

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

May 01, 2024  
10:00 AM



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



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## **MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: June 5, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robert L. Pitts

**10:00 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

**PRESENT**

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

**PRESENT**

Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)

**PRESENT**

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

**PRESENT**

Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)

**PRESENT**

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

**PRESENT**

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair (District 6)

**PRESENT**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****24-0287 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing item #24-0289 as requested by Commissioner Barrett; removing #24-0290 and #24-0291 for separate consideration as requested by Commissioner Hall. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**24-0288 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Nasrolah Farokhi Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**  
April 26, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Albert Spearman, Jr. Remembrance Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
April 26, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Rico Wade Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**  
April 26, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Margo Williams Moorer Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
May 5, 2024

**Commissioners' District Board Appointments****24-0289****Board of Commissioners****HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (REMOVED)**

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, Regular members  
1 Year, Resident members

Term below expired: 7/13/2019  
Stuart S. Canzeri

**Commissioner Barrett has nominated Debra Allen for a District appointment to a term ending July 13, 2024.**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER BARRETT**

**Health and Human Services****24-0290****Public Works**

Request approval of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Fulton County and the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) for continued participation in the District-wide Single-Family Residential Toilet Retrofit program in the total amount of \$15,000.00 for one year, effective upon execution. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Absent:** Ellis

**24-0291 Public Works**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Fulton County and the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) for continued participation in the District-wide Multi-Family High Efficiency (HET) Toilet Rebate Program administered by the MNGWPD and pursuant to the requirements of the MNGWPD's Water Resource Management Plan in the amount of \$15,000.00 for one year effective upon execution. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Absent:** Ellis

**24-0292 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fulton County, on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office to collaborate and to make an application for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 24 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program in the amount of \$550,000.00 due on May 1, 2024. The performance period for this grant is October 2024 through September 2027 with two renewable terms. This is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Infrastructure and Economic Development****24-0293 Select Fulton**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Select Fulton - Workforce Development Division, 22RFP0119B-PS, One Stop Operator in the amount of \$112,500.00 with APM Equus Holdings, LLC dba Arbor E&T LLC (Louisville, KY) to provide the coordination and facilitation of a "One-Stop Operator" service. This action exercises the second of three renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. This contract is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0294 Select Fulton**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Select Fulton - Workforce Development Divisions 22RFP0120B-PS, Youth Services for Select Fulton in the amount of \$600,000.00 with APM Equus Holdings, LLC dba Arbor E&T LLC (Louisville, KY) to provide youth career center services. This action exercises the second of three renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. This contract is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0295 Select Fulton**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Select Fulton - Workforce Development Divisions, 22RFP0121B-PS, Adult and Dislocated Services for Select Fulton in the amount of \$1,725,125.00 with APM Equus Holdings, LLC dba Arbor E&T LLC (Louisville, KY) to provide adult and dislocated career center services. This action exercises the second of three renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. This contract is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0296 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the transfer of 740.52 square feet of right of way and 8,948.97 square feet of temporary construction easement areas to the City of South Fulton, Georgia, for \$1,200.00 for the purpose of making roadway improvements at 0 Stonewall Tell Road; authorizing the Chairman to execute a right of way deed, temporary construction easement agreement and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the right of way deed, temporary construction easement agreement and related documents as to form; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0297 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution to approve a right of way deed from Fulton County, Georgia, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia ("Grantor"), to the City of South Fulton, a municipal corporation of the State of Georgia ("Grantee"), to transfer approximately 14,853.96 square feet of Fulton County-owned right of way located at 7600 Cochran Road for the purpose replacing the bridge at the intersection of Cochran Mill Road and Camp Creek; to authorize the Chairman to execute a right of way deed and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the right of way deed and related documents as to form; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0298 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of Sanitary Sewer System Ownership, Operation, Maintenance and Repair Agreement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Milton Land Invest, Inc, for the purpose of granting Fulton County legal access to extend the sanitary sewer system at 1240 Mayfield Road, Milton Road, Milton, Georgia 30009 (the Development). **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****24-0299 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adopt the First Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by hearing items #24-0303, #24-0304 together as requested by Commissioner Hall; and moving up item #24-0314 as requested by Commissioner Barrett. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**24-0300 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Regular Meeting Minutes, April 10, 2024

Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, April 17, 2024

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

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

**24-0301 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Mental Health Awareness Month."  
**(Pitts/Abdur-Rahman/Thorne/Ellis/Barrett/Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Law Day." **(Arrington/Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Barbara Cook Remembrance Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts)**

Proclamation recognizing "Auntie Angie's House Appreciation Day."  
**(Thorne/Abdur-Rahman/Pitts/Ellis/Barrett/Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Older Americans Month."  
**(Barrett/Abdur-Rahman/Pitts/Thorne/Ellis/Hall)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****24-0302 Board of Commissioners**

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

**Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, whether such persons are commenting in-person, via emails or via Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call).**

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

**(CONDUCTED)**

**11 Speakers: Naeemah Chike (Water Access/Community Garden); Judy Raines (Water Access/Community Garden); Siegfried White (Homelessness); Paul Hershey (County Finances); Mike Russell (Politicians); J. Wesley Day (Justice/Solicitor Office); Kimberly Brookes (District Attorney's Office); L.A. Pink (Politicians); Robert Chapelle (Water Access/Community Garden); Duwon Robinson (Tax Commissioner's Office); Arthur Ferdinand (Tax Commissioner's Office)**

**4 Zoom Comments: Ben Howard (Senior Services/Housing); Derrick D. Blassingame (Fulton County System); Matt Rowenczak (Registration and Elections); Margie McCloud (H.B. 404/Rental Agreements)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****24-0303 Finance**

Presentation, review, and approval of May 1, 2024, Budget Soundings and Resolution **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

Commissioner Arrington requested a division of the item.

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve as amended the budget soundings for the Police Department and Emergency Management only. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the transfer of funding from Arts & Culture to Select Fulton. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Abstain:** Hall

c. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to hold the transfer of funding from Arts & Culture to Select Fulton. The motion failed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Hall, and Arrington

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

**24-0304 Human Resources Management**

Request approval to modify the classification section of the Classification and Compensation plan by adding the new titles of Division Manager, Fulton Films (Grade 27) and Film Marketing Coordinator (Grade 19). **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Hall



**24-0305 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, ITB22110K-DJ, Furniture, and Installation Services for the Fulton County Central Warehouse in the total amount of \$52,372.30 with The Hon Company, LLC c/o Milton Jones Company, Inc. (Muscatine, IA,), for the purchase, delivery and installation of additional furniture and related for the Department of Registration and Elections for the remaining Phase I move to the Fulton County Central Warehouse. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Arts and Libraries****24-0306 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County, Georgia and Hammonds House, Inc., a Georgia non-profit corporation for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the operation and management of the current arts and culture programs based at 503 Peebles St. SW, Atlanta GA 30310, and expanded operational programming. The term of this contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0307 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County, Georgia and the Johns Creek Arts Center, Inc., a Georgia non-profit corporation, for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the operation and management of the current arts and culture programs based at 6290 Abbotts Bridge Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097, and to provide expanded operational programming. The term of the contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0308 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County, Georgia and The National Black Arts Festival, Inc., a Georgia non-profit corporation, for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the operation and management of the current arts and culture programs based at 1429 Fairmont Ave NW Ste J, Atlanta Georgia 30318 and, to provide expanded operational programming. The term of the contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**24-0309 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and the Chattahoochee Nature Center, Inc., a Georgia non-profit corporation, for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the total recurring amount of \$200,000.00 for the operation management of the current environmental education programming based at 9135 Willeo Rd, Roswell, GA 30075, and to provide expanded operational programming. The term of the contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Health and Human Services****24-0310 Public Works**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Public Works, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), 48400-220-DOT0002597-0006, On Call Traffic Signal Maintenance Services in the amount of \$260,000.00 with Lumin8 Transportation Technologies, Inc., (Marietta, GA) to provide on-call traffic signal maintenance and repairs. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0311 Senior Services**

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

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve.

**(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

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

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

**Nay:** Ellis

**24-0312 Senior Services**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Senior Services, 21RFP000016A-CJC, Alternative Senior Transportation Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 with Common Courtesy (Atlanta, GA) to provide transportation services/ride sharing to eligible Fulton County residents aged 60 and above. This amount is based on the BOC approved FY24 enhancement for senior transportation. Effective upon BOC approval. **(HELD)**

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

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

**Nay:** Ellis

**24-0313 Senior Services**

Request approval for the Fulton County Finance Department to enter into a renewal of the contract with CIMA World, Inc. to provide liability, accident and excess automobile liability insurance coverage for senior AmeriCorps volunteers and authorize the Finance Director to pay related costs of \$485.29 to renew the CIMA coverage. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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**Justice and Safety****24-0314 Public Defender**

Request approval of a MOU between Fulton County, on behalf of the Office of the Public Defender, and the United Way of Greater Atlanta in the amount of \$100,000.00 to support a select group of chronically homeless individuals released from the Fulton County Jail by providing transitional housing with case management. The MOU will be effective upon approval by the Board of Commissioners until December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****24-0315 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution consenting to and ratifying the use of Fulton County Ad Valorem Property Tax Increment for five projects located in Westside Tax Allocation District 1 - Atlanta/Westside. **(Barrett) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Ellis

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****24-0316 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Cherry Bekaert Procurement Review **(Pitts) (DISCUSSED)**

**24-0317 Board of Commissioners**

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

**24-0318 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Fulton County Housing Authority **(Abdur-Rahman) (DISCUSSED)**

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION****24-0319 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

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

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

b. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the request to enter into a letter of intent as discussed in item #2 in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Ellis

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

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

**Absent:** Ellis

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington 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, Barrett, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Ellis

e. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the request for representation in item #6 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Ellis

**Abstain:** Thorne

f. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the request for representation in item #7 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Ellis

**Abstain:** Thorne

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
FIRST REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 1, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC  
*"A Court Reporting Firm"*





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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning, everyone and welcome to the First Regular Meeting in May of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is May 1st, 2024. It is exactly 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Chairman Robb Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **24-0287**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have items to be removed from today's Consent Agenda. First item on page 2, 24-0289: Commissioner Barrett has requested to remove her appointment to the Housing Authority of Fulton County. Items to be removed for separate consideration on the Consent Agenda: Commissioner Hall has requested to remove on page 3, 24-0290. Request approval --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- wait just a minute. Remove?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "For separate consideration."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 3, 24-0290, Public Works: Request approval of a Memorandum of Agreement for a continued participation in the districtwide single-family residential toilet retrofit program; and 24-0291, Memorandum of Agreement for continued participation in the districtwide multifamily high-efficiency toilet rebate program."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Also for separate discussion?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes. Both of those for separate discussion."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "That's all."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioners, anything else?"

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "On item 0289. Was that a complete removal or just --"

**CLERK GRIER:** "-- yes. Complete removal for that item."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else? All right, a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion to adopt as amended by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Natalie Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 4, First Regular Meeting Agenda, **24-0299**, Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board on page 6, Commissioner Hall has requested two items to be heard together: 24-0303, Finance: Presentation, review, and approval of the May 1st Budget Soundings and Resolution. And 24-0304, Human Resources Management: Request approval to modify the classifications section of the classification and compensation plan."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To be heard together?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, sir."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioners, anything else?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I have something."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm sorry."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'd like to move 24-03 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- which page?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- 14 top of page 8, to the top of page 6, and that is in order to help the public defender get back to work. They asked if we could hear it quickly."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Move it to where?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "To top of page 6, just to hear it at the beginning. Yeah."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Anything else, Commissioners?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to adopt the Regular Agenda as amended. Motion to do so by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0300**: Ratification of Minutes. Regular Meeting Minutes April 10th. Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, April 17th, 2024."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5, **24-0301**: Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing "Mental Health Awareness Day" sponsored by Chairman Pitts and Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Okay. It's 10:07. We got 30 minutes for these proclamations; max."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, can we possibly move up the Law Day proclamation so that our judges can get back across the street?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, sir. Take that -- take the Law Day next after this one."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Everybody look so good in their green. I didn't get the memo. I guess the Chairman's coming; I'm going to get started. The Chairman's going to come up. WHEREAS, mental health conditions -- mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our communities and throughout our nation; leading many people to face challenges in life that can impact their mental health; and WHEREAS, mental health is essential to overall health and well-being, and prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and WHEREAS, one in five people will experience a mental illness during their lifetime; and there are practical tools that all people can use to improve their mental health and increase resiliency; and WHEREAS, this year's theme, 'Where To Start Mental Health In A Changing World', is focused on learning how modern life affects mental health with new resources to navigate our changing world, building a coping toolbox to manage stress, difficult emotions and challenging situations; and advocating to improve mental health for yourself, friends, family, and communities; and WHEREAS, recovery is a unique and personal journey that requires trial and error to determine what works best for each individual. And all organizations and individuals in a community share the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and prevention efforts. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED it is with humble pride that this is a Full Board

proclamation that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners calls upon the citizens, governmental entities, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Fulton County to commit -- to commit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need to provide appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions; and does hereby proclaim the month of May 2024 as 'Mental Health Awareness Month' in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you please put your hands together for this proclamation that is so very important? And I am going to turn the mic over to you."

**ALI ALLAH, CIO, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning. I'm honored and I'm humbled for this proclamation this morning, and I receive it on behalf of Fulton County BHDD and Fulton County Behavioral Health Network through whom we do a great job in Fulton County taking care of the citizens of Fulton County. And I also want to thank the BOC, the Board of Commissioners, for the attention, and the help, and the concern that they give to mental health because mental health is real. And like Commissioner Khadijah said, one in five in every family has mental health. You may not know it; but they do. So I would like again thank the BOC this morning and thank the Behavioral Health Network and all the staff that make all of this possible and this proclamation possible this morning. Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And I apologize; please tell everyone who you are."

**ALI ALLAH, CIO, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, RECIPIENT:** "My name is Ali Allah. I'm the Chief Information Officer also for Behavioral Health, and we are a part of the Fulton County network."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Law Day' sponsored by Commissioners Arrington and Hall."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Welcome. Welcome. Welcome. Certainly, it's my pleasure to be able to present this proclamation today. As an attorney that's been practicing for 28 years in the state of Georgia -- Judge, I think I've been to almost every courthouse in the state. Proclamation reads as follows: WHEREAS on February 3rd, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a proclamation establishing Law Day in the United States as a day celebrating and commemorating the United States legal system and its contribution to the preservation of justice and human rights; and WHEREAS, in 1961, the United States Congress designated May 1st of each year as the official date celebrating Law Day by passing a joint Resolution; and WHEREAS Law Day provides an opportunity for citizens of Fulton County to appreciate the liberties provided to them especially with regard to equality and justice; and WHEREAS, Law Day further provides an opportunity to learn and cultivate respect for the law which is vital to the Democratic way of life; and WHEREAS, the theme for Law Day 2024, is 'Voices of Democracy' recognizing that in democracies the people rule; encouraging Americans to participate in the 2024 Elections by deepening their understanding of the

electoral process, discussing issues in honest and civil ways, and turning out to vote. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commemorates the importance and the observance of Law Day; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 1st, 2024 as 'Law Day' in Fulton County Georgia. And we are joined by several of our justice partners, and I will yield the floor."

**RECIPIENT:** "Commissioner Arrington, members of the Commission, thank you for hosting us; and as Commissioner Arrington mentioned, we have many of our justice partners here. We have our public defender for Fulton County, we have our solicitor general, and we have our chief judge of probate court. I have several of my colleagues here: Judge Rachel Krause and Rachelle Carnesale -- yeah, that's it. Yeah, and John Collins, who happens to be as part of our mental health team in alternative courts. But I would be remiss if I didn't tell you how appreciative we are of the support that the executive and the legislative branch gives us here in Fulton County. We are all separate branches of government and we have separate roles to play as lawyers and judges, but we have a very important role in the sense that when the public sees us in the sense of the jobs that we do. So I just tell people there's natural friction between public defenders, between prosecutors, between judges; but that ensures your system of justice works and it's transparent. And when you come to a public courtroom to take a look at what goes on, it's -- you get a chance to see that justice truly is, is where the people and where we -- where we meet up and let everyone be heard. But thank you for the proclamation. Commissioner, we have a small token just for you as well. That's a Law Day mug which has our theme on it, 'Voices of Democracy'. And I'll yield to any of our other partners as well."

