

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

May 07, 2025
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: June 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts

10:04 a.m.

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

Mo Ivory, Commissioner (District 4)

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

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

ABSENT

PRESENT

PRESENT

PRESENT

PRESENT

PRESENT

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**25-0322 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Pitts, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0323 Clerk to the Commission

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

Proclamation recognizing "Mary Berry Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
April 12, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Tashera Simmons Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
April 15, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "U.S. Treasurer Brandon Beach Appreciation Day."
(Thorne)
April 22, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Lynne Riley Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**
April 22, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "City of South Fulton SGA and FBLA Executive Board Members Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
April 22, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Arjun Sanjay Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**
April 26, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Walker Tabernacle Baptist Church Appreciation Day."
(Arrington/Abdur-Rahman)
April 27, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Bishop Lavor Troy Sanders Remembrance Day."
(Arrington)
May 2, 2025

Commissioners' District Board Appointments

25-0324 Board of Commissioners
FULTON COUNTY VETERANS' EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.
(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

The Veterans Commission shall have the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members. Such appointees shall be residents of, or work in Fulton County and shall have military experience or expertise in the areas affecting military veterans. Veterans Commission shall serve three (3) year terms, with such term subject to the discretion of the appointing Commissioner, who can remove a member for cause, otherwise such member may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a successor is appointed.

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024
Shawn Hanley (**Ellis**)

Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Isaiah Ike Yancy for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

25-0325 Board of Commissioners
BELTLINE TAX ALLOCATION DISTRICT (TAD) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

Fulton County Board of Commissioners is responsible for appointing 10 members.

Term = 2 years, with such term commencing upon approval of the Atlanta City Council. No member shall serve more than 3 consecutive 2 year terms.

Term below expired: 12/31/2022
Vacant (**Thorne**)

Commissioner Thorne nominated Jeff Mullavey for a District appointment to a two-year term, commencing upon approval of the Atlanta City Council.

25-0326 Board of Commissioners**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATION PROCESS
CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT
AGENDA)**

The CDBG Allocation Process Citizen Review Panel shall consist of fourteen (14) citizens. Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members from his/her district for a two (2) year term, subject to ratification by the Board of Commissioners. Such term shall not extend beyond the term set for the Commissioner who made the appointment. Panel members may be reappointed to serve additional terms.

Term = 2 years

Term below expired: 12/31/2015

Vacant (**Thorne**)

Commissioner Thorne nominated Tais Keyser for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.

25-0327 Board of Commissioners**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF
THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Commission on Disability Affairs shall consist of a total of sixteen (16) members to serve staggered two (2) year terms and appointed as follows:

Each member of the Board of Commissioners shall appoint two (2) members; one of them said appointees shall have an initial term, of one (1) year; No term of any member shall extend beyond the term of the District Commissioner who appointed the member to serve on the Commission for Disability Affairs; The Commission on Disability Affairs shall appoint two (2) members, who receive the consent of the majority of the members of the Commission on Disability Affairs and one (1) of the appointees shall have an initial term of one (1) year.

The Commission on Disability Affairs appointees shall be made for the purpose of maintaining diversity.

Term = Staggered two (2) year terms

Term below expired: 12/31/2021

Vacant (**Thorne**)

Commissioner Thorne nominated Tais Keyser for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.

