Discussion, Election's update."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Good afternoon, Chairman and Members of the Board. I am pleased to report that the Presidential Preference Primary went smoothly with voters being able to cast their ballots efficiently and in a safe and secure environment, reflecting the dedication of our Election staff and our amazing poll workers commitment to the election process. We want to thank our Elections staff and poll crew -- poll workers for their invaluable commitment and service. We want to thank the County Manager, the Fulton County Police Department, Board of Commissioners, and our Board of Registration and Elections for their continued support. For this election, we operated 36 Advance Voting locations, four college outreach locations, and 178 Election Day locations. We successfully serviced over 43,000 voters during advance voting and 29,000 voters on Election Day. The election was certified on Monday, March 18th with all documentation required by the Secretary of State provided to our Board when officially drafted on Friday, March 15th for review before certificate -- Monday certification. The risk limiting audit was completed successfully this morning before the March 21st SOS deadline. And following the closeout of this election, we will

be conducting a thorough review to identify areas of improvement and any enhancement to our standard operation procedure in preparation for the May 21st General Primary. We will take any questions at this time."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Hi, Nadine. So did we hire provisional clerks for every precinct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes, we did."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And how many provisional ballots did we have?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We had 129 that we processed."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "129 processed. So do you think it -- how much does a provisional clerk get paid per hour?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I don't know off the top of my head."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "But probably around -- they get a stipend like \$300 a day, somewhere around there?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "It's not that high."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Or 250 a day?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Probably."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So we had how many precincts, 100 --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "178."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "178. So you paid for 178 people to process -- yeah, I think there's a total of 159 that came in, but only 129 that were actually accepted. So we hire all these people to sit in these precincts to do provisional ballots, and they may, theoretically not ever do one."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Again, so as I stated when we -- from the previous election summary, just because we had a low number of provisional ballots, does not mean the provisional ballot did no work. Usually, they're there to get called in our registration office to avoid processing of provision ballots. So they're there to assist if they're able to call in for that voter. So just because there was a low number -- actually, again, the lower the number, the better. That means they were able to assist the voter and able to process the voter if necessary for a provisional ballot."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So we're hiring all these people just in case? Just in case? We knew this is a low turnout, but you want all these people for just in case we have a bunch of provisional ballots. A majority of the provisional ballots, 125 of the 129 were out of precinct after 5:00 p.m. So that's a straightforward, that's a straightforward, OP coding. I could train somebody probably in 15 minutes how to do a provisional ballot for out of precinct. You had four that were accepted, but they were actually correct precinct. Was that because they were in the right precinct and you -- they weren't on the rolls, and then they had to vote provisional, and then you accepted them because they were at the correct precinct?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "It depends on the voter's situation. So I would -- I would have to look at the four voters to figure out exactly why they needed the provisional --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Because, yeah, the ones that weren't accepted were out of precinct before 5:00 p.m., no photo ID, voted in person, five people did, and out of county. We had 13 people that are out of county that think they can vote in a Fulton County Elections. I just feel like provisional ballot clerks are a waste of money. I mean, it's so easy to train somebody and to -- we can maybe pay them \$30 extra to attend a class, an existing worker, existing poll worker. Give them the capability to be a provisional ballot clerk. Give them a certification that they have to attend and just -- but keep them useful in the precinct where they're also doing other things within the precinct. I guess we're going to disagree, you just think that the taxpayer money is, whew, whatever. We can hire provisional clerks and they can just sit there all day and not process a single provisional ballot."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Again, I've never had a voter call me to complain that we have too much staff to assist them."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, I get --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "But nevertheless --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I get calls."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "But nevertheless, we've put that in as a precaution because Jarvis was a new system. In May, we'll be going through redistricting, there might be an increase in provisional voters. We have implemented that for those reasons. And when those precautions are out -- when we don't feel like that's unnecessary, we will remove them. But until that time, we plan to keep them --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, you added it. You added it this year."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We add -- yes, we did because Jarvis was a new system. It's still a new system. It is the first time it's being used statewide. When we come to May, we'll have redistricting, there may be additional provisional voters if voters are not aware of their district. Once we are past those two precautions, we will consider removing them. But that's why they were implemented --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, you need to get poll workers training. You need to give the poll workers that are hired by the Election Manager, so she knows, I have a -- I have someone in my precinct that can do provisional, not rely on you to send some random person to the precinct that they don't know, they never worked with, they don't know if they can do other areas in the thing. It is better to train -- tell the Poll Manager, I need one of your people to be trained. It can be the manager themselves. I mean, we train provisional ballot clerks, we train our whole staff if we have dead time."