**JUDGE KENYA JOHNSON, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning, everyone. Justice is proactive, and thank you for our justice partners for ensuring that we are funded and supported so that we can do the work of the people. Thank you all to the Board of Commissioners."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Barbara Cook Remembrance Day' sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and Chairman Pitts."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Did we get Barbara Cook? Can we get the -- Ms. Barbara, any -- any of your supporters here? Okay. Okay. Y'all look like sisters. Oh, there you go. Okay, family of Barbara Cook. I'm sorry. All right. So, WHEREAS, Barbara Cook was the beloved mother and team member who joined the Office of Aging in 1993 as the volunteer coordinator and was later transferred to the HJC Bowden Senior Multipurpose facilities shortly after it opened in 1995; and WHEREAS, Ms. Cook became the program coordinator and worked directly with every multiple purpose facility namesake, Father Bowden, Dorothy C. Benson, Helene S. Mills, and Emma Darnell, legendary senior advocates and proponents for Aging in Place; and WHEREAS, Ms. Cook organized many social events for the seniors such as the line dance jamborees, the Red and White Ball; established the Bowden Travel Club, which I need to travel with them that has traveled all over the world to places like Jerusalem and Egypt."

Individuals who never traveled outside of the country received their first experience with Bowden Travel Club; and WHEREAS, Ms. Cook was a active member of the Artistic Dogwood Flower Club where she shared her love of flowers and creating, Members of the Red Hatter Social Club, and the Bowden Sunshine Club which she helped to establish. It is with great pride and immense humility that NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners honors the exemplary life and memory of our beloved senior services team member and County employee, and proclaims Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, as 'Barbara Cook Remembrance Day' in Fulton County Georgia. Would you please put your hands together?"

**SHELIA, DAUGHTER OF RECIPIENT:** "Thank you. My name is Sheila. I am Ms. Cook's oldest daughter. (Inaudible.) She had a small family, two daughters; my sister, Merdis [Phonetic.], and myself, one son-in-law, Dexter, one grandson, Michael, and his wife, Raven, and one great-granddaughter, Holland. She considered her family large because she considered everyone at the Bowden Center, and all of the participants and many individuals in this building that over time she came to know and work with her extended family. So thank you to all of you. My mother was born in Fulton County, raised in Fulton County, educated in Fulton County, married in Fulton County, had her two girls in Fulton County, and considered it a privilege to be able to work here. So thank you for the value in her life. Thank you for the respect, thank you for the recognition today. This means a lot to our family. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Auntie Angie's House Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Thorne and Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So I just want to start off and wish an early Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers out there in Fulton County. It is truly an honor, a blessing for those moms; and God says, you know, children are truly a gift. They are his reward. And so, it's hard -- being a mom is a hard job though. It's really a hard job, and I have Auntie Angie's House up here that I'm honoring today, because Auntie Angie's House helps moms who choose to have their babies; empowering them, nurturing them, and look at these beautiful children that we have up here today representing the house and representing moms. So it gives me great pride and joy to give this proclamation to Auntie Angie's House. WHEREAS, the mission of Auntie Angie's House is to provide a secure and supportive environment for pregnant single women who are struggling financially, facing homelessness, or in violent relationships; and WHEREAS, its mission is also to eradicate the black maternal health crisis through research, advocacy, support, education, and awareness; and WHEREAS, Auntie Angie's House was founded by Angela Stanton King after her own experience with homelessness and seeking assistance at several shelters. She has since dedicated nearly 20 years of her life to helping women in similar situations; and WHEREAS, Auntie Angie's House provides essential resources and comprehensive support that includes a nurturing home environment, maternity and infant supplies, personalized mentorship, transportation assistance, education opportunities, and empowering life skills; and WHEREAS, Angela's journey has served as a beacon of light and hope for other women



with similar circumstances. And she is now considered a godmother to 68 babies whose existence she has played a part in. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Auntie Angie's House as a lifeline for expectant mothers and for creating healthier futures for all citizens; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, as 'Auntie Angie's House Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Before we bring Angie on, first of all, I want to say -- don't shush that baby. Let that baby make as much noise as possible, because everybody knows the sounds of a baby is glorious. And I just want to personally say in front of everyone, I remember when Angie started this; she was by herself. She was fighting to make sure that people understood -- it doesn't matter what the situation is, the baby is here, and we need the village concept. And so, I want to personally thank her on behalf of all the citizens of Fulton County because I know it has not been easy, but we appreciate your perseverance to make sure that these babies have the village that they need. I'm so proud of you. Thank you."

**ANGELA STANTON-KING, RECIPIENT:** "I usually don't get choked up much, but it has been some very hard work and standing here today and, of course, having our babies here and my godmother, Alveda, who has been very instrumental in supporting me in this fight and having the support of Natalie Hall, Bridget Thorne, Commissioner Khadijah, with us all coming to the understanding that just like Khadijah said, at the end of the day, there is value in life and it does take a village. And every life has value, so let's come together as a community; time to stop fighting. This is the result. This is the fruits of our labor, and you can see it, so I'm just grateful to be here today. Lost for words, but very honored. Thank you to Fulton County. Marvin, thank you."

**ALVEDA, RECIPIENT:** "Hey, little girls, help me sing the song real quick."

(Whereupon, the children and audience are singing This Little Light of Mine.)

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And while we're singing, we have a very special birthday today. Serenity is turning one today. So, I thought we could sing happy birthday to Serenity.

(Whereupon, Members of the Commission and audience sing.)

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing 'Older Americans Day' sponsored by Commissioner Barrett and Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Can we get Senior Services to join us and Sylvia Garland? While everybody's coming down, I'll just say, first of all, I'm going to be an old American pretty soon at 57. I'm not sure what the official cutoff is, but I also, you know, was a part of my father's later days before he passed from Alzheimer's and dementia, and my stepfather's later days, and my mom is now 89. So, you know, caring for older



Americans, and I'm about to be a part of the community myself, I was happy to -- to read this proclamation and present this on behalf of Fulton County. So the proclamation reads: WHEREAS, Fulton County adopted the Health and Human Services strategic priorities of supporting vulnerable residents in our social services; and preventing health disparities by educating residents and connecting them to available resources; and WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services supports independence, health, and the delay of cognitive decline by providing supportive services programs for seniors, caregivers, and the community in group and individual settings; and WHEREAS, these critical services support independence, impact social isolation, improve physical or cognitive abilities, and include transportation, in-home services, home delivered meals, direct and virtual programs in the areas of life enrichment, health and fitness; and WHEREAS, we recognize the value of the Older Americans Act, the Administration on Aging, Older Americans, and our continued need for them to inspire, influence, and enrich individuals of all ages and future generations; and WHEREAS, this year's theme, 'Powered by Connection', provides an opportunity to explore the social connections and meaningful relationships that exist among Fulton County's older adults, family caregivers, and community members; and celebrates our shared responsibility of uplifting all seniors so they can thrive. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urges every resident to take time in May to connect with seniors in their community to learn about their past experiences and present-day contributions, and to engage with agencies and partners providing services to support successful aging in place; and does hereby proclaim May 2024 as 'Older Americans Month' in Fulton County, Georgia."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Good morning. Thank you, Commissioner Barrett, and to the entire Board of Commissioners, we thank you for your full support. Joining us today to accept the proclamation is Ms. Sylvia Garner, and she is a 23-year member of the Dogwood Neighborhood Senior Center. So, please."

**SYLVIA GARNER, RECIPIENT:** "Well, hello, everybody. Well, I've been a member of Dogwood for 24 years. I started in 2001 and I go every day, just about. I exercise, so that was a great place to go to; to get you out of the house and keep you active, and keep you moving. So I really enjoy it and thanks so much."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 5, Public Hearings, **24-0302**: 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. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with speakers in Assembly Hall. We have received ten speaker cards. Will the first five speakers, please come forward: Naeemah Chike --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- speak up, Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "-- Naeemah Chike, Judy Raines, Siegfried White, Paul Hershey, and Mike Russell."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, speakers, when you have 15 seconds left of your two minutes, I'll say 15 seconds. That's your key to begin to conclude your remarks. And I will remind you to be respectful in your comments. And also, Commissioners, to be respectful of your comments regarding the public and each other. Madam, you have the floor."

**NAEEMAH CHIKE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, my name Naeemah Chike. Hello to everybody. We came -- some of us came here today to talk about our garden. We have a community garden. It's in District Five, and it's called the GROWL Garden, Growing -- Growing Real Opportunities in Work and Life through Agriculture. Many of us are seniors who garden there; considering this is Older American's Month. Yes, we are keeping active. We're moving; we're exercising. We are here today because we do not -- we no longer have a source of water. They've been working on our water since last October. We went all the way through winter. They have dug ditches, they've cut down trees. We don't know what else to do except this past Saturday we had an open house and all the gardeners were like when are we going to get water? We are trucking water in from our house; and, Mr. Arrington, we're in your -- you know who. We are trucking water in for our houses. It's not working for us anymore. We know they're working on it, but we still don't have water and they we are now planning our spring and summer crops. Please, please help us get water. Again. That's it. I don't even need any more -- thank you."

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

**JUDY RAINES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you so much for allowing us to speak this morning. My name is Judy Jackson Raines. I'm actually the coordinator, the garden coordinator for the GROWL Garden. That garden supports 30 -- we have 52 beds; 35 families eat from that garden. Twelve of those are seniors and people of certain disabilities. Whereas, I, and Naeemah can truck water in, those 12 people cannot. A couple of them come actually on MARTA vans to, you know, maintain their garden. So we absolutely without question need the water fixed. The staff of the extension center can only call and get it -- get somebody out there. We've

dealt with this issue for probably the last year or so because they actually moved the pumps but by forces, whatever. But we absolutely need someone to assist us in getting water in those spaces. As I said, 35 families, 12 of those 35 families are people, senior citizens or disability, that can't truck the water in, in their vehicles. So we need your help. Thank you."

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

**SIEGFRIED WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Reverend Siegfried Darcel White, organization called Concerned Dads. I would like to say to Commissioner Khadijah, I want to publicly apologize to you. I was at home and I was looking at the news and I saw someone yelling at you, telling you to shut up. That brought back memories when I was young and how my father would talk to my mother dealing with domestic violence, so I want to apologize to you for that. I would never speak to you like that. And I promise you, if you had been another hue, they never would have made that statement to you. They never would have said that to that person. I'm here because I am tired of being harassed; I'm tired of the film industrial complex coming into the city; they not being taxed. A lot of the homeless people are being displaced. Can we talk about some type of tax for the people who come in and make these movies? Ask me how I know? Reverend White has been out there when it was 10, 9 degrees outside and saw the homeless people on Central Avenue and Martin Luther King. I was there, Mr. Pitts, feeding, serving the homeless. Nobody cared about them then. Nobody. But as soon as their --"

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

**SIEGFRIED WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- movie comes; you all find a place for them to go. Let's help the homeless. If you're going to make a movie, tax where the homeless can be housed or be in a hotel. Thank you. God bless you."

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Morning. My name is Paul Hershey, and I'd like to start this off with there ought to be a complete audit both ethically and financially of Fulton County, its operation, its elected officials, and anything dealing with taxpayer dollars. There is so much corruption, misspent -- misspent of all kinds. So let's talk about a little bit of it. In the County jail, the average time, and the most times they should be sitting in the County Jail is 11 months 29 days. And if they're there past one more day than that, then there should be a state contract and the state paying you the fees. Two, you've got -- you've got a Board of Elections that's getting \$40 million that couldn't lead a group in silent prayer, and everybody else in Georgia spending less money. The Fulton County employees working in the DA's office to defund the police. How many of you up there -- I don't care whether you're black, white, pink, or green, whether you're Republican or Democrat. Net Root Nation is an organization to defund the police. Fani Willis -- and you got paid vehicles -- paid employees in that office to defund the police. You talk about the inequities of medical down below I-20. Well, you don't need a new jail. You don't need any of that stuff. The bottom line is take that

money, open the jail. I was in a meeting Thursday night; everybody wants to talk about the racial inequality down there --"

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

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and I've never heard such foul language about what my color looks like. The bottom line is, is you're creating your own problems. And by the way, I just found out that Commissioner Hall said in an interview that all of us that are coming down here to talk about her are getting paid --"

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

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Mike Russell, and I want to address the statement that Commissioner Hall made a couple days ago in an open forum said that those of us who come down here to complain about the malfeasance and the misspending of our taxpayer dollars are somehow being paid or handed a script. Ms. Hall, I don't appreciate that. I don't have a script and nobody's paid me. When I come down here, I come down here because I care. I care about those children that were here today. I care about the seniors who are being displaced out of their homes because some of you cannot resist raising taxes on our senior citizens. When I came down here and spoke because I disagree with Vice Chair Rahman, nobody paid me to do that. But I'll say to you today, that when I called her and asked her for help for our seniors in our community, the only response I got back is where do you want to meet and when. And everything she promised to do for our seniors with her staff, they have done that and more and they continue to do it as we speak. Nobody's paying me to say that. I'm saying it because it's the truth and she has stood up to help those who want to help those in need. We don't appreciate it. But what we do need here is we need to end the cult of corruption. Starting with Fani Hall, with her corruption there, in the DA's office; allowing people to languish up to five years in that County Jail without even being brought to trial or indicted. Sheriff Labat who's mismanaged that jail. The jail didn't do that, he did. Thirty some odd people have died in that jail since he's on his watch. If he was white, half of Atlanta would be in the streets right now protesting. Why does he get a pass? Do those black lives matter in that jail whose passed away --"

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

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- we need to end the culture -- the cult of corruption. Fani Willis, Sheriff Labat, Natalie Hall, and Marvin Arrington, they need to go. Get out and vote them out."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Last speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: J. Wesley Day, Kimberly Brookes, L.A. Pink, Robert E. Chapelle, Duwon Robinson, and Dr. Arthur Ferdinand."

**J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Khadijah, if there is value in life, why is there no one assisting me to garner justice by convicting the men that nearly took my life on November 20th, 2018? In Fulton County, a dog's life has more rights than a human. In the Office of the Solicitor General managed by Keith Gammage, they have treated me inhumane, unfair, and worse than a dog. Marvin Arrington, you all argued intensely about animal care last month, but why don't I feel that same intensity about the injustice I have faced at the hands of the Fulton County justice system? You all argued intensely -- Mike Vick got -- spent jail -- jail time for dogfighting. These men, my assailants, are on camera calling me fag, sissies, homo, and punching me on camera. Beat me into a coma. My mother already lost three kids; two murdered and one drowned, and she almost lost another, and justice has yet to prevail. But yet if I go out and kick a stray dog in the street right now and someone catch me on camera doing it, I guarantee I will be locked up. How is a dog given more rights than a human in Fulton County? I can go write assemble on a rainbow crosswalk, and you will send the entire police force to come find me. Ms. Hall, my disappointment in you, not because of your situation --"

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

**J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- but I knew you personally. When I worked for a millionaire here in Atlanta as her Chief of Staff, I always got you in front of that person to get fundraising money. I had a radio show here. I always had you on my radio show."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, sir. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, sir. Thank you. Next speaker. Are you the next speaker?"

**DUWON ROBINSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "No, sir, we have an issue."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Are you the next speaker?"

**DUWON ROBINSON:** "No, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Who is the next speaker? You have the floor, ma'am."