Open & Responsible Government**25-0328 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Bridges Alpharetta, LLC, for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of Fulton County's existing water line easement area at 4430 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0329 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing an Easement Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Grantor) and Greystone Power Company (Grantee) for the purpose of installing an electric transformer at 6720 Cedar Grove Road, South Fulton, Georgia; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Easement Agreement and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Easement Agreement and related documents as to form and make necessary modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0330 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution to approve a Facilities Use Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia, and the Atlanta Independent School System for Election Polling Locations; to authorize the Chairman to execute the Facilities Use Agreement and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the Facilities Use Agreement and related documents as to form and to make modifications as necessary prior to execution. Effective upon approval through December 31, 2025, with four, one-year renewal options. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0331 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 8,290 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Green Implementation Group, LLC, individuals, for the purpose of constructing the Reserve at Newtown Project at 9435 Nesbit Ferry Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0332 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 1,425 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from D. R. Horton, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Sherwood Manor Project at 5435 Old National Highway, South Fulton, Georgia 30349. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0333 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 Bridges Alpharetta, LLC, for the purpose of granting Fulton County legal access to extend and maintain the sanitary sewer system at 4430 Webb Bridge Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30005 (the Development). **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0334 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 16,612 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from WAFKAM Properties, LLC, individuals, for the purpose of constructing the Providence Point Project at 0 Birmingham Highway, Milton, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0335 Registration & Elections

Request approval to alter the boundaries of voting precincts to streamline election processes. To enhance the efficiency of the election process, boundary lines for precincts with no assigned voters or those with similar districts are recommended for adjustment to consolidate related precincts. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0336 Human Resources Management

Request approval to modify the classification section of the Classification and Compensation Plan by adding the new title of Apprentice Assistant District Attorney (grade 21) and by changing the salary range of the existing title of Animal Services Coordinator from grade 18 to grade 19. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**25-0337 Public Works**

Request approval of a change order less than 10% - Public Works, 23RFP052223K-JA, Design-Build Services for Camp Creek Water Reclamation Facility in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 with Reeves Young, LLC (ATL, Ga.) to address concrete deficiencies that were discovered within the primary clarifiers once the tanks were emptied. These defects were significantly more deteriorated than initially anticipated. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**25-0338 Superior Court Administration**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County Sheriff's Office and Superior Court Accountability Courts to assign Crime Suppression Investigators to support the programmatic requirements of the drug treatment programs. The initial term of the agreement shall be from the date of BOC approval through June 30, 2030, with nine (5) five-year renewal options, contingent upon the approval by the Sheriff and the Board of Commissioners. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0339 Emergency Services

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the Fulton County Schools Police for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. Effective upon the Board of Commissioners approval through December 31, 2025, with renewal options ending December 31, 2026.

(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

25-0340 Emergency Services

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of College Park for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. Effective upon the Board of Commissioners approval through December 31, 2025, with renewal options ending December 31, 2026.

(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

25-0341 Emergency Services

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Fulton County and the Emory Clinic, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) for a Medical Director to provide Administrative and Supervisory Services for the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program for the Department of Emergency Services in the amount of \$40,000.00 annually. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2025, with three (3) renewal options ending December 31, 2028. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**25-0342 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 as amended by moving up items #25-0308 as requested by Commissioner Ivory and #25-0347 as requested by Vice-Chairman Ellis. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Pitts, and Arrington

25-0343 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

First Regular Meeting Minutes, April 2, 2025

Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, April 16, 2025

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

Yea: Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Pitts, and Arrington

Did Not Vote: Thorne

25-0344 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing “Hakeem Oshikoya Appreciation Day (Retirement).”
(Pitts/BOC)

Proclamation recognizing “Older Americans Month.”
(Pitts/Abdur-Rahman/Ivory/BOC)

Proclamation recognizing “Atlanta CASA 30th Anniversary Appreciation Day.”
(Ivory/BOC)

Proclamation recognizing “Water Safety Month.” **(Ivory/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing “Mayor Shirley C. Franklin Appreciation Day (80th Birthday).” **(Arrington/Pitts/Ellis/Thorne/Barrett/Ivory)**

Proclamation recognizing “Certified Public Managers Appreciation Day.”
(Arrington/BOC)

Proclamation recognizing “Mental Health Awareness Month.”
(Abdur-Rahman/BOC)

PUBLIC HEARINGS**25-0345 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)