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Or -- for sure, four years ago, that was the case when you worked -- when you were a poll worker. But again, things are changed. We have put that in place. We'll take that into consideration, because we do not want to pay taxpayer dollars --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "This is data."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "This is hard data. We are wasting taxpayer's money by just by chance, oh, we're going to put a provisional clerk in here, just by chance we have a bunch of provisional ballots. So speaking of that, you know, I observed ten employees at the precinct at your headquarters when I was there on Friday night. They had little over 300 voters the entire 19 days of early voting. I understand by listening to the BRE meeting, there were hardly any students that came to vote at the colleges. Yet, you said the Presidents want these precincts so we got to keep these precincts going. So what is the cost of over staffing? Because this is the number one thing that's driving our cost up, is this temporary staffing that we keep doing. You want to just have a precinct? Okay, so an average poll clerk gets paid how much, \$17 an hour, about?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I don't have those figures in front of me."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Let's say -- and then you pay the temporary agency, another \$5 an hour. So you're paying \$24 an hour, you have 10 of those in there. It's costing roughly \$2,400 a day. You have 19 days of early voting, that's \$48,000 or so that you're spending on an early voting precinct when you have hardly any voter turnout. But you want to do it because the college Presidents want you to have a precinct there? And we're hiring a temp agency. Their bread and butter is doing shift work. If you only have 300 total voters at your precinct right at your office, why

don't you not have four poll pads going? Maybe you just have one, maybe you just have two -- are you listening to me?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes, I am."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Oh, I just thought you were on your phone. Yeah, I just don't know why we're over staffing. I mean, you can give people experience, say, okay, we'll have X amount of people work this week, X amount of people work that week. And then maybe you'll need more people in the General Election, which you probably will when you have higher voter turnouts. But we have data, we know voter turnout, we know the first two weeks of early voting is light, the last weeks heavy. But yet, we're fully staffing -- I mean, the 19 days, we're spending, like, \$800,000 on precincts with hardly any voter turnout."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Again, so if you saw ten people at the precinct does not mean that some of those people were there every day. They could have been part-time workers. So we do have part-time shifts. We cannot predict if candidates withdraw or if people choose not to vote because they want to support a cause. So some things, we're going to have -- we're going to staff -- we're going to staff precincts as best as possible. But we will -- we take that into consideration."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We also can have a pool of standby workers. That would be a solution. I was a standby poll tech. They called me in last minute, Tuesday, can you be here? Can you be here for six days from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.? I answered the call. I said, I'll be in the warehouse in three hours. There are a ton of Election Day workers, Election Day workers that would love the opportunity to just be on call and be on standby. But yet, you never reach out to the Election Day workers. Instead, you know, you have these staffing agency that are making millions off of us, literally millions off of us. And you're not having them switch in workers, say, hey, we had a heavier day today, we need some more people here. Or somebody showed up sick, we need more people here. We should have a standby pool of workers. And we should train our Election Day workers because those are the people that have the time on their hands usually. Those are the people that that's their civic duty, and they aren't doing it for the money. They just want to do it for the elections. So I feel like those are passionate people. And you can easily involve them by having a pool of standby workers. And if they can do with the ebb and flows of our elections."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We do have reserve workers. We've had precincts that get COVID, they call up sick, those workers get called in. So they're already reserved workers that are on standby."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So, okay. I also -- I know your system down there, though -- your new Election Warehouse that we built. It has the same sound system that we have here. You're having problems with the sound system right now. So you can't take public comments. You won't take -- you refuse to take public comments from

Zoom. Can you guys accept email public comments? It takes an hour for me from my house to drive down to Election Warehouse. I seriously doubt anybody's going to -- can drive down, spend an hour, give a two-minute public comment and come back. Can you guys do the rights for the citizens of Fulton County to have a say at your meetings, and at least accept email public comments and have someone read them?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "That's incorrect. We do accept public comment. We do not -- it will be up to our Board to change their bylaws in regards to Zoom comments. So we would -- bring that to their attention --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I would like -- I would like -- I know you accept public comment. But what I'm saying is, someone driving an hour to give a two-minute public comment, and then driving an hour back through traffic is unrealistic to expect the citizens of Fulton County. So I would hope that to build trust with our citizens that you give them a voice at your meetings, and that you have someone read any email public comments. Maybe they need to be turned in before 9:00 o'clock on your -- the day of your meeting or something like that."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We'll bring that to the attention to our Board."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So on security level, you know, I want to thank you for taking me around the warehouse, by the way, yesterday. To showing me the -- where the ballots are secured. We need to have a keycard access to wherever the ballots are stored. Because my observation when I came there on Friday night, there were 12 to 15 temp workers with no supervision in the warehouse. They went and got their supervisor when I arrived, but they were not supervised. And the access to the secure location -- of course, you hadn't brought in any ballots at that point. They put someone at the door of but -- I guess to accept people who could go in there and go back there. But I think with all the new warehouse we have that that would be an area that we would need a keycard access."