**KIMBERLY BROOKES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Kimberly Brookes. I'm new to this Commission. I don't know many of you. I'm pretty much in the City Council and with the Board of Education, but I don't come with an organization. I don't speak on behalf of anyone. I'm just a child of the most high God. And as I look in this room, you had our invocation first, you had our Pledge of Allegiance, and we prayed. But you are hypocrites, and God is not pleased. The Bible says be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that so he shall also reap. Fani Willis is not in trouble because of, you know, the situation that she's in. She's in trouble because she's corrupt. Those people in the Fulton County are human beings. You are incarcerating them at rates and now y'all aren't acting like you're supposed to. This Council is taking pictures and doing things that you should not do, and I stand to you today without a

community, but you're taking things from me. Code Enforcement took my home and my master's degree from Clark Atlanta University but not doing their job. Atlanta Housing Authority, Housing and Urban Development don't do their job. And right now, I'm in your court systems, so I'm going to e-mail every last one of you today my complaints against your court system and the things that have been going on in your court. Somebody's taken my court cases out of the court system, and they're being paid to do it. Everyone that touches that e-mail will be held accountable. You are not under the control of yourselves. There are circuit court judges. There's the federal government, and all of your power is granted to you by them. Every single person that touches my case that does not allow me to give me my day in court to sue whoever it is that I'm suing will be held accountable. Mr. Pitts, I have never heard anything negative about you. I do believe that you are a good person, but it is time that you hold these people accountable. So I'll be remiss if I would have not discuss the corruption of Fulton County's court system and Sheriff Labat; and it is some housecleaning you will have to do --"

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

**KIMBERLY BROOKES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- but it is necessary. And I don't come on behalf of anyone, but I will say this, that all of you know what is right and the time to do that is now because you will all be held accountable. Thank you."

**L.A. PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "So as I address the Fulton County massacre of corruption and destruction, Commissioner Hall, I ain't going to spend too much time on you chasing balls; but, how dare you? Did you pay me to go door-to-door? No, you didn't. So you're not gone pay me to come down here and come against you. Trust me; y'all so worried about what we saying about y'all, but we're out for your jobs. We don't care about you as an individual, we're talking about y'all's jobs, okay? So while y'all are sitting up here, Ike Arrington, I'm glad you're bringing up past. Because the one thing about past, babies, is that past gets people permission to come for your ass. That's what it does. It gives you permission unless you know that hey, my past didn't stop me from doing what I got to do now to bring down the corruption. My past shows me you. My past shows me Commissioner Hall, chasing balls, Fani Willis on Grey Goose getting loose. It shows that Sheriff Labut off on his job sitting up here gone do a whole -- listen, that was a drug bust. Y'all better open up your eyes. He had a drug bust. What jail has that many drugs in it? A bullet and no lockdown? He found a bullet in there, y'all. A bullet and no lockdown. He had a rapper come the next day and do a video. Okay? To the drug bust? Really? All here in the massacre of Fulton County. Corruption and destruction. Y'all's little circle is tore down, baby. You might as well go ahead and cancel it. You can be as cute as you want to on any stage you want to, and it sure don't take away Keith Lewis --"

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



**L.A. PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I got your video, yeah. I got your video to Keith Lewis, and y'all doing an investigation because she got his book inside of Fulton County libraries and you sleeping with him while you were doing it. So trust me, we're coming for you."

**ROBERT E. CHAPELLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Robert E. Chapelle. I am an organic farmer, and I'm here in support of GROWL Garden not getting the water that we need since September to January -- to right now. So with the County help, our garden is to inform people about the food injustice, food insecurity, food desert, and let the family know that the community garden here is to help support, aware, that what we've got growing on in South Fulton at the Camp Truitt, which is sponsored by the University of Georgia. They have partnered and they have beds there that need water year-round. And we appreciate your help to speed the process up to get the water in our garden. Our garden is there to help mental health, which we've been talking about. They found it's very therapeutic for people to work in a garden because of the microbes in the soil to help you grow. I could talk about it for hours, but we need to encourage young people at preschool, middle school, high school, and formal education how important it is to have your own food, grow your own food, plus they can cut back on some of the crime we're having by exposing the young people early in life. We have a shortage of farmers not in this state, but all over the country. So we need help with the advertisement through the county, state, and local government to let people know this is an emergency. We just got out of this pandemic, so what's the next pandemic? So I'm here to help to make aware to people that we need farmers and our GROWL Garden has helped and support young farmers, and our generation. Plus, I'm a part of Georgia's Young Farmer's Association --"

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

**ROBERT E. CHAPELLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and all we asked you to do is to keep the water flowing and keep the garden growing. Thank you very much."

**DUWON ROBINSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Mr. Chairman, Ms. Vice Chair, and the Board we have an issue: Mr. Ferdinand did not sign in. He came up there and spoke to somebody and they signed him in to go after me because we had a debate last night, and I went before him -- no, he went before me so he wanted to come here. So we need to pause this, please, because he did not sign in. External sign him in and is the process going to be fair or not because he did not sign in. His name was on that paper, he want to go last, so I'm asking y'all to pause my time because we have an issue. So are we going to correct this or not, because we're not going to allow this. This is going to be fair or not. I'm asking you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. You have two minutes."

**DUWON ROBINSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hey, listen, man. We have an IBM executive in Arthur Ferdinand, who come down here and give y'all an excuse about the

system don't work. Either he's a technology guy or not. So many of you guys down here benefit from him being the Tax Commissioner. I get it, but we can't have that. Mr. Anderson, I looked you up; you're supposed be a decent man. You make a lot of money, so I know you don't get in the gutter with this guy. Mr. Bob Ellis, you and Mr. Pitts voted, no for his \$60,000 raise. Mr. Anderson, you the manager, he ain't gave y'all his salary since 2010; is that, okay? So he says it's legal for him to do it. So was hanging Negroes from a tree, and castrating, and burning down houses. But was it right? Maybe legal, what they doing, but was it right? Is it morally right what y'all allowing him to do, Ms. Barrett? Is it morally right? Black folks losing they homes for \$30 trash bills; is that, okay? Y'all think that's, okay? Y'all keep voting on raising taxes without merit, blanket assessments. He quick to say oh, that's not my responsibility. He came in making a \$70,000. Y'all let him raise it up to 471 --"

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

**DUWON ROBINSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- you all don't even know what he makes to this current day. Y'all want to be friends. Everybody want to shake his hand; hey, Mr. Ferdinand. You are an enemy to Fulton County residents, and you are an enemy to the people all over; black, brown, and white, if y'all continue to let this man do what he doing."

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

**DR. ARTHUR FERDINAND, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. I am Arthur Ferdinand, the Fulton County Tax Commissioner. I've lived in Fulton County for more than 50 years. I've served Fulton County citizens since 1998. I do not have any legal entanglements. I do not get paid by anyone. I do not get campaign contributions from anybody. I have no allegiances to anyone, but the citizens of Fulton County and the Fulton County government. Last year I collected over \$3 billion in taxes. I've had over 50 audits every single year. There's never been anything found that I did wrong. If I did something wrong in Fulton County, there is a governor, a Republican governor who would certainly take me out of office. Before Governor Kemp, there was another Republican governor who would have taken me out of office if I did something wrong. Fulton County is a very, very ethical County. I do not accuse anyone of you of anything except making sure that Fulton County is well served, and that is what I do. I've lived here, I've raise my kids here. I provided for my family. I wish everybody could do that. I do not owe anybody anything. No government. I took an oath to that. I paid all my taxes; I never had any liens put against my property. I believe that anybody who serves Fulton County should pay taxes in Fulton County --"

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

**DR. ARTHUR FERDINAND, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I do not really care for people to defame me in Fulton County for the job I do for all of you. And I hope that the people of Fulton County appreciate what our office does for them every single day. Thank you."



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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman's and Members of the Board, the item that was moved up today on today's agenda --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Aren't there Zoom speakers?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, we have four Zoom speakers."

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

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings, Commissioners and staff. And special greetings, fellow citizens. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate and public policy analyst. Kudos to the Commission on Elder Affairs for encouraging the protection of that advocacy video. Members of the public may gain access to the advocacy video by calling the Fulton County Star line 404-613-6000, 404-613-6000. Thank you, news media for your coverage of the Housing Authority of Fulton County meeting on the second Thursday in April. You have scratched the investigative surface. At the upcoming meeting of that Housing Authority on Thursday, May 9th, you may want to dig deeper and as they say, follow the money. By the way, news media, don't be sidetracked when those bullies play their sexual innuendo card by falsely accusing a new, unbought board member of stalking a compliant board member 17 times. That's just a distracting ruse they use to sidetrack investigations. We'll stay tuned."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Derrick Blassingame."

**DERRICK BLASSINGAME, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Did I hear Derrick Blassingame there?"

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, you did."

**DERRICK BLASSINGAME, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay, great. Thanks for the opportunity. Sorry I couldn't make it down in person. But I didn't want to waste my time dealing with the shenanigans down there. According to our Commissioner -- according to some of the information that I received here, the only way for guys like me to get a woman in Fulton County is to submit to surveillance, harassment, and cohesion. It saddens me that black women have stooped so low in Fulton County that desperation is the key to your system's success. It doesn't work. Let's talk about 1300 votes that was not counted by the Board of Registration and Elections in 2022. Even though it did not change the outcome of any of the races, all votes must be counted in Fulton County. We must ensure election integrity in every count, in every election. I do not need to visit every courthouse in the state of Georgia. I am omnipresent. Apparently, Commissioner

Arrington is not the brightest attorney. He's being sued by State Representative Misha Maynard along with Fani Willis. He has also so in Fulton County cost the taxpayers millions of dollars. Nicole Wire of the Fulton County Police Department has refused to comply with the subpoena I filed in the criminal case, the Fulton Police Department filed against me in December '22. Marcia Ridley refused a subpoena for records in the criminal case filed against me in November 2022, where I spent 15 days in the Fulton County jail while I was assaulted by gang members. The Fulton County Sheriff refuses to release the incident report showing my injuries and near-death assault I experienced while in his custody. Finally, let me remind you that I am not from the state of Georgia. I'm a United States born citizen. I did not commute from Haiti. I did not come from Africa to fight for my rights or to live a good life. I'm a United States born citizen. I'm from the state of Ohio. I have slept on your streets, under your bridges. The Fulton County government and the State of Georgia lured me to your state under false premise of prosperity and opportunity --"

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

**DERRICK BLASSINGAME, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- instead I'm just a prosecuted and persecuted me, but I refuse to succumb to your fear tactics. I am not your slave, your tool, or your toy. Derrick Blassingame, the government watchdog."

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

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. I just want to bring something to your attention this morning. It appears that our Elections Director is now obstructing the efforts of the Board of Elections. First, we had a board member in the last election who requested to be present in an after action meeting. Then Ms. Williams decided to say -- decided to not notify him, and then he asked why once they received the action -- or after action report at the certification meeting and she said she was worried about misinformation. So you have an elections director interfering when it appears to be with the Board of Elections. There was another board member that also requested supporting documentation in that prior to that meeting so that they could have the confidence when they're trying to certify. And that was also not given. So, we have a major problem here with our elections director in thinking that she is above the Board of Elections, which is required by law, as we all know, to provide oversight. And if we want to talk about misinformation, and she appears to want to be the ministry of truth; we've shared before that Cobb County spends about six million. It looks like their budget for their election's department is nine million this year. And her counter argument tries to be that they're on a different calendar year. Okay, so let's double their budget for -- for that sake. So 18 million this year and we're spending -- want to spend 40 million when we know they spent 27 in 2022. So she's been very disingenuous and now appears to be subverting the Board itself."

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

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "So I wanted to bring that to your attention this morning. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The last person to speak is Ralph. Ralph. Okay, and with that being said, that is the --"

**MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- Margie McCloud. Margie McCloud. Can you hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay. Yes, hey. Good afternoon, Commissioners. I have a problem. We -- a Bill 404 had passed in the House and the Senate, but what I'm am very concerned about it, last week y'all talking about that y'all go out in the community and y'all would let people know what is happened. And what you need to know, I want y'all to have a Town Hall meeting, all Districts to inform that this House Bill 404, people is not understanding of what it is. Said it's giving them three days to put the people out of they apartments, who is renting them. So that's why it's so important that y'all need to go out and have a Town Hall meeting, and let these people know what House Bill 404 is, because it's going to change everything. It's going to make you have more homeless -- people that we got. We know California, number one, if this bill go in effect, we going to be number two. So that's how important this House Bill 404 is not a good Bill for the tenants, but it's good for the landlord. So, y'all say y'all about educating the community, this what you need to do because I will inform them also because they are shocked. They don't understand the landlord. And so, I called to say act, this what we want you to do, have a Town Hall meeting, inform your voters, because the landlord's now is coming to the people telling them they got one, two, three business days --"

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

**MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to leave out of their tent. Okay? And you also have a Town Hall meeting at your District also."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Item moved up on today's agenda on page 8, under Justice and Safety, **24-0314**, Public Defender: Request approval of an MOU between Fulton

County and the United Way of Greater Atlanta in the amount of \$100,000, to support a select group of chronically homeless individuals released from the Fulton County Jail."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, I have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Any questions or comments?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 6, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, two items to be heard together, **24-0303**, Finance: Presentation, review, and approval of the May 1, 2024 Budget Soundings and Resolution; and **24-0304**, Human Resources Management: Request approval to modify the classification section of the classification and compensation plan."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We're going to hear both of these together. We have a motion on the floor to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Natalie Hall, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you Mr. Chair. I asked for these to be heard together because, in 24-0303 -- hold on one second. Under the legislation details on page 3 of 3, No. 6 at the top of the page, it says additional funding for the creation of one full-time film marketing coordinator position, Grade 19, from the Library to Select Fulton for 81,798. But when you go to 24-0304, it has no mention of this position coming from the Library to Select Fulton. So I was just wondering is that a typo or should it have -- did it not transfer over and what position from the Library is going to Select Fulton, if that is accurate?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Dr. Roshell?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you for the question, Commissioner Hall. So the finance item --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- speak up, Dr. Roshell."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- so the finance items and the human resources items are both a part of the plan that will be presented today to effectuate the March 20th Resolution that the Board approved to transfer Fulton Films to Select Fulton. As we work to make this plan a reality, we realize that not only did we need to transfer the positions that are labeled Fulton Films, which are the two part-time

positions, but we also would need some additional support by way of a full-time position in addition to the division manager. So in looking to resource for that, we looked at the 30 plus vacant positions in the library, many of those positions have been vacant for over a year, some multiple years. So two library associate positions that have never been filled were unfunded in the library and that funding was transferred through the soundings process to fund the position that is the human resources management agenda item, the film marketing coordinator. It will fund that position."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Let's vote on 03 -- you have a question? Commissioner Barrett?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Are we going to get a presentation then?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am. So again, good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Today, David Manuel, the Director of Arts and Culture, and Samir Abdullahi, will present to the Board the recommended plan to effectuate the March 20th BOC Resolution to transfer Fulton Films to Select Fulton. A couple of things that we want the Board to know: One, we did this again in response to the Resolution. We wanted to make sure that we also took this as an opportunity to modernize the approach to drive more impact in these programs, and that is what is going to be presented today. The framework for this presentation will provide an overview of the current state of not only Fulton Films, but FGTV, and what the future state of these programs will look like, based on our proposed plan. So, I'll turn it to you, David and Samir, to move forward."