9 Speakers: Bill Kolbrener (Sheriff's Department); Misty Fernandez (Georgia Power Transmission Lines); Gloria Smith (LIHEAP Senior Services); Emma Davis (Senior Outreach); Kevin Bacon (Fulton County Jail/Mental Health); Maudray Giles (Georgia Federation Public Service Employees); L.A. Pink (Justice/Sheriff's Office); Sabrina Cown (Howell Station Power Lines); Raynard Burrell (Georgia Federation Public Service Employees)

12 Zoom Speakers: Kevin Muldowney (Registration & Elections); Matt Rowenczak (Registration & Elections); Matthew Harrison (Howell Station Power Lines); Ena Harrison (Howell Station Power Lines); Arthur Toal (Howell Station Power Lines); Sean Doyle (Howell Station Power Lines); Jennifer Upton (Howell Station Power Lines); Molly Chase (Howell Station Power Lines); Edwin Ortiz (Howell Station Power Lines); Naomi Green (Howell Station Power Lines); Cara Cown (Howell Station Power Lines); Tracie Marlow (Howell Station Power Lines)

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****25-0346 Finance**

Presentation, review, and approval of the May 7, 2025, Budget Soundings and Resolution. **(PRESENTED/APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0347 Finance

Request approval to accept the lowest acceptable bid for the County's 2025 Tax Anticipation Notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$275,000,000.00 and approval of an Amendatory and Supplemental Pricing Resolution which authorizes issuance and sale of the \$275,000,000.00 General Fund Tax Anticipation Notes of Fulton County, Georgia, with a maturity date of December 30, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0348 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 17RFP107111K-EC, Project Management Team Services in an amount not to exceed \$660,511.29, with The Joint Venture of Heery International, Inc. and McAfee3 Architects (Heery/McAfee3), to continue to provide without disruption, project management services for the Fulton County Urban Redevelopment Capital Improvement Programs; effective April 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026 or until program completion as determined by the County. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0349 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Sourcewell Contract RFP #030122, Fleet Management Services, in an amount not to exceed \$3,480,325.44 with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. (St. Louis, MO), for a lease-purchase program that will deliver 301 new vehicles and includes all scheduled preventive maintenance. Vehicles will be provided under this program for eighteen (18) County agencies [General Fund vehicles: 214, FID/Police: 18, and Public Works: 69] with delivery beginning in FY 2025. This is a 60-month lease-purchase program that will be presented to the Board of Commissioners annually for the annual appropriation of funding for continued use of the program. The program will remain in effect with each yearly approval and is subject to the availability of funding in the adopted County budget over the 5-year lease term. The County Attorney is authorized to approve the lease documents as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution.

(APPROVED)

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0350 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 25ITB1315442C-JNJ, Preventive and Predictive Maintenance Services for Chillers in the total amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 with (A) Daikin Applied Americas Inc. (Minneapolis, MN) in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00; (B) Mechanical Services, Inc. (Marietta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00; and, (C) Mallory & Evans (Scottsdale, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00, to provide standby on-site preventive and predictive maintenance services for chillers on an "as needed" basis for all Fulton County facilities. Effective upon execution of contracts through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0351 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of recommended proposals - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 24RFP103124C-MH, General Landscaping and Lawncare Services for Countywide Facilities in the total amount not to exceed \$1,628,000.00 with (A) ReIMAGE General Contractors, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not exceed \$1,350,000.00; and (B) Georgia Green Grounds Care LLC (Marietta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$278,000.00, to provide on-site landscape/ground maintenance and lawn care services for 108 County-owned sites to include the Fulton County Executive Airport - Charlie Brown Field. Effective upon execution of contracts through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0352 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, RFP#24RFP143594C-JNJ, Landfill Post Closure Services in the amount not to exceed \$806,000.00 with Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc. (Roswell, GA), to provide landfill post closure services at Merk Miles and Morgan Falls Landfills for Fulton County. Effective upon execution on contract through December 31, 2025, with two (2) one-year renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0353 Human Resources Management

Request approval of an amendment to the Pregnant Worker Fairness Act Policy ("PWFAP") - Department of Human Resources Management and the Department of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance (DCRC). Originally adopted via Resolution #23-0884 in December 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