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "To be clear, all of our temps are supervised. So their supervisor was -- and I'm pretty sure you do not know the name of all our staff people. Their supervisor was present. And we have requested a keycard access as one of our enhancements for our upgrades in the warehouse."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. They had to go get their supervisor when I was --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "No, they did not."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "On Friday, I also observed that there were long tables with manager Election Day supplies sitting there. Is this funny?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I'm just smiling, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And it was close to the loading dock, so I assume it was for Sunday pickup. So that was on Friday. Any supplies or absentee ballots, absentee provisional emergency ballots, do you know that it's a felony to lose those ballots?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We have not lost ballots. I'm not sure what you're referring to."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So your manager bags for Election Day were all sitting lined up on long tables by the loading dock area to be taken for manager pickup on Sunday. Inside those bags were the emergency provisional, absentee, they're a three-in-one ballot, was in each one of those bags."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Are you talking about your visit yesterday -- I'm sorry, you came to our facility --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Friday. Friday."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- several times."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Friday."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Friday. This Friday that just passed? So you look -- again, we have not lost any ballots. The ballots are --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I know you haven't --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- in steel suitcases --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- you -- but you lost my ballots in 2020."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "No, we did --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So that's just my concern."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- no, we did not. No, we did not."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Or someone did. Someone replaced them with photocopy ballots."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Those were copies for you to hand out --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I am just --"



**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- to your votes in line. Those are not --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, they were not."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes, they were."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "They had JC13A. I'm a split precinct. But it was for the precinct in general, it would say, A-B, and some would -- and I have eyewitnesses. I have my entire staff because we were training them to do provisional ballots, oops, we're missing ballots."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I believe you sent that to the SOS, and no, we did not lose your ballots. But --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "You know what, it's being reviewed by the SOS right now. Because we found out the State Board of Elections is reviewing it right now. I just will hope that we take the ballots, we secure the blank ballots. They're as important as the voted ballots. We also secure the voted ballots in a cage with limited access, with keycard access, so we know who gets there. So we need to trust our -- we need to trust our elections are secure. I also would like to have our Fulton County Police do a background check on every single temp worker that's working in our warehouse. We can't --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Have you submitted -- excuse me. Have you submitted those to them?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, I haven't yet."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, you're going to?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Um-hmm."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Well --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I do not want to rely --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- it's 3:17. Now, I got to get back to the Capitol --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, I'm sorry."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- on y'all behalf."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And we have warehouses throughout the -- the warehouse -- we have -- I mean, cameras throughout the warehouse. I would like it like other locations do, have 24-hour, kind of, webcam to view what's happening in the warehouse. Logic and accuracy testing, we built this beautiful, beautiful facility so we can do everything in under one roof. But why are we doing logic and accuracy testing in three locations?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Due to the cyber attack, we could not get on the Fulton County network to upload our poll pads. We got permission from the SOS to do it at a different location."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So did you do it at the South Fulton Center too?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes. We did that at our location on Creel Point because we needed a better signal upload the poll pads. But that's what --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. So that's just a --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- happened -- a different location --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- one-time thing. And also on this, you said on Monday, January -- you're supposed to post when you're going to do logic and accuracy testing. But you post on Monday, January 8th, we're going to do them until completed, with no end time."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Because we don't have an end time. When we're finished, we're finished."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So the public is welcome to watch logic and accuracy testing. It's open to the public. So if you don't put an end time, then essentially, the public is allowed into the warehouse at any time just in case you're doing logic and accuracy testing."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We'll make note of that."