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Hello, Commissioners. If we can go to the next slide. So the current model for FGTV and Fulton Film, we broke it down into three categories: staffing, funding, and initiatives. In terms of staffing, the shared staff for Fulton Film and FGTV. In terms of funding, there's a separate operating funds; Fulton Film did get an enhancement last year and this year and last year. In terms of initiatives, it's limited overlap of activities. An example of that is some of our local film festival, we cover every documented through FGTV, so it's a sort of a back-and-forth. Next slide. So with the current model, Fulton Film is responsible for promoting Fulton facilities for filming; and currently we have over 200 site locations for filming, as well as promote film opportunities in Fulton County. And in terms of FGTV, it's a broadcast platform to promote Fulton services. It also is a broadcast for public meeting. Next slide."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "Good morning, Commissioners, Samir Abdullahi, Director of Select Fulton. So we're going to break these apart, look at Fulton Films separate from FGTV and kind of their functions in their

current state. When you look at Fulton Films, one of their main core missions is to promote Fulton facilities for filmings. This group works to market and promote over 133 facilities and locations that Fulton County owns. They do a lot of this work through facilitated online, through our online permitting process. They apply for the films app, which I think the state of Georgia and many other communities that are camera ready like us leverage that online tool to make requests. You can see photos of film locations and the like. Just again, looking at some of the quick facts and terms of Fulton filming locations that we have here at Fulton County: Traditionally, annually, this group has approved about 25 film permits annually which generates over \$300,000 in fees that go back to, sometimes back into the general fund, sometimes stays with the airport and the like, but they are generating these through leasing those facilities. And, again, some of our most popular locations are the airport, the libraries, and the court system; so a great way to leverage existing Fulton County platforms to engage the film industry that is emerging here. Next slide, please. The other big piece of Fulton Films is not only promoting our facilities for filming, but obviously promoting the film industry in general here in Fulton County and trying to develop investment, job activities, and filming here in Fulton County. Traditionally, that's been done through large national film festivals and festival activations. We've highlighted a few for you up there. At these events they're not only promoting Fulton County as a great place to film, but also promoting our Fulton County facilities for filming. So you can see for sponsorships and others, there is some double overlap. You're selling the County more broadly, but also selling the fact that we've got unique film locations here that Fulton County owns. Again, sometimes these events were done in partnership with the state. I'd say traditionally, they've not been done in partnership with the state, so we've done these alone. Again, this requires us and our team or the Fulton Films team to really invest significant dollars not only to do the sponsorships, to kind of get the attention at these film events, but then also to staff and to do activations at these film events. So very resourceful, intensive and that's why you can see kind of the 2023 budget, 60 percent of the funding went towards sponsorships. Another piece of promoting Fulton County for filming is around promoting career opportunities here in the film industry, so that was done through several kind of ecosystem activities, either speaker series, bringing on film ambassadors, so those already in the film industry to share what it's like to be a part of the film industry and their experience. And then on certain occasion, partner with nonprofits and film sets to bring Fulton County residents on-site to do work on film sets. Next slide and David will talk about FGTV in its current state."

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** "So with our current model, FGTV is a broadcast platform to promote Fulton services. And those examples are FGTV original programming, which includes the Board of Commissioners hosted meetings, department heads, and Happening in Fulton series. The broadcast public meetings is the live broadcast and recording, which includes the Board of Commissioners meeting live, Board of Registration and Election, press conferences, special reports, and you can find those on our channel, Channel 21, city of Atlanta, Channel 23, and Fulton County and Channel 99, AT&T. Next slide."



**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "And I'll close this out on these last two slides. So we kind of described what the current state is, some of those challenges again, the overlap of activities, or limited overlap in activities, and just kind of the same staff doing different functions, right? Being FGTV at one time and also being Fulton Films at one time. We're hopeful this new model kind of helps to make that separation, again for the intent and goal of more intentional work for both of those entities. According to County Manager here, when we did the County rebrand, I'd like to think of this as an evolution, not a revolution. Again materially, the functions and goals of both FGTV and Fulton Films will stay the same. This is really again to get each organization focused on their particular lanes. So again, moving Fulton Films over to Select Fulton and leaving FGTV remaining in Arts and Culture. I'd say again, the greatest difference is around kind of greater focus and impact and being more resourceful in the dollars for each respective division. So as we look kind of at the orange there at Fulton Films, just as we do in Select Fulton, we don't do traditionally industry engagements alone. We do those in concert with the state and regional entities; again, for the resourcefulness that I spoke about before and just kind of the cost to get eyes on your logo and isolation, as well as programming activities requires a lot of staff if you do that by yourself as opposed to with the state and regional partner. There's some things at Select Fulton that we're very intentional around, so we'll have Fulton Films leaning into supporting commercial real estate activity around the film industry, so not just activity like people getting on film sets and supporting the film industry, but actually getting dollars invested in the ground. That's traditionally what we do in economic development is to work to bring dollars, capital investment and the like, you know, permanent sense into the ground, so that's supporting through new film studio development, as well as supporting, again, other functions that relate to the film industry such as production and the like. Similar to kind of what we do on the Work Source Fulton side of things: we don't do training without some type of intent around credentialing. We don't want you to just be on a film site, and that's kind your credential, although this industry is a little different, and that credits and credentialing somewhat have equal weight, but would work with more intentionality around getting people on the film sets, but through programs that provide again lasting credentialing, so they can take those on and build their career. Again, I'd say the biggest change here is really about converting on inbound opportunities and a little less on generating opportunity by ourselves, so that's Fulton Films. As we think about FGTV, and not to be too much out of turn, David here, this change really affords FGTV to focus exclusively on broadcast. They don't have to change to Fulton Films and FGTV hats from time to time. Again, a new emphasis on reaching citizens where they are beyond just YouTube and broadcast. David and his team are uniquely positioned for that, being kind of the creative class for the County; and then added programming. I think that shares some of the individual stories and work that's happening in the Fulton County community. So next slide, please. This closes us out, really looking at what that HR staffing model would shift to. So on the left there, you'll see in orange the current model where you've got a division manager at FGTV, and a bunch of 12 support staff, again switching hats depending on the different activities that they're working on. Again, work exclusively with the executive team, finance and HR, to help make Fulton Films a stand-alone division, not

just an initiative, but has limited HR implications and really no impact on the current staff status with the County or their salaries or the existing operating budgets of both FGTV and Fulton Films. Again, I think in the current model, the dual hats creates a little confusion, and a little less focus on what those two respective organizations should focus on. So we're putting the most critical staff that's currently under FGTV over to Select Fulton under the new division that would be Fulton Films. Again, it's a small staff as this was always an initiative. FGTV management, so as you see in the recommended model, that middle blue lane there, would fall under the management of the Deputy of Arts and Culture with existing management in FGTV really leading the day-to-day activities. A majority of the current team would go over with FGTV representing about nine of the ten full-time employees, and one in three of the part-time employees. They will all stay with FGTV, so we're really just moving over that mission critical staff to help operate and effectuate Fulton Films under Select Fulton. So that would be a division manager of Fulton Films. We discussed a full-time employee, because right now there is no films full-time employee that's not wearing a dual role hat under FGTV. So we create that position of field marketing coordinator because that title already exists, as well as bringing over the two part-time employees that are already under FGTV that are the Fulton Films marketing coordinators to provide support to that new film's division. Again, I think we worked pretty hard to minimize impact, to effectuate what the Board's decision was of moving Fulton Films over to Select Fulton, and then pretty excited about kind of the future state, adding extra tool to the toolkit for Select Fulton, at least personally; and having a little more intentionality around where we're engaging in the film industry. And with that, we'll take any questions you may have."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to preface this by saying, I'm not feeling great, so I'm going to -- I might be moving a little slowly with my questions, I apologize. But I have a couple questions about sort of the goal of Fulton Films and also just sort of how it fits into Select Fulton. And I want to say kind of to all of you that I understand that a lot of this is based on because the Board made a decision and you all are just trying to figure out how to operate from there. So I just want to set that baseline that I understand. I'm certainly not casting blame at anybody for making decisions you had to make in order to meet something we put out there for you. But the numbers look confusing to me, because when I got to Fulton County last year, it was explained to me that the purpose of Fulton Films was fully just to, you know, license our building's permit, our buildings for filming. And that it was self funding, that it covered its costs. But this doesn't actually seem to say that unless I'm misreading the numbers. It looks to me like based on the numbers that supposed to be transferred, we're transferring \$522,000 and change from Arts and Culture from FGTV and Fulton Films over to this now new Fulton Films setup under you, but we're only bringing in about 300,000 year; and now we're asking for an additional \$80,000 in funding for any position coming from the libraries, so the number here is 604,564 added to your budget to cover the cost of all this, but it's only bringing in \$300,000 and change per year. So I'm



curious as to why we, as a Body and as a County, think this is a good idea, which you may not be able to answer. But I will ask this, just from a logic standpoint, Samir. When you're doing economic development and working with the development authority, my sort of understanding is that our idea is to invest a small amount of money to, you know, have a TenX result in property tax from estate transactions that occur, right? So in this case we're spending money and we're actually just spending money to bring in less money. So it's not really economic development in its current iteration. Would you agree, or is that not accurate?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "I think we're -- it is an industry engagement which is what we do in economic development, so one of the functions is around site selection and helping to get dollars out of the ground. Another big piece, we participate in trade shows with the state in important industry segments, and so we'll be going to the Biolife Science Tradeshow here in San Diego in about a month because we're making a big push around life-sciences, both with our win in Boston Scientific in Johns Creek. The authority supported Science Park there at Georgia Tech. Something that we think is a region we can go after. So I'd see it very much as an industry engagement, operation and initiatives, You know, whether the funding is comparable to what we do with other industries, maybe not so much. I mean, I think that's a question more for the Board, but I wouldn't see it as not an economic development function. It is industry engagement and how to support that ecosystem. I can't speak to the return on dollars."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah and I'm not saying it's not economic development. I'm saying it's not successful economic development in the sense that the goal is to, you know, bring in significant revenue, additional property tax revenue. It doesn't feel like it's doing that. And also, and this is just a question. You have how many staffers currently? Not including this."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "Four in economic development, well, three in economic development the balance the other eight or so or in workforce development funded through our federal workforce grant."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So the Fulton Films folks then -- so you have a -- I'm sorry, let me rephrase this. I assume you go after a lot of different industry sectors based on what you just said: life sciences right now, and you have, you know, work that you're doing apparently that has to do with international trade and all kinds of decisions that you make about which industries to pursue to bring real opportunity to the County. And you have three people doing that for all the industries?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And now you'll have three more people doing it just for this one small sector that doesn't seem to bring in real results?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "Two full-time and some support staff that we'll bring on in."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I find all of this really troubling. It just feels to me like we're spending a lot of money for something that doesn't have a lot of positive impact for the citizens. There's not a lot of positive impact from this. Not your fault. Not your fault. But not a lot of positive impact from a property tax standpoint, from an economic development standpoint, possibly from a branding standpoint. It's not a bad thing. But I don't know if it's worth it if we're not covering -- at least covering our costs, let alone bringing in additional dollars, so I have some serious concerns about this. And I think I would have been most concerned if we weren't adding another position. And so, I mean, it also feels to me like -- and maybe you both can help answer this question, but when I look at the new model, it seems to me that we took a full-time management position away from FGTV, and are now giving that responsibility to your deputy director and put that full-time person over in Fulton Films. But then we're giving another full-time person to Fulton Films and we're not fixing the person that got taken away from -- do you see what I'm saying? Like, don't we need a leader -- somebody in leadership who's fully focused on FGTV or do we not? And the person who was doing both in the past is now only going to be doing half of that job? I'm just confused by this decision."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "Quickly, I'll speak to the full-time position for that is the film marketing coordinator as to the two goals that the organization has in promoting Fulton County for filming and then also promoting our facilities. That film marketing coordinator, their main role will be doing the film permitting side of things. You need someone in-house to be able to be responsive to film locations. As I said, we approved 25 annually, I'd say at least 60, 70, 80 that come through in interest and tours that are set up in coordinating with different departments on what does that film setup look like, if they do submit and commit to a contract being on-site and making sure things are packed away appropriately, so you need somebody to kind of lead that; whereas, you would have -- I would envision the division manager doing more strategic thought: what are those different important industry engagement activities we want to do, how do we actually do those, how do we set those up, and then again that full-time employee is supporting those activities from a logistical standpoint, and you have on-call part-time employee. So that is the reason why we have that one full-time employee, and David can speak to the leadership at FGTV."

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** "So I think it's an opportunity for us to just reimagine what those two initiatives look like. And so, when you're looking at film, part of putting together these film festivals and going out into the community, it's really to invite people to say I want to live, work, stay and play in Fulton County. Take advantage of the tax credit incentive; buy a house, we'll get some of that property tax money to go back into it. So I think it's an opportunity on the film side to say let's be a little bit more creative and dynamic under economic development to really push that. Now, in terms of FGTV, currently, my deputy director has a degree in film and broadcasting. So this would also be another reimagine opportunity for us, because

when I started doing research, I looked at the fact that we weren't really making the kind of impact that I think we should, that we're making in other initiatives. And when you start looking at our impact in social media, I think we had about as many posts as we did followers. So now, it's opportunity for arts and culture to really get in there, look at the programming that we provide, enhance those programs, but also enhance the branding. I've been in meetings with WABE who has content that would love to share it on our station, which would be another opportunity to partner and collaborate. So, I look at it on both sides as an opportunity for everyone to reimagine, roll up their sleeves, and make what we're doing, which is great, little bit more impactful."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you. I think FGTV -- and I want to be clear about this, is -- obviously, we're on it right now. I think it's critical for the citizens in terms of getting information about what's happening in the County, so I'm all for that. And I agree with your assessment that we could be doing more and reaching more people, and that is going to require effort on y'all's part, and I'm glad that your deputy director has that background that was not something I knew, so I'm glad to hear that. So that part of it, I really have no issue with, and it must continue and, you know, if we can make it better and reach more people, I'm all for that. That is a value to the citizens that is clear to me. The issue I have is on the Fulton Films side. I'm just -- you know, to be fair, and I'm going to have a really hard time supporting another position for this when we have no -- at least for me, and I did ask this question and I understand the response that you gave me, Dr. Roshell, but, you know, if we're going to set some goals in terms of the amount of business we bring in, and if there's other ways to quantify it in terms of people who are moving here as a result of attending these festivals, or if there are, you know, people interested in buying real estate here for studios or what have you, that's great, but I feel like without having clear goals and metrics and just continuing to invest in something that doesn't really serve, like from my perspective, the County in a measurable and, you know, real way. Then I -- you know, I have -- I also have to sort of support the Board's decision to move things around and do what we're doing, but I don't think I really need to support spending additional money on another position for this without goals and metrics. I personally will be happy to hold and wait for y'all to come back with some reporting on what the plans are and how we're going to turn Fulton Films into something that, you know, brings in more revenue or more economic impact. On the other hand, if that's not possible, if everybody else is ready to move ahead, I don't think that I'm going to be willing to support it."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, I did not support this move that was done, and so I'm not going to be supporting this either. The move that was done by the Board was done without any thought, without any foresight, and without any vision. And obviously also without any planning because now we're coming back to say oh, okay, well here's what we're going to do to try to get back to what we did. We've already adopted our budget. These positions were already placed somewhere else. And so, none of this makes any sense to me. Their -- the only reason that FGTV was moved

with Fulton Films to Arts by our County Manager was because FGTV and Fulton Films were kind one in the same. Frankly, FGTV should go back to External Affairs and Communications. It makes no sense to have it in Arts unless we are creating original programming, right? I mean that's what Arts does; Arts creates programming. We're not creating any original programming. And so, it makes no sense for FGTV to be under Arts; it should be back under External Affairs. I don't believe that it makes sense to move Fulton Films to Economic Development because Arts is just as much economic development as film is. And so, it does not make sense to me. I don't think it makes sense in general. I do have to push back on what I heard Commissioner Barrett just say. And I think, you know, maybe it does make sense to hold this and for us to do some research, and to get some numbers. Because it seems dismissive, Commissioner Barrett, to just say oh, there's no impact. We're spending 600,000, we're only making 300,000. Have many films were produced in Fulton last year?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "In the County, I'm not aware of that number."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. What was the average budget of the number out of those films that was produced in Fulton County last year?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "I don't know that number."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "What's the average budget of the film? And I'm not picking on you, Samir. I'm just showing -- I'm just illustrating how little thought has gone into this, right? So, somebody comes to town and they do a 50 million-dollar film and they shoot it in Fulton County and we get sales tax off of that? And people say there's no economic impact? We get sales tax but -- do we get sales tax money from somebody? When somebody comes to Fulton County and spends \$50 million on hiring people, buying products and doing all of that, don't we get money from sales tax on that? Do we?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "I think some of the local jurisdictions get money, yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Is Fulton County one of the local jurisdictions that gets a piece of sales tax money?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "A portion. I think so, yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So in my mind, we would at least need to do a study or talk about it. Do you know what was the economic impact for the film industry in the state of Georgia last year?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "Not off the top of my head."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "8.55 billion in economic output in the state of Georgia last year. It grew by more than 17 percent each year from 2012 to '23, creating a \$29.65 billion economic impact on Georgia's economy. Now, Fulton County is about 10 percent of the state. So if we get -- if we -- and I don't know if you can transpose the numbers like that, but if I take 10 percent of 8.5 billion in one year, that's a pretty significant amount of money. We're 10 percent of the population. We probably -- there's probably more than percent because I can bet you probably 50 percent of the stuff that's happening right here in Fulton County. It's not 10 percent of films being done here in Fulton County. How many people moved here as a result of the work -- of the fact that they're working in Fulton County shooting on these projects?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "I don't know that number."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "We don't know any of the things that would be relevant for us to make any type of decision. And I don't think that we need to be dismissive of the economic impact. I think, if anything, we should be asking what is the economic impact? The state film office probably has these numbers. It's probably a phone call away, an e-mail away. And so, the rental fees might be part of it and what we generate from rental fees may be part of it, but I think, as you pointed out, there are multi-different areas like sales tax revenue, property tax revenue, that all would add to the bottom line of what we get in Fulton County. Ten percent of 8.5 billion would get us over the \$600,000. Ten percent of 29.65 billion gets us way over that. So I think there's more to economic impact than meets the eye than the dollars that are coming in for the rental of facilities. And I would suggest, as we're talking about this item, it might be beneficial to talk to the person that had the vision to start it in the beginning."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "You guys, thank you for the presentation. I -- you know I appreciate your recommendation. Given the mission of the two different departments, I think it's wise and actually, Commissioner Arrington, I agree with you. I kind of feel like FGTV, their mission is to inform and broadcast, you know, the services that we do in Fulton County that -- and I know it was with Jessica in External Affairs before my time, but I do see that that perhaps with the split that maybe it does need to go back to External Affairs. I do -- I have noticed the impact that you guys have had on social media; David, you guys have done a great job. I hope that somehow you could -- FGTV could partner with all the departments across and help them ramp up social media as well. One thing I was wondering, we had an inducement for Fulton Films of \$250,000; is that correct, this year?"