Arts and Libraries**25-0308 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 funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 to provide expanded operational resources as well as educational and arts-related services to the citizens of Fulton County. The term of the contract is effective upon execution through December 31, 2025. **(HELD ON 4/16/25) (APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

Health and Human Services**25-0354 Community Development**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Community Development, 25RFP247583B-EC, Housing Rehabilitation Program in an amount not to exceed \$860,341.54 with Meals on Wheels, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide housing rehabilitation services including general program administration, marketing, customer relations, applicant screening and qualification, project management, contractor oversight and reporting. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2025 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0355 Public Works

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Public Works, 22ITBC077A-KM, Landscaping Restoration Services, in an amount not to exceed \$13,192.30, with Mariani Enterprises, LLC d.b.a. Ed Castro (Roswell, GA), to provide design, fertilizing, and planting services in North and South Fulton. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0356 Public Works

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Public Works, 23ITBC100523A-KM, Water Meters in an amount not to exceed \$79,567.34 with Delta Municipal Supply Company (Braselton, GA), to provide water meters. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

Did Not Vote: Ivory

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**25-0269 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution approving an Agreement between Fulton County Georgia, the Fulton County Tax Commissioner, and the City of Atlanta, Georgia to provide Judicial in Rem Tax Foreclosure Services concerning Municipal Code Enforcement Liens; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Agreement; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Agreement as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 4/2/25 AND 4/16/25) (HELD)**

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

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

Absent: Pitts

25-0357 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution approving an Agreement between Fulton County, the Fulton County Tax Commissioner, and the City of Union City to provide billing and collection services concerning Municipal Ad Valorem Taxes; authorizing the Chairman to execute said Agreement; authorizing the County Attorney to approve said Agreement as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman; and for other related purposes. **(Arrington) (APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Ellis

Absent: Pitts

25-0358 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution approving an Agreement between Fulton County, the Fulton County Tax Commissioner, and the City of Palmetto provide billing and collection services concerning Municipal Ad Valorem Taxes; authorizing the Chairman to execute said Agreement; authorizing the County Attorney to approve said Agreement as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman; and for other related purposes. **(Arrington) (APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Ellis

Absent: Pitts

25-0359 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article II (County Governing Authority), Division 2 (Rules of Order and Procedure) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to modify Section 101-66 (b)(3) to discontinue e-mailed public comments; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to hold. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

b. A substitute motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, and Barrett

Nay: Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Pitts

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0360 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to establish supplemental funding for overtime pay and other incentives intended to promote increased staffing and retention of Detention Officers and Sheriff's Deputies whose full time role is to provide detention services in Fulton County Jail facilities; and for other purposes. **(Ellis)**

(APPROVED AS AMENDED)

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

Commissioner Arrington offered a friendly amendment to remove objectionable language from the Resolution.

Vice-Chairman Ellis did not accept the friendly amendment.

Yea: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Pitts

Abstain: Arrington

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**25-0361 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Opportunities to generate market rate rental revenue for vacant and underutilized office space owned and maintained by Fulton County. **(Thorne)**
(DISCUSSED)

25-0362 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Library Parking - follow up on designated spaces **(Ellis)**
(DISCUSSED/APPROVED)

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve converting any space that has an EV sign present, at any of the library facilities, where there is no charging station, to be used for another purpose and with a friendly amendment by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman to only convert the spaces as needed. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Pitts

Did Not Vote: Barrett

25-0363 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Clerk of Court Passport Fees: Disclosure and Reporting update on process and procedures **(Ellis)** **(DISCUSSED)**

25-0364 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Update from the County Attorney on progress in addressing the issues at the Fulton County Jail as detailed in the Department of Justice Consent Decree. **(Barrett)** **(DISCUSSED)**