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah. I just think it -- I think for your sake, it'd be great if you're a little bit more specific because it seems very vague. It's almost like you don't want people to come down there. So I received a report from some observer that came down there on Election Day at 7:00 a.m. She was told tabulation would start at 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. was the only time posted on the Fulton County website. Our observer was told she could not wait in the main lobby. So she went in the warehouse, and she waited in the public area. She was standing for some time when the security guard offered her chair. Shortly afterwards, someone with Fulton Elections staff rudely told her, she could not sit there and took the chair away. Who took -- well, why did we take the chair away --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I have no report of that other than the email I received from the person who wrote it. I -- but I can --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Why don't you go back and look at the cameras? Or maybe I can get Fulton County Police to look at the cameras."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Sure. We'll do that."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Can you do that? Can you find out who took the chair away?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We'll --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'd like to know the name of the employee and their supervisor. And I think an apology note, if it's verified, I think an apology note --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "If it's verified, we will be more than happy to do so."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "That would be great. That would be great. Because I feel like we're rolling out -- we should be rolling out the red carpet. Instead, we're -- it's almost like we got something to hide. We're like, discouraging people from coming down here. We're creating a hostile environment."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We're not doing that all. We -- and if - - when we're open for the public to observe, we're open. If you're -- if they're coming too early, they're not permitted to come on the premises."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Mr. Chair, are you going to let this continue? It's turning into bullying."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Was there an earthquake in Union City? Because, like, my picture fell down off the wall, so did yours, Commissioner Hall."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, sum up, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. I just feel like we're having a hostile environment. I was told in your meeting that I'm not allowed to come down there anymore according to Patrise Perkins-Hooker. Or any County Manager, nobody, only poll workers, poll watchers, and Election Day -- or election workers are allowed."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Okay, yeah. So you're referring to the night that you showed up in the -- and walked to the back of the warehouse, there are retention documents. Is that what you're referring to?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm referring to what you were talking about in your meeting where you're forbidding -- that you don't want anyone -- you know, I feel like -- oh, and I did check this out with the State Board of Elections, and this isn't a law. So if this is a law, you get Patrise to send me the Secretary of State's orders."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "So there have been other counties that have had people breach their premises. And we're trying to make sure that doesn't happen. So no, we do not want anyone letting themselves into the building, walking around all the way back to where retention documents are because we want to make sure everything is secure."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I did not --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We'll be more than happy to --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I did not breach the building. I was let in by a security guard. I told the security guard my intent to observe the intake procedure. He told me how to walk through the warehouse. When I got to the door where he told me to walk to, I had to go around equipment. Then I notified them that I was here, and that's when they got Cory. Cory was very, very nice. He spoke to me very respectful. When I came back with the BRE Member, he set up chairs and a table so that I could observe. That's how observers should be treated."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We'll verify that with the security guard as well."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, you can. And when you tabulated, the tabulating people were told 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. became 7:00 p.m. The observer who had been there since 7:00 a.m. left at 6:25 to go to the meeting, came back at 6:55, and you guys were already tabulating. It was almost like you guys waited until they left to start tabulating."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "No. We advertise the time. We went by the time we advertised. And nothing was advertised for 7:00 a.m. If the observer chose --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "They didn't go to 7:00 a.m., you -- they were told 7:00 p.m."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "They said -- you just said they arrived at 7:00 a.m. There was nothing -- they're not permitted to be on the premises at 7:00 a.m. There's no tabulating at 7:00 a.m., so --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "They were just there in the public area to observe."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "At 7:00, we have --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So at 7:00 --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "(inaudible, simultaneous speakers) advertised at 7:00 p.m."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "You were told -- on the website, it said you guys were going to tabulate at 2:00 p.m. When they got there, they said it was 7:00 p.m. Shortly after they left at 6:25, then you guys started tabulating. It makes an appearance -- you've got to understand, there -- if you don't stick with 7:00 p.m., it has an appearance that we're trying to hide. And by the way, while you guys were scanning the results, you were not checking the seals on -- you were not checking the seals on the cabinets. That's against the law."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We followed all protocols. I will look into that. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you. I'm sorry. I don't want Khadijah -- Commissioner Khadijah to miss her flight. So I'm going to be brief, but I will send you this --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Brief?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, you know, some other Commissioners took some other time, and they rearranged some stuff on me. I'm sorry."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Be brief at the end. No, I'm just playing."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm just going to wrap it up."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Are you finished, Commissioner Thorne?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "As much as I can. But I would love to talk further. Possibly, I'd love to have a meeting with you in private with Patrise Perkins-Hooker as well."