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** "Enhancement? An enhancement of 250?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes."

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And in that 250, what did that allow you to do extra that you wouldn't normally do?"

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** "The 250 assisted us in covering a part-time staff, but it also assisted us in providing and supporting film festivals locally as well as nationally to kind of increase our brand."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And we talked about economic -- Commissioner Arrington brought up the economic impact. I know there was talk about reducing the taxes credits on the legislative side. Did that talk -- was just talk and nothing happened, or is that talk that's still bubbling that might happen?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "It'll be something that continues to bubble up. I think right now where they're at is raising the minimal spend thresholds. Again, there is no cap at the state as to how many of these tax credits they will issue, and I think the State -- not, you know, exclusive to the film industry, you've seen the same with the data center industry that a little over their skis in their commitments that were out there. And I think given the tempo of film investment that has increased year-over-year, there's not such a need to be aggressive on the tax incentive side of things. And that's why they're being a little bit more constrained in -- in the offerings at the state."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And one last thing, I have kids that live out in Utah and they sent me the other day that Sundance Film Festival is looking at possibly moving to Atlanta, 2026, I think. What is that possibility, or are you guys in play with that?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, DIRECTOR, SELECT FULTON:** "I have no inside information. I would imagine they are, just like Southwest in Austin, leveraging it as an opportunity to get greater investment where they currently are. I mean, I think there's a lot of brand association with Utah and Sundance that both parties are not very interested to walk away from. It would be a great coup, probably expensive to get it here and to make it happen here, so interesting discussion."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, thank you. That's all."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, I just want to commend both of you for coming together and working on this plan in such a short period of time and especially since it was not originally your plan. You know, David always says collaboration over competition, and this is very evident of that. Commissioner Arrington mentioned that FGTV should create original programming; and David, I remember you



actually saying that early on when FGTV was moved under Arts and Culture; and you expressed your desire to create original content and even looking at other cities and counties across the United States at what they were doing in Washington, DC and other places. And so, I think that you and Commissioner Arrington are on the same page; and I think that would be great for Fulton County because it is something that we greatly need. I first found out how important FGTV was to our residents when early on, working for the late Commissioner Garner, someone tried to change the programming format. And when I tell you the seniors, they learned how to use e-mail real fast because they sent all kind of e-mails, they called, and everything and voice their disagreement with changing the formatting of the programming because they were so used to turning that TV on and watching certain things at certain times. And so, FGTV is very important to our constituents, and I want to see it continue to grow and be even bigger and better, but I think there's more work and more planning that needs to take place as it relates to this, and I just think that you both didn't have enough time to really think everything through, and you can tell that by the statements and questions that my colleagues have presented to you. But I want to say thank you for the hard work that you've done. You did a good job. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Mr. Chairman, this is just sort of a point of order here. We have two budget soundings, and the second one has nothing to do with this. It's on moving some budget from Police Department for Animal Control or I think from Emergency Management to the Police Department; is that correct? I just want to make sure that if we do make a decision to hold on this Fulton Film whatever side of it that we go ahead and approve the budget sounding for the Animal Control issue. I don't know. Can we hear that sounded?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We can divide them."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's not a problem."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay, great. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I was just going to make a minor note that the so-called \$250,000 budget enhancement this year was not a real budget enhancement because the budget last year for Fulton Films was 500. It was only an enhancement because Finance did not include it as a recurring amount. And I'll go ahead and make the motion to -- I'll make the motion to hold 24-0304."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Let's -- I think what you want to do is hold -- strike that. There's two items included in 0303, what is the EMA to Fulton County police, and the one we're talking about now is the Arts to Select Fulton, that's the one you want to hold?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, sir. That's why I announced the agenda item. I know there was a motion that they be heard together, but there was no motion that they be voted on together."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So we heard them together and my motion was based on item number -- agenda item number 24-0304."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right, Commissioner Arrington has made a motion to hold. Commissioner Natalie Hall has seconded that motion. Let's vote. Then Commissioner Ellis, you want to be heard before we dispose of this?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And I'm fine with approving 0303."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'd like to be heard."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It's not on the screen."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "The motion is not on the screen."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "She's trying to say something?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "I'm just trying to say that the motion is on 3034 -- 303, I'm sorry. 3033?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Correct."

**CLERK GRIER:** "So is the motion -- Commissioner Arrington made a motion to hold on 3034. We're not there yet"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, no. His motion was 0303."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, I can wait. I think the confusion was that the matters were announced to be heard together. There was a vote that they be heard together, but I'm fine with proceeding with the motion with on 0303. I can wait until after we vote on 0303 to make my motion on 0304."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Right. Is everybody clear?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. And the motion is to hold."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No. We're back -- Mr. Chair, I believe we're back to Commissioner Ellis' motion to approve 0303 which was seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Wait a minute now. The Ellis motion was to approve, which was seconded by Commissioner Thorne is what I have."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, sir. And that's on 0303. My motion is not on 0303 at all. My motion is on 0304, so I will withdraw my motion so that we can proceed on the motion on the floor which is that of Commissioner Ellis on 0303."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right, everybody clear? Commissioner Ellis, do you want to be heard on 0303?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Sure. This is budget neutral as I understand it? We're just - - okay. So there's no additional funds? It's just moving funds from to another."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right. I will say this: I wasn't in support of Fulton Films when we did it. And I think we -- in general, I think we could reimagine a Fulton County without Fulton Films, but we would get a better return from it. I recognize the input, the value that we get from the film industry in Georgia, but I think those results are obtained given the tax credit and the work of the State. I don't think the work we're doing materially adds anything to it and potentially isn't that negative versus everything that you all have shown, you know, kind of and brought forth. There is nothing to disprove that fact. I said that when we talked about this to begin with, so it's not afront to anybody involved in it that's just what I felt like and haven't seen any results to the contrary. But I'll support it, you know, given that this is a budget-neutral thing that we decided we're going to do in terms of just bifurcate these functions, but, you know, it's sort of a separate discussion really I think about operationally what we want to do with these two entities. I think they need to be reimaged, and I think they need to be reimaged both in a much more smaller fashion then something that actually is going provide some functional impact to the taxpayers of the County. And I really don't see it from what we invest in either Fulton Films or in FGTV. I think FGTV plays a function in terms of sharing our meeting content and that sort of stuff and other meeting content, but the notion of investing and creating original programming for a government television channel at a county level, no thanks. I don't see how that provides any

benefit to the citizens and nor is any citizen I have crying out for that and asking for that. I'm not sure -- I've been doing this almost ten years, and I'm sure I haven't had anybody even ask about me about FGTV period, much less adding content to it. So, but I'll be supportive of, you know, making this move and these changes but, you know, probably a discussion for another day. I think we could -- we could have about reimagining both of these into a much more smaller functions and a smaller employee footprint and a very focused framework for what they're supposed to be doing."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Motion on the floor is to approve 0303. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I hear what you're saying, Commissioner Ellis, and I mean there's a part of me that feels like I don't necessarily need a vote against it because it is budget neutral and if this is the recommendation of the Board. I'm sorry -- of the management team in terms of how to address a Board action, and I mean I don't want to necessarily stand in the way of that for, you know, just to stand on ceremony. That said I would like to request that we get a full set of goals, objectives, you know, some of what Commissioner Arrington was talking about as it related to impact. But more of it for the budget, looking -- when we start thinking about the budget for 2025, that we're looking critically at this whole set of services and as to where it should be logically speaking in the County, not based on personalities, and what have you; and what it's real goal is, and if it serves us or not versus just going ahead and moving forward with this for the 2025 budget as if it's a done deal, because I do think we need to reconsider what we're doing here and make sure that it makes sense. So I would like to ask when we get to the time for budget recommendations that we get more information on this and can make good decisions about how to move forward."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I'm going to do a substitute motion to remove the Arts Cultural Library and Fulton Films from this recommendation and only proceed with the Police and Emergency Management recommendation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You can call for a division. We can divide it without a motion, if you want to separate it."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Yeah, I'll call for a division."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So that's acceptable. So we'll be voting then on only the EMA and the FCPD piece of this, and that motion will be to approve. Let's vote. You got it now, Madam Clerk? Okay. We're on 0303, but we're dividing the two items included it that. We're not voting right now on the Arts -- that Arts and Select Fulton."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "But we will be, correct?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "But we will be?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We will?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But not right now. This vote is only on the first piece, Emergency Management -- EMA and FC -- Fulton County Police Department. So let's vote, please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now, the second piece, Arts to Select Fulton. Commissioner Arrington, what's your pleasure? So your motion still was to approve?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. So my pleasure will be a motion to deny, but I think I'm just going to do a motion to hold."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order. I thought we just -- we had a division and we're voting on them individually? Not to hear separate motions on them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, no, no. We divided 0303; we approved the first part --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- right. That's the one that should be -- we should be proceeding to vote on that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We're voting now on the second part. And your motion was to approve --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington is making a substitute motion to hold."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'm not sure that's proper. It may be a division, then you should be voting on them individually, not coming back and revisiting the individual motions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam County Attorney -- Madam Parliamentarian, put your parliamentarian hat on. I think it's proper to vote now. Your motion, Mr. Ellis was to approve. The second part of this was Arts to Select Fulton that was seconded by, I believe, Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Arrington has made a substitute motion to hold that one. I think that's proper."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I believe that the motion to hold is a subsidiary motion that has to be voted on first, but we are looking to confirm that now."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question?"

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I think we're all comparing notes. We have put forward an implementation of what you've already approved. Now, you're back revisiting all kinds of issues from the efficacy of pursuing the film industry as a segment, to the amount of money invested, to even the role of FGTV. So I think what would be helpful for us if you do hold is two things; number one, recognize that we have created at least in a subset of our employees, a degree of uncertainty. In other words, when they heard this is being separated, that raises the specter of who's going where? Is anybody's job in jeopardy? So the longer that it best kept in advance, I'd say the more of a negative impact that has. But if you do decide to do that, what would be good is for us to know with clarity what you're wanting us to bring back at the next meeting. You know, is it the entire film industry, economic impact for Georgia, or is it how much of library salaries transferred from -- transferred that were never filled? In other words, that's two ends of a huge spectrum of issues that have been brought up. And if you can define that for us, then we'll bring that information back to try to satisfy whatever issues were raised."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We're really complicating something that's real, real simple. Madam County -- strike that, Madam Parliamentarian."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes. It appears it is a subsidiary motion that is voted on first, before you disposed of the main motion. So the motion to hold would be disposed of first."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. All right, the motion on the floor is to hold. Let's vote, please. Wait a minute, I didn't second that. I did not second that, no. No, no, no. I thought you did, Commissioner Hall on the hold. That's Commissioner Hall. Come on guys."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Can I ask a question?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Since we are -- have a second. On the library positions that were not staffed, are we saying that they don't need those positions and they won't need them going forward into next year? Like is this a permanent change where the library no longer needs \$80,000 worth of staff?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, no. They will not need those positions in the future. They have been vacant for multiple years. They have substantial vacancies to cover any needs that they have. We specifically involve the library director to select the positions that would have no impact on the operations and what's needed at the library. So this would be a permanent move."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. We're straight now. Just a -- motion to hold -- substitute motion to hold by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Hall."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Now, back to the motion to approve. Let's vote, please. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue. 0304, yeah."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0304**, Human Resources Management: Request approval to modify the classification section of the classification and compensation plan."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Questions or comments?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve. Let's vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now, Dr. Roshell, the only comment that I have is that I think Fulton Films is getting screwed in this in terms of personnel. There's no way they can do all that they are charged with going with the small -- I mean with the staff that they

have. They're going to need more people at some point; just an observation. Continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0305, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval to increase the spending authority in the total amount of \$52,372.30, for the purchase, delivery, and installation of additional furniture and related to the Department of Registration and Elections."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, a favorable motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Arts and Library, 24-0306: Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and Hammonds House, Incorporated for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the amount of \$200,000 for the operation and management of the current arts and culture programs."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Natalie Hall. Commissioner Thorne, you want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah. I just had a quick question. The next four items are all requiring funding, and Commissioner Arrington raised a point that Fulton Films wasn't recurring funding, but yet these are recurring funding? How is that determined what -- when it becomes recurring funding and when it doesn't?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. These items were approved by the Board I think three years ago to be added in as recurring legacy partners so that was by a specific Board action. And so, after that, we've built them into the base budget for the department as a recurring expense."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote, please, 0306."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Can these four items be heard together?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We can. Any objections?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's take 0306, 0307, 0308 and 0309 together."

**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0307: Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and Johns Creek Arts Center for the purpose of providing recurring funding in the amount of \$200,000 for operation and management of the current arts and cultural programs; 24-0308: Request approval of a contract between with the National Black Arts Festival for the purchase -- for the purpose of recurring funding for the operation and management of the current arts and culture program; and 24-0309: Request approval of a contract with the Chattahoochee Nature Center for the purpose of providing recurring funding."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. You have a favorable motion on all four. Let's vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, 24-0310, Public Works: Request approval to utilize corporative purchasing, on-call traffic signal maintenance services in the amount of \$260,000."

**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."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0311, Senior Services: Request approval -- presentation of the senior transportation Uber Lyft program update and request approval of the \$4.00 cost share per one-way trip."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Mr. Chairman, the Director and Deputy Director for the Department of Senior Services are coming forward with the presentation. This also coincides with 24-0312. Just as background during the budget process, the Department of Senior Services did request an enhancement of \$1.5 million in anticipation of attempting to sustain the current level of service in the Uber/Lyft program, but did caveat the Board that without any controls on ridership, that the 1.5 million may not be sufficient to sustain the program through the end of 2024. With that in mind, the Board did ask for the staff to look at means testing as a sustainability solution. And so today, we are presenting our findings regarding the ability to implement a means testing program, which you will hear today, is not going to be the recommendation of the department and the reasons why; and the recommendation of the team to move forward with a cost share increase as a mechanism to address sustainability in the program. So I'll turn it over to Ladisa Onyiliogwu, the department director, and you should have also received a Board memo concerning this matter."