25-0365 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Strategies to address the impact to Fulton County of the loss of federal funding for health and human services. Fulton County has a responsibility for the health and wellbeing of our citizens which will be impacted by the cuts to the CDC and NIH that have already occurred, the proposed cuts to Medicaid and other federal health programs, and the possible loss of health-related grants to Fulton County. **(Barrett) (DISCUSSED)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION**25-0366 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

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

Absent: Pitts

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the requests for representation in items #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Pitts

Did Not Vote: Ellis

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the request for settlement authority in item #7 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Ellis

Absent: Pitts

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the request for Conflict Counsel in item #8 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Pitts

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to opt-out of the multi-district litigation and continue litigating the item in item #9 as discussed in Executive Session . The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Pitts

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
FIRST REGULAR MEETING

MAY 7, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC

"A Court Reporting Firm"

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Good morning. Welcome everyone. It's 10:04 a.m. I'm Vice Chairman, Bob Ellis, and I will be presiding over the meeting in Chairman Pitts' absence. I'd like to welcome everyone and call the meeting to order, and ask our Clerk to call the roll."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Mo Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Present."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you. If could all, please, rise for the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **25-0322**, 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."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioners, do we -- are there any items that folks want to have removed from the Consent Agenda?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, First Regular Meeting Agenda, **25-0342**: Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I wanted to request to move up item #25-0308 on page 10 to the top of the agenda."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Say that item again?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "That is item 25-0308, under Arts and Cultural on page 10; if we can just move it up for convenience of the speakers who are here."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Any objection to that amendment?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. I have one amendment. I believe -- and it's requested by Finance that we want to take the Tax Anticipation Note item right after we - at the top of the agenda even before Ratification of the Minutes."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Yes, Commissioner. And that is item 25-0347."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So we will sound that right after this item of adoption. We're ready for that?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Mr. Vice Chair, we don't have the full list yet. All of the bid documents, they're still verifying; perhaps after Proclamations."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Why don't you just -- when there's a point in time when you're ready, then we will -- it's everybody understanding that we will pause -- without further reconsideration, we'll just bring it forward at that point and time."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you. We would appreciate that. They're finishing up the calculations now."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Fantastic. All right. Any other requested modifications to the agenda?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Hearing none, we got a motion by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Barrett to approve the agenda as amended."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0343**, Ratification of Minutes. First Regular Meeting Minutes, April 2nd; Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, April 16, 2025."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory; seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0344**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing "Hakeem Oshikoya Appreciation Day" sponsored by Chairman Pitts with Full Board."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right, Hakeem, come on up. It's clear that you were not expecting this today. Come on up here. Everybody needs to like see this multiple times, right. Take lots of pictures, right. You've got to give another outfit for after lunch you're going to come back in or no?"

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "It's on the way."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "On the way? All right, okay. Well, good, good. Well, it's your day. You can change outfits multiple times, right, so. We're out of COVID, y'all can come on up and get closer, so."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Everybody come on. Nobody is going to bite you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Well, this is definitely a sad occasion for Fulton County government, but a happy one for our friend here. So, WHEREAS, Hakeem Oshikoya, begin his career with Fulton County government in 2006 as budget manager; and soon thereafter as interim finance director. He was appointed to the Fulton County executive team as finance director in 2015 by Fulton County Manager, Dick Anderson; and WHEREAS, Hakeem has effectively prepared and managed Fulton County's annual budget totaling nearly \$1 billion across all funds and heads the finance