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes. You've been by our office several times, so feel free to come again."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That was bullying at its best. Yeah, I'm sorry you had to go through that. But you did an awesome job maintaining your composure. And you're doing an awesome of running the Department of Registrations and Elections. So just take a deep breath."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You're very welcome. And take another deep breath. I'm giving you some time. All right. Some things need to happen publicly, so people can see what's really going on. Just remember, God takes the good -- the bad and turns it into good, okay?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You're welcome. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. I had just really probably three, three points. The first, I do think -- and I have heard from a number of folks that, you know, and I realize some of this is somewhat of the structure of our system and some of the mandates. But some of this is how we've chosen to run things. There is the appearance that we're way overstaffed. And I do think the suggestions of cross training people and that sort of stuff are very valid and need to be taken in consideration. You know, and we need to -- and we need to be doing more that, really thinking about how we are aggressively doing staffing. I feel like we've not really -- we're still mixing mark on that. So things like the -- whatever it was, the provisional clerks, I don't think anybody would look at saying having however many we had of them, 159, and only, you know, a certain number of them went through. That doesn't make any sense on any level. We should be use -- folks should be cross trained to be able to do that. In terms of -- you know, I think we, certainly Fulton County, value ballot access and seek to have open government. And I would encourage that for the BRE as well. I think that's particularly important. I think that there are certainly plenty of times where we were in these roles, we hear things that we may not necessarily like to here. But we represent the public, and we need to hear them. We need to do our best to try to understand where folks are coming from, even when it comes across, maybe, in ways in which, you know, is difficult for us to hear. But I think that's of nature of leadership. Because you take that stuff, you take the feedback, and you make yourself available to take the feedback. And I would encourage the BRE, just as we have open-ballot access, and go out of our way to have multiple ways for people to be able to vote, that in particular

given where our facility is located and where the meeting are being held that there be some alternative forms to receive public comments. I think that's a valid suggestion, and that should be adopted. And my last question for is something that's not been discussed is, as we head into this General Primary -- or the Primary Session here that's going to start pretty soon, where are we with redistricting? And has all of that been completed? And your level of confidence that we are going into early voting and we have all of that stuff right?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "So redistricting has been completed. What we have done is sent all the shape files and the street maintenance and different files to each municipality to go -- to have their GIS department check behind us to see if it matches. We're also going to collaborate with the counties as well when that process is complete, to also match our records. But we are confident that these things will be accurate for the May Election."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "For the -- okay, for the mailers? So you -- so overall, you feel -- you feel confident where we are at in terms of redistricting?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes. We gave the cities a deadline to respond to us by the end of next week. Once we receive that information, we'll start branching out to the other -- to the other counties, surrounding counties."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, all right. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I just wanted to say, the report -- because I kind of rushed through it. And I didn't want it seem like it was all my idea. The actual report, at 2:00 p.m., our observers were told advanced tabulation would start at 7:00. While they were waiting for AV tabulation to start, they walked around to confirm the carriers were sealed, and they were told they could not without an escort, and they should wait until 7:00 p.m. when the AV tabulation would begin. The observers went to the BRE meeting at 6:25. When they returned at 6:55, the warehouse staff had already begun tabulation, despite confirming at least twice that they would not begin until 7:00 p.m. Our observers had the distinct impression the staff had waited for them to leave the room to begin the process of tabulations. It is important that we, these observers -- that these observers are told the right thing, that things start on the right time. Because if we don't get this right in the November Election, it is going to lead to all kinds of conspiracy theories as you, quote, put it."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes. So what you're reading is from one observer. We have received her report on Sunday. We have not even time to verify anything she has listed in what you're reading --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, I was --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- we planned to --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I was there when it happened."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And my Chief, my Deputy Chief of Staff stayed in the room and did not go to the meeting. So he observed them starting the tabulation after the people left as well."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We started tabulation at 7:00 o'clock, but we'll look into the matter. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Madam Clerk, do we have anything else?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "We have one more discussion item, 24-0217."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm going to ask my colleagues, County Manager, if this is not time sensitive, can we hold this?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. In fact, we would prefer to hold it, where we could have the full Board here."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. That's what I was thinking."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "But really, not a rush, just an Economic Development program."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Since we have Commissioner Arrington and the Chairman absent, all right. Well, Madam Clerk, is there anything else?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further items, Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "All right. I'll entertain a motion to end the meeting. Second. Have a nice day, you all."

**(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.)**