**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Good afternoon. Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Senior Services Director. Joining me is Layla Rasheed Henry, Deputy Director, and Raphael Patterson, Program Manager. Next slide. Slide 2 presents a contract scope overview and funding information. The vendor is Common Courtesy. The program supports our alternative senior transportation service which is 100 percent demand response. This means that seniors can schedule trips the same day. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00. The projected cost -- the contract was renewed and we are currently in year two of the renewal. It was renewed at 3.1 million, after today's agenda for the 1.5 million in spending authority increase. We will have a total of 4.6 million for this year's program. Next slide. Slide 3 projects ridership and trip data of which continues to increase annually. We've collected data since 2019. As you can see, we've had 523 riders at that time. Fast forward to 2024, a total of 2,837 seniors scheduled trips during the month of March. If you'll look at the last bar on your chart, we wanted to project forward for this year. So, we annualize 45,244 trips which is a total taken in the first quarter; and moving that through December, we could experience a total of 180,000 trips taken by seniors. This is actually a 10 percent increase compared to 2023. We wanted to consider what a 15 percent growth from last year would be, and so annualizing that would result in a potential 192,000 trips to be taken by December. Next slide. Slide 4 presents program recommendation updates. And as Dr. Roshell has shared with you, our team went back after the December meeting to begin exploring the means testing process, but what we discovered, and our concern, is that this would be an added burden to seniors to present proof of income. There would be increase administrative cost. There is inadequate program resources to manage the means test, and not only to manage, but to reevaluate if seniors' financial situations change. There's an absence of a secure system to safeguard the personal financial information, and we believe that seniors will be reluctant to share new required documentation. So upon further investigation, means testing is no longer a recommended option. Next slide. Our new recommendation is a \$4 cost share per trip. We could experience a potential savings of \$45,000, and this allows the department to manage the program within the budget. Next slide. This final slide projects the budget impact. If you consider slide 3, we used that to mirror this information for a year. As we previously show, we annualized 45,000 trips taken for the first quarter of this year, getting us up to 180,000 trips for the end of the year. We wanted to show the math for this, to get our -- to our total cost. Each invoice has an administrative fee, and that's an average of maybe 66,000 a month. It could fluctuate. But if we use that as a baseline and add that to the number of annual trips and each trip averages about 19 to 22 -- we took the higher number -- then the projected 180,000 trips for 2024 could result in 4.8 million. That goes a little over our 4.6 million budget for this year. We wanted to know how much 192,000 trips would cost by the end of the year, and the second bar from the top down shows five million. With the \$4 cost share implemented, we would -- we're projecting \$4.1 million. It's important to note that 6,710 seniors are currently registered for this service. If any of these seniors schedule a trip, and they can, and they took the average number of trips each month, which is eight trips per month, then we could experience \$15 million for this



program. This concludes today's presentation. We're available to answer any questions that you may have.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Could you go to page 4?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Slide 4?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Slide 4, yeah, with program recommendation updates."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "None of that makes any sense to me with the staff that y'all have. There must be any number of situations where people have to show proof of income, and you got an increased administrative costs; inadequate program resources to manage; absence of a secure system to safeguard personal information, and reluctance to share required documentation. None of that makes any sense to me."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yes, sir. We know that from the December 20th --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- could you speak up, please, ma'am?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yes, sir. It makes sense to us because, as an example, after the December 20th discussion, and even any changes that may occur with the transportation service, we experience an uptick in calls and in information for transportation, so seniors are -- they do pose questions, but we know that no program that we currently provide requires this type of information, so it is new. It will be new to seniors, and there will be a reluctance because of the change, and that's just a natural part of any type of changes implemented. There is no system in place right now to store senior financial information, so there is an absence of that. We do not currently have the staffing or the financial resources to, not only manage the means test; it doesn't mean that we can't get there. We just need more money to do it and a lot more staff to implement it in a system."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioner Barrett followed by Commissioner Arrington, and then Commissioner Ellis. I mean, I stand by my statement. It doesn't make any sense to me."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with you. This doesn't make a lot of sense to me either. So I'm going to start by sort of digging into this slide 4 in more detail. You called this a means testing discovery. Who was surveyed to find out whether they would feel -- first of all, you have two items on here that I feel like are the same. One says, added burden on seniors to present proof, and the last one says, senior reluctance to share new required documentation. So did we survey our seniors, all of them countywide?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We did not survey them for this means testing, but we have a practice of surveying seniors every single quarter in making sure that we're in touch with what their concerns and thoughts are. So we have a pretty good idea."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So -- I'm sorry. Just to be clear, did we specifically survey seniors; any number of seniors about this exact question? If you were asked to provide proof of income or -- again, I'm not sure what the proof is that you're asking for. Perhaps it was just what is your income range? Are you on a fixed income? What did we ask them? Where is the survey and where are the results?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "This is based on staff expertise and just knowledge of the population that we work with. So, no, Commissioner, we did not conduct a survey countywide to ask, would you be willing to provide proof of income, but we're pretty sure, just based on other changes that we implemented in other programs, that there is a natural tendency to be reluctant to any type of change in a program that seniors have been accustomed to."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "For a couple of years, and this anecdotal; so there's no evidence-based anything here? This is just -- it feels that way. Is it three people that have expressed concerns? Is it ten people? Is it 20 people that y'all spoke to on the phone? Is it a hundred people? Is it 6,000 people? I mean this just feels very vague to me, and I think before -- certainly, before I would accept any or vote to approve any recommendation, I would need a lot more data on the effort made to actually do discovery about means testing. Let's talk about the increase administrative costs; how much?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We would need, and I've projected about, I think 500; 500,000 and that would include additional staff to begin contacting all 6,000 seniors who are registered to inform them of the process, to make sure that -- and what we did was draft a policy so we can present it to the Board, because we did go back after the December meeting and start looking at how the policy would look to get back to you. But the costs -- I looked at 500,000, and that would include staffing and a system."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I'd like to see the breakdown of that, and it occurs to me that -- I mean there's a -- you know, sort of -- there's notes throughout this that sort of say, you have a requirement to means test this 6,700 or whatever it is, people who registered. But we've never had 6,700 people use the system, so there apparently are at least 3,000 or more people who have registered and never used it. It seems quite clear to me that we can send some type of notification to everyone saying we will be renewing applications starting at whatever date and time, here's the link to go fill it out. If you don't have access to such a thing, here's a phone number to call. The idea that we would have to call 6,000 some odd people doesn't make sense to me."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Commissioner, may I insert there. Now, there's a one-time registration fee, and that's the way the program was developed, and we can always go back and reevaluate, but once a senior pays \$15, they are part of the program. And so, there is no set time where our team goes back and says your time is coming up to resubmit your application; but, I think, I hear what you're saying. If we know that we have not logged 6,700 seniors in one month to schedule rides, then that could be a part that we could take back."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I mean, certainly -- my feeling is that if you are going to actually start implementing a means test that it could be done incrementally as people are using the system. It also -- we also, I think, talked about it -- and when we talked about this before, the idea of grandfathering people in who were already using the system, and I don't know that that would be the full 6,700, but certainly the 2,000 and some odd regular users would be grandfathered in, and we would start the means testing on people who were new. And I do think there is a way to go back to people who have never used the system, who just signed up, to say, you know, if you're not using this, it will be dropped from the rolls basically after X amount of period of time, which I think is a fair thing to do. You know, I would need a very clear understanding of what these administrative costs are. When we get to -- inadequate program resources to manage means test, I think that's the same thing. Is that not another line that describes the same thing; No. 2 and No. 3 on this list? Increase administrative costs and inadequate program resources; what is the difference?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Well, administrative administering -- they're somewhat similar, Commissioner, but they're different. So administering within program resources involves personnel, systems that we would use, but we can provide the breakdown for those costs to you. So the second bullet speaks to cost itself. The third system talks about all the resources it would take to implement this program."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So let me ask a question: When people join this program now, you take some information from them? Yes?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We do."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So you would take their name, you would take their, what, address? Evidence that they live in Fulton County? I believe there's some proof of residency required, correct?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Sure. I'll have Raphael Patterson explain the intake process briefly."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Great."

**RAPHAEL PATTERSON, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Excuse me. So the senior calls the Fulton County Starline. They tell us that they would like -- they have a transportation need. We take their information; they have to be 60 years of age; they have to be a Fulton County resident; they have to be able to get in and out of the car by themselves; they have to be able to utilize a cell phone."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So you've asked them these various questions?"

**RAPHAEL PATTERSON, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And you store that information somewhere?"

**RAPHAEL PATTERSON, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Right. We have -- we have Common Courtesy, which is our vendor, they have their own database. So once we take that information, we put it into their database, and we take the senior's credit card information, and we also stored it in their database."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So we're taking age, location -- like, I'm sorry, their address, their credit card information, and we have somewhere secure to store all of that, but we don't have somewhere to secure to store one additional question or two additional questions?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "So we totally rely on the vendor system. I want us to have our own system in order to do that. So as a part of the program, Common Courtesy -- and it's in the contract, they're required to have a database that secures all of this -- but because we're going into means testing, Fulton County Department of Senior Services does not have their own system to store."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Have we asked Common Courtesy to provide pricing to add this to their program?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I mean, I just feel like there's so much that isn't done here, and to say that we don't have a secure system to safeguard personal financial information, I mean, didn't we just go through --"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "-- no insult to Kevin. No insult."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But I'm just saying. I mean, I think that the County has done an exceptional job of making sure we do have secured, you know, data across the County. So I don't understand how in this one circumstance we don't have the ability to store secure data. It makes no sense to me."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "I'm not saying that we don't have an ability, the bullet says there is an absent of a secure system."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But have we gotten a price for a system? What is the cost of a system to secure this type of information?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We can provide that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Are there not programs that seniors participate in, in which they have to show that they have a means issue, not here, just in general? For example, when you are applying for a variety of things and you're -- you know, you have children at school, if they qualify for the Federal Free Reduced Lunch Program; they automatically qualify for other things. Are there not other programs that seniors have to qualify for that we can just say if you remember this program then you would qualify for this and have that verification done? Have we looked into any of this, is what I'm saying? It feels very much like what's presented here was anecdotal. It feels like it's hard. It feels like it's a lot, and we don't want to do it. But that's how it reads to me."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "So, Commissioner Barrett, thank you very much for those comments. We certainly can take this back and look at best practices in other industries, best practices in senior services industry, how other companies are administering means test to answer all of the questions that you have; so we're happy to take that back and bring back a more flushed out recommendation as it relates to how operationally a means test program could work; taking all of the feedback that you and Chairman Pitts have provided, if you would allow us to do that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I appreciate that. I just want to add -- I'm sorry."

**DICK ANDERSON:** -- go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I was just going to say I want to add one other thing here. You know, it feels like we're going to continue to come back to this, and I'm not saying, by the way, that increasing a cost is not a better way to go. If we have all that data and we can see it, it may be a better way to go. My concern is, this program has -- we do not seem to have an ability to control this program, because \$4 today isn't necessarily going to work tomorrow or next year or the year after as prices go up and as more people hear about this program. If we're putting a program on for the County that we are essentially, you know, for all intents and purposes, afraid to advertise, because if you advertise this to everybody 60 and over in Fulton County, and they decide to start using it, it would be hundreds of millions. I mean, like there's a lot of seniors in this County. And, you know, I'm going to be 60 in three years. Does that mean I start taking \$4 dollar Uber rides? I mean, I think, we should not be putting the program into place that has -- that we're afraid to even tell people about because it's going to cost too much. We have to find a way to put a program in place that serves the people who

genuinely need the service and has an ability to be controlled, you know, systemically long-term, not coming back every couple of years and asking for higher dollar amounts or additional funding. So I'm struggling with this a lot, and I appreciate your willingness to come back, Dr. Roshell, with some further recommendations, but right now, this is just not enough information."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you, Commissioner Barrett. The other thing that I would add: we have proposed caps on ridership. We've proposed caps on the number of trips, and the feedback from the Board was that was not the direction at that time that they wanted us to take. And so, we've just looked at different iterations of sustainability. So we certainly can take all of this back, and in your example of the hundred thousand seniors, we're really already at that point. We already have made a promise, so to speak, by accepting \$15 registration for over 6,000 seniors that we will provide this service which would cost us \$15 million. So we don't have to even advertise anymore. We're already over budget by what; three or four."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Let me just say one last thing and then I'll move on. But I appreciate what you're saying. I also appreciate that the willingness of the Board hasn't been there to put some of these controls in place. So part of my frustration is not with you all, it's with all of us, because we have to look at this more pragmatically as a group, and we have to be able to say we want to serve our seniors who need it; but we don't want to create this program that goes on and can become, you know, more than the cost of everything we're doing if we just keep going. So it's not just -- I'm just frustrated in general, not what you all; and I appreciate the work that you have done and that you are doing for the seniors who are using the service right now for sure."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I want to challenge us to maybe take a step back when we look at this, and I think I mentioned this before, Mr. CIO, I probably need your help. I think we have a lot of different departments that are collecting data on Fulton County residents. It seems to me that when people go to the Fulton County website, that they could register and all of their data would track with them across every department in Fulton County. So when you got to go get your tax -- property taxes, your data is in there. Your income is in there. I don't understand why -- we are getting information and inputting it into someone else's database? I assume that that's being done manually. Like, that -- that -- that doesn't seem smart and it doesn't seem like we're using technology to our advantage. We're having multiple people in multiple departments input the same data on the same people over and over again? People should be able to register with the website -- when I go to my bank, I register, and they know who I am. They pull up all my information every time. How do we get our website to do the same thing so that our departments can share it; and I don't even know if we're inputting data into Common Courtesy. I assume that they've given us -- that these



people have given us permission to input that data and to share it with Common Courtesy. I don't even know that that has happened."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "But I mean I don't know why we would be filling someone else's database with our information on our people. That defies logic."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "They schedule the trips for the County, so they work directly with Uber and Lyft, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. That's irrelevant to my point. My point is we should be collecting all the data and sharing it internally with all of our departments regardless of who books a trip or who paid their taxes or who votes or whatever. I should have one record in Fulton County, and it should tell me everything that I do with Fulton County. My tag on my car, my property taxes, my voting record, everything should track all around the County, and it should be accessible through one database on our website. Mr. CIO, how can we make that happen?"

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT:** "Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. They're definitely solutions out there for centralized data around what's typically client management data, right? This would be constituent data. So there are models where you do have your line of business tools where you are capturing that information. But then, on the back end, there is a centralized database like you're saying, that has the common information about a given constituent and then what solutions or lines of service they're tied too. So there are -- there are dedicated platforms that do just that."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "And Commissioner Arrington, I would add, we perhaps could take some lessons from the health industry that have installed electronic health records that do exactly what you're saying. So many of you may have a MyChart, when you visit a health system. So if we use something similar to the health industry and the electronic health record system, perhaps we could do exactly just what you're saying, so I'm happy to work with Kevin to look at the client management platform, something similar to an electronic health record system for the County."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** I mean the other thing I would say, it's a great point it's created a whole business; this CRM customer relationship management business has grown up to do just exactly what you're talking about, because all of the systems grew up serving lines of business generally in corporations. Like, in the one I came from, Wireline, totally different than wireless even though it's the same customer. Now, they're getting to that point, but I think it's really an interesting challenge to take on, and there are solutions out there."