department with over 100 employees; and WHEREAS, prior to Hakeem's tenure with Fulton County, he served as accounts manager in Miami Florida and served as chief accountant for the city of Belle Glade, Florida before being hired as chief financial officer for the city of the Florida City in South Miami, Dade County. He later began his tenure with the city of South Miami as assistant finance director and was promoted to finance director; and WHEREAS, Hakeem is a certified public accountant and certified government financial manager who holds a Bachelor degree in finance and a Master's degree in economics and accounting, both from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; is that right? All right. And WHEREAS, Hakeem is married to Tolani Oshikoya, a retired nurse, and they're blessed with four sons, Ola a pharmacist and orthopedic doctor, Bosun, an accountant, Dapo, an anesthesiologist, and Tunde, a physician assistant, and six grandchildren. That's awesome. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and all associated with the finance department recognizes Hakeem Oshikoya for his dedicated service to the employees and citizens of Fulton County; congratulates him on his retirement, and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 7th, 2025 as 'Hakeem Oshikoya Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Before I let him come up, is your lovely wife here? Okay, I want to make sure -- come up, come up, please. Please, come. Come, please. And the reason I asked if you were here -- this is my work husband. I just wanted you to know, but I just say that justly, justly, justly. And the reason I say that, as a incoming Commissioner five years ago, Hakeem had patience with me, he showed me the process, he showed me what to do, but more importantly, he showed me what not to do, and you don't get that from everyone. And so I want to give you your flowers, my brother and my sister, while you are living because it's not many -- it's many that can talk the talk, but it's many that can't walk the walk. And you are an embodiment of God's love, grace, and mercy; and I thank you for being a part of my journey and my village."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We're going to suspend our rules and the Chairman's not here, so we're going to take as long -- we're going to take as long as we want to on this particular proclamation, so Sharon or County Manager, or Ms. Whitmore, would you like to both say anything?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Hakeem, I don't think I've ever met anyone that had the combination of accounting and financial skills, the good-humored that you always displayed, and now this (inaudible) style -- I've never seen anything like this. But you are -- you're a unique talent and a tremendous leader that we're going to sorely miss. I have had very much benefited from having your expertise that not only came through every time during the whole budget process, but during the course of the year because you had a perspective, a business sense and, again, a good sense of humor, particularly when going up against Ken Hermon. I've got to figure out a way -- but again, you've just been -- you've made a terrific contribution to Fulton County, and I'm very glad to have had you during my entire tenure as the director of finance."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Hakeem, when you showed up for your interview, all those many years ago, he brought us gifts. He brought us an umbrella and he brought us -- he shouldn't have gotten through security -- and he brought us his budget workbook and I was sold. That's all it took, was him coming and presenting us with the gift of a beautiful budget book organized, he could explain it. He interviewed us. I'm not sure that we had the opportunity to really fully interview him. I did ask him one question, which was where you're at now in your very stellar career, why are you interested in coming to Fulton County to be the budget manager? And his response was there were too many hurricanes in South Florida. And I kind of said, well, you know, you're coming to tornado alley, so thank you for coming. Thank you for your years of service to the County, to its citizens, and its taxpayers. And your infectious smile and laugh, and your 'no Sharon', will be missed every day. Best wishes to you. I hope you enjoy your retirement. Well deserved."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE: "Oh, man. I can't believe -- I'm going to cry. I wasn't expecting this, Vice Chairman -- good morning, everybody. Vice Chair Ellis, Commissioners, I'm not sure how to begin this. I want to thank you very much for bestowing this honor on me with this proclamation. I am extremely grateful for -- extremely grateful for your generosity and then recognition. If you'll indulge me, please, I'll introduce my wife. This is Tolani Oshikoya, and my second son, Bosun, and the baby of the House, the last one, Tunde is the physician assistant. We call him (inaudible) (inaudible) and Bosun and his wife and three of my grandchildren, so thank you all, you know, for being here. Twenty years -- the past 20 years, you know, we have accomplished a lot in the County to move forward -- the County forward. And I'm so thankful to God that I've been part of it. And there's (inaudible) that we've accomplished that, you know, if I start talking about them, I know the Chairman's not here, but if I start talking, you know, it's going to take a while, you know, for us to finish. But I'm going to highlight, you know, two of the accomplishments that one being what we did with the fund balance. A minimal required fund balance used to be 8 percent, which is .833 percent, which represents, you know, one month of reserve of our budget and -- but, but, you know, approved for us to increase that to 16.67, which equals to two months of budget reserve. You know, I mean, that was a great move, and I'm glad to have been a part of that, and I'm glad to have been able to make that reality and, you know, to keep that going, you know, and I know each year has been difficult for us to do process that, but I can tell you each one of the things that allowed us to attain a Triple A rating, you know, by Finch (indiscernible.) agency, so it's a good thing. And I hope the County can keep it going. The other thing is on the millage rate. You know, when I got here it was 11 point -- in 2005, it was 11.64, 11.65 around there. Today, it is 8.87 mils, and it's remained the same for the last, you know, three years and that's because of this year's budget also, you know, but I know that's with all of the issues going on with the jail, so I hope, you know, we can, you know, maintain that. But, yes, that's what it was approved at. And I want to thank you both and also -- and I want to thank, you know, everybody in the County because, you know, it was ten (inaudible) there's no way that it can be done by only one person or, you know, a few people. We all had to sacrifice, you know, in order for us to be able to achieve that, so thank you all for that. Now, I got to talk about my bosses, you know, Mr. Anderson, I really, really thank you and I appreciate you for giving me this opportunity. You have really brought what I consider to be steady hands