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, it just doesn't -- you know, we got people manually collecting data in 30 different departments, and they're all keeping 30 different databases. I think we can be a lot more efficient in that regard and, you know -- and I think that that would decrease the administrative costs, right? And I think there wouldn't be no added burden because they registered once. They wouldn't have to produce this every year or once a year or once a quarter; your information is in there forever, right? And, you know, yeah, and so this definitely rework, this I agree with the Chairman and Commissioner Barrett that this needs to be reworked and that -- but my point is again, taking a step back, because this is not just -- I'm not talking just about senior services, I'm talking about countywide, right? And how do we do that and streamline those processes for everyone in the County? For every department in the County that has customer or client-based interactions."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And just one editorial comment. You know, I mean, I think we're looking for the least disruptive solution, but it may not solve the issue. In other words, this is a service that has grown 400 percent since 2019. We have 6,000 seniors signed up out of hundred and something thousand. I mean, this is a runaway train, and pricing is the clearest way to suppress demand on any service or product. And I don't know -- if you've only got six thousand, a hundred and something thousand signed up, even if you means test it, there's probably even more out there that have not even signed up yet, that would meet the means test which would then drive the demand, which would then increase this another 400 percent. So I mean one way to do it is just keep, you know, incrementally dealing with this. We're trying to give you the best information that we have and a range of options. I think it's a very difficult public policy decision to make, but I'm not sure means testing will get the job done either. It's the only input that I will provide."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The other question I had, the eight trips per month, is that really four trips or is that really 16 trips? Are those round -- is that eight round trips? Because when you say eight trips, I mean, if you take me somewhere you got to take me back. But if that's two trips, then that really means there's really only four roundtrips. So I think it's important for us to have that knowledge."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Absolutely. The contract allows any registered senior to take up to 16 trips and one way. Seniors are not taking all 16. What we're seeing is about an average of eight. So Commissioner, they may go to the doctor's office, but a friend may take them home. Or they may take a round trip to the grocery store. But these are eight one-way trips. Great question."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. I'm just assuming -- in my mind, that's four roundtrips because typically you go somewhere, you got to get back. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I just wanted to say I have a different viewpoint than the three people who spoke previously to me. I think what you have on slide 4 here, makes perfect sense that means testing does cost more. It does create a significant administrative burden, and we need not look to the cost that we have to incur, we've incurred, or to try to structure when we try to -- or needed to implement things that were of this vein, i.e., like our emergency assistance program. Look to our neighbors at the state that are trying to administer things with work requirements. Any time that you're going to put something in there where you're requiring people to submit data, another party to review data, and then sign off on it, come back and review that, do they still fit, et cetera, you going to add, you know, significant administrative costs. Meanwhile, my 89-year-old neighbor, all she wants to do is just get a ride to the grocery store, or to the doctor. She can pay \$4 and not to have to go find out where her tax form is, this form is. I mean it's tough enough to deal with all the stuff that they have in terms of, you know, what you do with healthcare and so forth and being able smell financial information around that. I think this is means testing, for a program like this, and the incremental costs are involved. There is no way in the world it's going to justify what the cost are that are going to be associated with that. So I understand what you have on slide 4. I think it makes good sense, and I think you have researched it. You've come to the right conclusion, which really all we ask you to do in this right, was to both come back and look at was means testing feasible, or did you want to recommend an alternative, which that's what you provided to us. I mean we've rehashed the, you know, the viability of this particular program, long-term, given the demand and so forth. But again, as you noted, you know, we didn't -- we as a Body didn't want to implement those other restrictions. So you've done what we've asked you to do. I am in support of moving forward with, you know, at a minimum, the per-trip fee, and we can continue to look at sort of other things in terms of what can be longer-term to make the program more sustainable. Is it just Trips to our Center? Is it just Trips to our Center and the doctor's appointment? Is it, you know, four trips instead of eight, or five, or whatever. You know, I'm perfectly fine with continuing to look at that. But it seems like right now either we need to look for -- you're looking for direction from us to either, do we want implement the per -- you know, whatever trip fee or not. And that's really what's before us. And then when it comes to the all this other stuff around the whole customer stuff and all that, we're not a bank. I mean, you know, and I'm not -- you know, I don't think a whole lot of citizens are looking to dump a lot of their financial information for us and have us all house it. And when they're coming down -- when we're having to do it, and all typically is tied into something that may be state related driven, right? I got to qualify for a particular homestead -- particular type of homestead exemption. There is specific information that's got to be required, driven by state law. Maybe there's some other program that we got is driven by that, right? I mean, I don't -- the notion of we're collecting data on some individual and that's going to help us be able to adequately means test another program and doing that on a big countywide basis and the spin that would be, you know, untold on that. I mean, I think we need to -- I think we're getting too far out in terms of, you know, it may be an ideal thing, but when you're looking at what the costs were to implement it, I don't think there's going to be any justification for it. I just think we need to focus on doing the basics right now. I mean, we got our own

IT struggles with just getting stood up, you know, other things in terms of basics and phones and that sort of stuff, much less, you know, kind of what we're talking about right here."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you for the presentation. It's very informative, and I do agree. I do understand that there are significant administrative costs whenever you're launching a huge database that's also collecting personal information and credit card information. And with all the scams that are going on with seniors these days, I do understand the reluctance of sharing, you know, more information about themselves. There is a definite paranoia in light of our cyber security attack even though we've secured our systems; people might be reluctant to have us manage their systems. As far as you guys, how often do you deal with seniors, every day?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Every day."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So I'd say you guys are pretty much experts in the field, you know your seniors very well. Doing a survey, I mean, go forth if you want to. I don't see a need to do surveys. I did surveys for mine, and still I was out there just off the cuff, didn't research enough. So, I appreciate what you've come up with here. Can you guys tell me, does any department track income? Do we have a department that tracks income in Fulton County?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I don't think we have department that tracks it, but the one that comes to mind would be the tax assessment system for income-based exemptions."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And that would be -- do they have to go somewhere else to get that information? Another database from the state income tax or where do they get that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "No, when an individual applies for a property tax exemption, that's income-based. They have to supply supporting documentations as part of their application process. So the tax assessor's office when approving income-based property tax exceptions would have received and reviewed the supporting documentation."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. So we would only have information on seniors that own property, not seniors that are living in assisted-living and nursing homes that type of thing. Only those we would have, so we'd have to get the data from, I don't know -- do you know the proportions of how many seniors we have that user our system that own their homes and how many that live in a senior home? Do we know that?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "No, we do not track our senior rider information by homeownership; simply by county, residency, and age."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So are you guys an expert in database management?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Not experts. We rely on the experts to support us."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. So you need to hire somebody, I guess experts in e-commerce sites?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Cyber security sites?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, I didn't think so. Okay, so yeah, you would clearly need a staff to manage that. I mean you can use our registration voter rolls. Let's look at our voter rolls. They're an absolute mess. We have 113 percent of our residents registered on our voter rolls. We can't track who moves in, moves out, so we want to get another database here? We can't manage the ones, some of the ones that we have, so I appreciate you guys. I think -- I agree that a means test is going to be an added burden, and it will probably be a burden that would be very hard to manage correctly. And so, with that being said, I think that raising the price might be the only option we have and it doesn't have to be permanent. We can see how it goes if it reels the program in so that it's not going to be this continued escalating cost every year of senior rides."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "This -- we're asking to make a vote on this -- to take a vote on this today? I'm going to ask -- I'm going to put in a motion to hold this, because I think -- we're talking about seniors, and I understand clearly both sides of the coin, and I appreciate the information that you all have brought back, but I really do believe that I'm going to need further information before I vote on this today, and so, I'm going to put in a motion to hold this."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Substitute motion to hold, Vice Chair?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes, substitute motion to hold."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, I'll second it. You want to be heard on the substitute motion to hold, Commissioner Barrett?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, just briefly, just to get further clarification before I'm comfortable holding or not holding. When you are taking the current information that y'all take from the seniors that are registering, when you asked for -- you said you asked for their age, and are you asking for a copy of their license? Are you scanning or do they take picture of that or do they -- so did they give you a birthdate or do they just give you their age?"

**RAPHAEL PATTERSON, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Birth date."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So they give you a birthdate, but we don't do anything to verify that, correct? Okay. And then -- it's not a criticism, just a question. And then we also asked for their address. Same question, do we do anything to verify their address, or do we just accept their word?"

**RAPHAEL PATTERSON, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We verify the address."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So they're going to receive something in the mail and, therefore -- in other words, how do you know they live there, is my point."

**RAPHAEL PATTERSON, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We don't know that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So we're not verifying that the address they give is their address? Okay. And there was one other piece of information you said you collect? Was there something else? Oh, you ask, they have to be able to get in and out of a car, right? And we don't verify that either, correct?"

**RAPHAEL PATTERSON, SENIOR SERVICES:** "No."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Self-declared."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Which is, by the way, totally fine, to be clear." The reason I'm bringing it up is because my thinking here is we're trusting our seniors to give us good information, and I'm fine with that. I think we can also -- and this is just food for thought, Dr. Roshell, and Ladisa and team, I think we could handle a simpler means test without overcomplicating in the same way, where we could ask for your -- are you on a fixed income, yes, or no? And is your income in, you know, this range, this range, this range, or this range, and let them tell us and take their word for it. And if we find that there is abuse happening, then we can deal with that abuse, but we wouldn't need to necessarily go through all of this rigamarow of scanning documents. I think it's, okay, to trust our seniors and I think the bulk of the people who would sign up for this and want this would be honest. And if we also printed a policy, if we came up with such a policy that said this services is meant to be for people under X amount of income or on a fixed income or X dollars of income or whatever the rules are that we would come up with that we could trust our seniors to, you know, answer honestly."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yeah, and Commissioner, our team did develop a questionnaire, so as a part of our going back and looking at means testing, we drafted a policy. We developed a questionnaire that does ask those questions, too, but its two parts. So we send out the survey; we make sure that they -- not survey, it's a questionnaire where they answer the information. And then the next step would be for us to utilize sites or consider using our multipurpose sites for seniors to come in, present their information. We copy it, give it back to them. So we were thinking about other ways to get around some of the challenges and concerns seniors would have with that. But it's two parts, so it's not that we would just ask for them to self-declare, but a solid means test would be some type of proof."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I do think just asking them to declare would be and stating a policy would be a viable step without all the burden of verification. And like I said, if we determine after some period of time that there is abuse, then we could look at doing something different, but it does seem like that would be worth a try, just a thought."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. I do want to just as a final comment, to say when the team brought the means test back before, that it will create a category of ineligibility, and that was an area that some of the Board members weren't comfortable with. So the means test did a couple of things when we presented this before. It creates a tiered system of cost share, and then it creates a category of constituents that would not be eligible for any call share related to this program; meaning that if they thought that participating in this program because it helps with coordinating their trip is a benefit to them, they would pay the full cost. So I did just want to raise that again that there was some concern that with the means test, you would have some seniors that are currently on the program that would become ineligible."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, do we know how many of our taxpayers are actually seniors?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We do. About 20 percent -- well, taxpayers, 20 percent of the population."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And 20 percent of the population in Fulton County, and starting at what age? Is that 55 and older or 60 and older?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Sixty and older."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Sixty and older?"



**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yeah. So we're looking at that these are older data points but about 172,000 or so seniors in Fulton, but that's an estimate."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And are the seniors still the fastest growing population in Fulton County?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "They are."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "They are. Okay. You're keeping track of how fast that population grows?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Based on census information."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so, right now there's no qualifications that they have to meet for this rideshare service; is that correct?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Aside from what Raphael has shared, age and residency."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. But nothing income based?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Because I heard Commissioner Ellis when he said that his senior could pay \$4, and I was thinking how I have seniors that can barely afford the \$1 cost. And so, have you ever looked at what it might look like to have a sliding scale?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We did that back in the December meeting."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "And we can provide that again, Commissioner, that previous presentation. Not only did we have the sliding scale, but we showed the percentage based on some geocoding of the number of seniors that would fall in to each of the categories of the sliding, who would be totally eligible for full or a reduced or a one dollar cost share. We slide the cost share from \$1, I believe to 5, and we presented the number of seniors based on the current population of seniors that are registered, that would fall into each of those categories. So we can reprise that presentation and provide that to the Board."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's great, because I know I have seniors who cannot afford it, and they have voiced their concerns about the cost going up and, you know, for some of these seniors, it is a choice between whether they can buy food for themselves or not. And so, being that these programs are actually being paid by these senior's



taxpayer dollars, I think that we need to listen to what their needs are. So, a sliding scale may be something that may work out better since we have seniors that cannot afford it, and you have in here about presenting proof of income that would help to determine whether or not they could afford or not. But I do think that we need to absolutely poll our seniors and ask them what they want, because this is their money; 20 percent of the population, and still the fastest growing group in Fulton County. I think they deserve to have input, but thank you. You did a great job on this, and I just want to see a little bit more. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to hold. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. I just wanted to briefly say, you know, I was sitting here thinking that maybe there's a way, and maybe this is what you all were just talking about. You know, four round trips at three or \$4, right, and if you want anything pass that, then maybe it's \$8 or \$12, right. I mean, any discount is a good discount, right? So, you know, maybe there's some discounts that are super discounted, some -- and then after you use your four round trips, you might be paying 75 percent or 85 percent, right? So I just thought about that and wanted to share that. But I'm ready to vote on the hold."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "I appreciate that. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to hold. Let's vote, please."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "One nay."

**CLERK GRIER:** "One nay with Commissioner Ellis?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Before we move forward, if I can ask as a courtesy, former Mayor Pittman is waiting here patiently for something that should -- shouldn't take more than ten minutes to present. If I can ask for that discussion item to be moved up. We're getting to the hour where we're going to need to go and break for lunch. And

I wanted her to be heard before. If that's not a problem, I want to make a motion for that to be moved up."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which item?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "It is 24-0318."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, on page 8."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, I'm happy to try to accommodate former Mayor Pittman. But I imagine it's going to take more than ten minutes for this item and for the discussion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's -- any objections to moving this one up?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Just a point of order, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "We just heard these two transportation items together. We voted, I think, on 0311, to hold it. We -- I think we need to do something with 0312. Are we voting -- are we holding that as well?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Wait a minute. Yes."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I can make a motion to hold it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes. Thank you for that."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Motion to hold --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to -- Madam, you catch up, Madam Clerk?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "312, on item 312?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. We should hold that one as well."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "The 1.5 is --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion by Vice Chair to hold, and I'll second it -- strike -- Commissioner Hall has already seconded it to hold 0312. Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "On 312, I have a question before you go too far away, Ladisa. The 1.5 million from 312, that was already approved as a budget enhancement, correct?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So whether -- regardless of whether we change pricing or don't, or means test or don't, you still need the 1.5, correct?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And is it time sensitive?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "It's not. I was just conferring with our Deputy. It's not. We can move it to the next meeting, if needed."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay, okay, thank you."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Or later in today's meeting."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Motion on the floor is to hold 0312. Motion to hold by Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "One nay."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And one nay with Commissioner Ellis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On page 8, 0318. Thank y'all. Hurry, let's sound 0318."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Discussion: Fulton County Housing Authority."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "At the bottom of page --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Page 7. All right. Okay. Just a minute, just y'all slow down, now. Slow down. Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0313**, Senior Services request approval of the Fulton County Finance Department to enter into a renewal of the contract with CIMA World to provide liability, accident, and excess automobile liability insurance coverage."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Seven yeas."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Unanimously with Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Now, back to page 8, 0318. Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Where is she?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Mayor, former Mayor Pittman, can you come down? Mayor Pittman is -- well, I should say Commissioner Pittman, is my appointee on the Housing -- Fulton County Housing Authority. And the reason I brought this forward is, I don't know if anybody saw what was on the news here recently. But my office received quite a bit of calls about the issue with the Fulton County Housing Authority. We have had Commissioners that have been removed. We've have had Commissioners that have resigned. And so I asked my Commissioner on the Housing Authority to come down and give a report. Here again, this is just to give information to all of us as sitting elected officials. And then if you all have any questions or anything that you want to either ask her or ask the Board Representative or the Chair or however, that could be more than -- more than welcome to do that. But the purpose of this is for information. And I want all of my colleagues to know that this is for information purposes. So thank you. Thank you, Commissioner Pittman."

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "Good afternoon. Earnestine Pittman, I'm here as Commissioner, the newest one on Fulton County Housing Board Authorities. And I have copies of the report if you were not able to get it pulled up yesterday, I resent it twice. So is there anyone who needs a copy? Are you taking my time while I'm doing this?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, no, come on, Ms. Madam Mayor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "You're not on the clock, Mayor Pittman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Pittman, hold the mic closer to your mouth."

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you."

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "All right. Is this better? Okay. Well, good afternoon, Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Khadijah, and all of the other

Commissioners. I am requesting the removal of Chairman Antavius Weems and Vice Chair Lamar White from the Fulton County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners due to the failure to carry out their duties and responsibilities in accordance with their oath of office, Board's by-polices and HUD policies. Our Board is totally dysfunctional. The Board has been hijacked by Chairman Antavius Weems and Vice Chair Lamar White. Chairman Weems' bullying, lack of respect for women, intimidation, manipulation, lying, hiring friends for non-posted jobs, no professionalism in conducting the meeting and working with the Board, along with a lack of interest and commitment from many other Board Members have drained the life out of the Board. Vice Chair White has supported Chairman Weems and created a hostile environment for staff and Board Members; engaged in hiring practices that violate hiring protocols resulting in conflicts of interest, failing to follow procurement protocols, constantly involved in day-to-day operations, and making decisions without Board knowledge or approval. Chairman Weems and Vice Chair White used, quote, suggestions from a discussion in the April 21st, 2024 Board meeting to perform a hostile takeover of the Executive Director's office and job. I have made serious and grave accusations, some of which may be proof -- may prove to be criminal. I have written as well as visual and recorded documentation to support each of the following allegations of violations. As citizens, public official -- community activists, former public official voted in by people and as an appointed one, I would never call a person's name in a public forum in a manner that would cause bad -- a bad reflection on them unless I had documented proof. Not he said she said, but most of the proof that I have out of the ten allegations are simply emails. I mean, you can get so arrogant that you don't care what and how you write it, just so long as you do. I'm here today because the Housing Authority Board is down to three people without Chairman Weems and Chairman White. And if they remain, they're going to be down to another one, because I'm not sitting up there with them breaking the law. And it will force Fulton County Board of Commissioners would not have the means of staff on that Board to keep HUD and that Housing Authority open over there. We are your appointees, and you are to hold us accountable. Now, these are the things that you have documentation in that package that is undeniable. Chairman Weems intimidated an Interim Executive Director to hire an East Point Council Member who happened to be one of his bosses at the time for non-existing job position in the Housing Authority with a \$60,000 salary that increased to 75,000 with no job description within six months. This was an act of pre-selection and violated the hiring policies of the Housing Authority, although the job was nonexistent. Two, in the February 15th Board meeting, Chairman Weems stated that he was hiring a person that he knew to assist and consult with Interim Executive Director Garcia, although HUD policy states the Executive Director is the only employee of the Board. Again, he proposed to violate the hiring practices by using pre-selection for another non-existing job. Three, Chairman Weems called for a vote in Executive Session. And when I told him, and it says when, it was that voting was not allowed, he stated that he needed to get a consensus before voting in the regular meeting. They voted, and they got a consensus. I was on Zoom because I'd just had knee replacement, and it was devastating. Four, Chairman Weems dismissed trained hearing officers for tenants to perform the hearings himself, complete with a robe, threw the tenants in panic. They

thought they was in a real court. And they called in ACLU to HUD about it. An investigation was done because this is not something that you could do. The cost of the hearing officers was cheaper than the cost for the bailiff hired by Chairman Weems. Five, Chairman Weems and Vice Chair White refused to accept the vote of five Board Members, one by proxy, at the February 28 special-called meeting to hire Interim Executive Director Tanray Garcia as a permanent Executive Director. They refused to call her by her title, and have accused her of making an error in her professional signature in a public meeting. When I stated in the meeting that I was resigning, that was just after discussion before entering Executive Session, in which she was not called by her title Executive Director, but Acting Internal Interim Executive Director, foolish made up on the spot. And five members on the Board voted her to be the permanent Executive Director. You have that in the minutes of our special-called meeting. Number six, Chairman Weems, Vice Chair White, and Attorney Andrew Patterson has stated that the special-called meeting had legal issues because Chairman Weems said that he did not receive the email that I sent to all the Board Members and Attorney Patterson. Everybody except him said they received -- I meant received theirs. They used this to cast doubt on the legality of the special-called meeting and to nullify the hiring of Ms. Garcia as the permanent Executive Director. However, all the other motions voted on had been adhered to until the Board meeting on April 18th, 2024, the day of the hostile takeover of Executive Director's office. You will see in the packet, the email address that the special-called meeting was sent to was also used in rebuffing that by Chairman White, the same email address that is in the packet. Chairman Weems and Vice Chair White, again trying to violate the procurement process, via pre-selection for an audit position. The email contains the individual's name, I would not state that in an open meeting. At the February 15th Board meeting, Chairman Weems directed Interim Executive Director Garcia to bring in all the staff members. And once they entered the room, he directed them to state their name, and then they left. This was a power play, and was meant to intimidate them and show how powerless Ms. Garcia was. I later learned that the sealed envelope given to Attorney Patterson contained complaints from eight of the 14 staff members, concerning Chairman Weems. I saw this for myself at the very first meeting. That was one reason why I asked for a special-called meeting. Attorney Patterson did give Chairman Weems the package that contained all of the complaints, eight complaints that had been filed. And he had them to come in, stand up and repeat their names, as if they were slaves on an auction block. I was totally, totally disappointed. Currently, there are four EEOC complaints filed against Chairman Weems from Interim or permanent Executive Directors and two staff members. They cannot keep an Executive Director because of Chairman Weems' interference. Ten, Chairman Weems' poor management skills in conducting Board meetings have caused the Board not to give the Executive Director's report since the February 15th Board meeting, therefore the Board has not had the opportunity to review invoices or any financial transactions. But then that has not stopped Chairman Weems and Vice Chair White from directing the Executive Director Garcia to pay invoices and make other financial transactions not approved by the Board. I have contacted HUD Regional Director Hudson. And I've had a talked to him about this. Executive Director Garcia has been unable to bring any financial report to the table because the meeting ends before

that. That is the most important part of our meeting. Yet, after the meetings, he will go and say, all right, pay these invoices. That should be made -- the payment of any financials should always be done by vote of the Board. You do not dismiss me. The other Board Member said they're just worn out. I've been there three months, and I'm tired. He has to go. Chairman White has to go. Whoever appointed those two, you need to check with EEOC because one is in litigation. So many of them have been filed, there's a special hearing this week just to hear those from the Housing Authority. I am asking you to please read through the documents. You don't have to take my word for anything, it's there in black and white. We have one employee. You are a Board, you have County Managers and others. One of you cannot make decisions for the rest. Every employee knows that it's certain things take a vote by the Board. These are all women, and they need their jobs. So are there any questions? Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you very much, Madam Mayor."

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "Okay."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I yield my time, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sir?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I yield my time."

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

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Mayor Pittman. That is a very shocking report, to say the least. But I think all of us as taxpaying stewards of Fulton County need to hear it. For the public, what is your role and the Board's role according to the Fulton County Housing Authority?"

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "The Board -- thank you. Our role is that of an ambassadorship. We do not have anything to do with day-to-day operations. HUD says we have -- they have to have a Board in order to account for the finances that's spent on the other side, which we call it HUD side. Our Board Members are to go into the community, let people know public housing is not something that you want to be ashamed of, explain the program, build private and public relationships with businesses in order to get grants so that we can provide those things to children in public housing that taxpayers funding will not and cannot pay for. I have yet to hear of one such item been happening since I've been on that Board by the Board in years. It's not done. We go to a meeting, and we talk a -- I have yet to hear the Executive Director give her report. At the first meeting, she started, she started to talk, stopped, told, well, you sit down, you do this, you do that. This is an adult trying to do her job. The Board Commission have an enterprise fund. That money is nonrestrictive. HUD funds are



restricted. Some parts of programs is done by HUD calls for the expenditure of some enterprise fund money. We have no need of an attorney, yet at the last meeting, enterprise funds were used to pay \$20,000 to the attorney that had been hired by HUD. HUD has since fired all employees who did not have a contract. This is Attorney that -- Mr. Patterson, Attorney Patterson's contract has been out of order. He didn't -- hadn't had one for the past year and a half. So he was fired on the spot. But then he comes over to the Board, and the Executive -- the ones that they have installed, and said, we want you to approve this. \$20,000 leaving \$50,000 for the year in an enterprise fund that no one is raising money for to perform certain things that we have to. I still don't know that, because we don't have those kinds of discussions."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Commissioner Pittman, I want to ask the -- because you just brought something up. You said public housing, so I'm going to ask the County Attorney, if you're talking about public housing and the Fulton County Housing Authority, what -- what does our statute say in reference to public housing in reference to Fulton County and how we operate? I'm not sure -- I hope I'm articulating the question correctly. But I think it's important to the conversation that we're having that you give what the statue is. And then I'm going to ask my follow-up question, how many Housing Authorities does Fulton County actually have control over? Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Are you asking about the number of the Housing Authority Representatives on the Board?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm asking how many -- public housing is part of what this Board oversees; is that correct?"

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "Well, no, that's HUD. Fulton County Housing Authority has nothing to do with the Housing Authority in Union City, it's not an umbrella group. Every Housing Authority has its own autonomy."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, that's -- well, I guess, let me -- let me rephrase it. What I'm trying to ask you, this is Fulton County Housing Authority?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Correct."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Fulton County has how many public housing units in it?"

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "Zero."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Units?"

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "Unincorporated Fulton County does not have any --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, zero."

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "-- public housing."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. That's what I was trying to get to, Chairman. I wanted -- I wanted that stated for the public. County Attorney, if you can weigh in, please."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. I think what you are asking about is the requirement for certain Commissioners on the Fulton County Housing Authority who are called Resident Commissioners to be residents within certain areas and also residents of housing projects. So Georgia Statute 8-3-50 requires that in counties with populations of more than 800 like ours, there are two Commissioners be appointed who will be known as Resident Commissioners, who will be residents of a housing project located within the unincorporated areas of such county. I think the practical problem that's posed as time went on is that since the statute was enacted, Fulton County unincorporated areas have shrunk to a very small area that does not include a lot of housing at all, let alone public housing. So perhaps in order to preserve the ability to have Resident Commissioners and that kind of representation from the perspective of resident, the statute would have to be amended to say something along the lines of: Resident Commissioners who are in Fulton County in an area that does not already have another Housing Authority and are recipients of benefits administered by the Fulton County Housing Authority. But as it currently stands, I don't know that anyone would be eligible to serve as a Resident Commissioner on the Fulton County Housing Authority."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And I think that's problematic. What would we as a Body need to do in order to remedy that?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So because it's a state statute I think the best that you could do as Board is in the next Legislative Session to see if you could advocate for an amendment for the statute to reflect our current reality as a county."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you. So I want to publicly ask that in the next Legislative Session that that becomes one of our items, Chairman, that we advocate for. I'm going to ask for our Lobbying Team as well as our External Affairs to make sure that we make that a priority. Because I think that does a disservice to not only individuals who have served on, but individuals that could serve on it. With that, would you agree with that, Commissioner Pittman?"

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "I definitely could."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madam Mayor."

**EARNESTINE PITTMAN, FULTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:** "Thank you all."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else at this time? I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session, items of real estate, litigation, and personnel. Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by -- I'll second it. Let's vote, please."

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

**Recessed for Executive Session at 1:28 p.m.**

**Resumed Regular Session at 2:34 p.m.**

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Do we have any --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Items from Executive Session, Madam County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the letter of intent regarding real estate set forth in item two of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Number two, letter of intent for real estate."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion passes; yeas, zero nays."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And we have several requests for representation. If there's no objection from the Board, I'd like to just take them all together."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's okay."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion -- you do? Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have an objection, so separate them."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, 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 representation in item four of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "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 representation in item six of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And finally, is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item seven of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "The vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, one abstention."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, under Commissioners' Action Items, **24-0315**, Request approval of a resolution consenting to and ratifying the use of Fulton County ad valorem property tax increment of five projects located in Westside Tax Allocation District."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Natalie Hall, seconded by Commissioner Dana Barrett. You want to explain what's going on here?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Just a reminder, this is the -- these are the items that Dr. Eloisa Klementich explained to us when she was here at the last meeting. There were five projects that she mentioned that are coming before us because of the special provision in the Westside TAD language where projects have to come before the Board for a vote. There's no budget impact. All details are attached. All of these items have already been approved by the Invest Atlanta Board. And so I would just ask for a favorable vote."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So what are we doing? Just ratifying it?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah. (Off-mic comments.)"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Let's vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue, please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0316**, Discussion: Cherry Bekaert Procurement Review, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Mr. Manager, where are we with the -- with respect to the recommendations?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Let me ask Sharon Whitmore, the CFO, to comment on what, between her and Felicia Strong-Whitaker. They -- the status of where they are."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, Felicia has taken a first pass through the recommendations. And she and I will be meeting on that hopefully, sometime next week. And I've asked for her to kind of prepare a timeline of the actions that we would need to take based on any of the recommendations that come out of it. And hope to have that back to the Board at least by sometime in June, with the current workload that we have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. You said, hopefully --"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- by sometime next week?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Then hope, then sometime --"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- which one is it?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I don't have -- well, we haven't prepared the -- the full timeline yet. But I did ask her if she thought she could have it done by the last meeting in June. And she said, yes. I'd like to get it to you sooner, but by the last meeting in June."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, thank you. Madam Clerk."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I may be mistaken, but did settle 24-0314?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I did it at the beginning."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0317, Outstanding water bill from City of Atlanta, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Also, I ask Ms. Whitmore to comment on that."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, we're scheduled to meet with the City of Atlanta representatives next Thursday. So we should have more to report after that, after that meeting."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Either we need to resolve this, so I would like for y'all to go into that meeting with the idea we're going to resolve it. We'll be prepared based upon what I've seen that we have."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. I mean, I -- our -- as I said in the last meeting, I personally don't think that we will resolve it in one meeting."

But you know, we are clear on what I believe the Board's desire is, which is to resolve it and fully document the resolution. And if we are unable to resolve it at the staff level, I believe I heard that we should plan to move on to mediation or something else. So we are not going over there, we do not plan to go over there with any sort of firm offer to the city to pay anything. We intend to seek documentation, as we always have, of the balance that they claim is outstanding, and to go from that point forward. So we are working with the County Attorney's office. They are included in all of our internal meetings on this. So we're prepared to move this forward to resolution and full documentation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And I assume that Commissioner Arrington is getting ready to ask about the statute of limitations."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, perhaps. I think my more relevant question at this time is have we received any additional documentation? Because I don't even know that it makes sense to meet until we receive the additional documentation and you all have had a chance to review that additional documentation."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We have not. I expect that that's what this meeting will be about, is about what the documentation requirements from our perspective will be, and what the city is able to provide from a documentation perspective."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, yeah. Well, and another reason to beat the horse with the statute of limitations, but I'm more interested in the -- the document update. And my understanding is the city may have a different idea about the statute of limitations. I understand they think it may be seven years. So we may need some clarity on that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I thought at the last meeting, job number one was to resolve from our side, the issue that you brought up about the statute of limitation."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "We have been researching that. And again, not to get into the details of our legal defenses in this forum. We have been researching, and believe that we have valid defenses on a number of fronts to all of the claims that we believe would be brought by the city if they did in fact pursue it through legal means. We are working also very closely with Finance Department to kind of keep track of what documentation of the debt is forthcoming from the city. We absolutely agree with Commissioner Arrington that that is actually the first order business. Because it's my understanding that we -- that all of the debt is alleged to have been incurred decades ago. And so that would be outside of any of the statutes of limitation. So until we have the documentation of when the debt was incurred and what documentation they have to see if we believe that's adequate to pursue a claim, we're not really in a position to analyze what their claim is."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two items removed from the consent agenda by Commissioner Hall for separate consideration on page 3. **24-0290**, Public Works request approval of a memorandum of agreement for continued participation in the District-wide Single-Family Residential Toilet Retrofit program in the total amount of \$15,000 for one year."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Just one quick question. Because this is such an outstanding program, and people were saying how do they register or enroll or qualify, and where do they go? That's the question. Where is it advertised, how is it being advertised, and what are the specific qualifications that a resident has to pass it order to qualify for this?"

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yeah. Great question, Commissioner, thank you. David Clark, Public Works Director. My staff Public Outreach, head by Colette Banks, the one that administers this program. So anybody -- it's on our website. And they may reach out to Colette directly for those types of questions. Our program only serves the North Fulton area, where we serve drinking water directly. But the City of Atlanta has a very similar program that we work very closely with. And she can make contact if anybody from outside of our service area --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's good."

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- provides. But basically, anybody who has a older toilet, either in a single-family or a multifamily that was made before, I believe it's 1995, when it was a little bit higher capacity from a water-consumption standpoint, is eligible for this program. So it's pretty simple. You get a \$100 for each toilet that you turn in."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett. Is there a second? All right. Seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Cast your vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0291**, Request approval of a memorandum of agreement for continued participation in the District-wide Multifamily High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any other items that come before us, Madam Clerk?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. No further items that come before us, so we will convene the special meeting at 3:00 p.m. conference room on the tenth floor? Tenth floor. We are adjourned. Thank you."

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.**