to County administration, you know, and you're very fair, you know, in everything that you do. You've improved employees' morale, I mean, if I had you as a boss, you know, when I started working, I never changed unless, you know, unless you say you're going to retire before me. So you've been a very, very good boss. You know, there have been many, many times, you know, in August of each year when we're preparing the budget, you know, we will sit at the table, we're looking at, you know, this big-budget gap and we say, you know, how are we going to get this? You know, I mean, department's asking for this, you know, \$200 million in expense and all the things, but you know with this financial miracle that she's got, you know, we always figured out a way to submit it a proposed balanced budget to the Board each year. I mean, thank you, I appreciate you. Believe me, I will miss you. I know that's, you know, everybody thinks when you retire, you know, you're out there enjoying yourself, but, you know, when you have a boss like Mr. Anderson, and you don't get a chance to work for him, you know, you definitely know that, you know, you've missed something in your life. So thank you, sir. And Ms. Sharon, Sharon, thank you for being a good boss. Thank you for being a good friend, and thank you for also, you know, hiring me from (inaudible). I mean, I just saw the -- I saw the posting in government financial officer position newsletter, and I said, you know, let me give this is shot. You know, like she said I was, you know, looking forward to living in Miami at the time because of the -- you know, in 2005, the hurricane was rough. I've experienced a hurricane before, and I did do Hurricane Andrew. You know my house -- you know we had four boys we're out six months, so I didn't want to experience that again. So in 2005, I said oh my, god, you know, let me see if I, you know, can give this a shot, (indiscernible.) some other hurricane that year and truly I gave it a shot; I didn't know anybody here, didn't have any idea how I would move myself up here, you know, but I said, let's see what I can do, so I gave a shot. Sharon and some of the other teams, you know, they gave me the opportunity to come in as the finance manager. Thank you very much, Sharon. I appreciate you. You know I cannot thank you enough. And the support that you know you have provided to the finance department in your role as the CFO is very, very much, you know, appreciated, so thank you. To the finance department staff, you know, we have seven divisions in the finance department, and along with Mr. Ray Turner and then you know, the deputy, and the seven division managers, they all contributed greatly to the success of the finance department, you know, during my tenure here; and I'm glad that, you know, they were able to make the department shine, you know, during all this (inaudible). So I want to express my appreciation today. I want to thank them for everything that they did, you know, to get the department, you know, running, and there's no way that me, as the finance director can manage the entire department especially, you know, in light of all of the millions and you know things that we have to discuss. You know, you spent a lot of time on that. You know, by the time you finish that, you look at all of your e-mails, and well, how you doing, you're able to catch up. That's why -- you know, when I went on vacation I usually take my laptops with me and - I always know I'm always going to work it had to be a work-cation. It's something that I chose to do, because I always believe that -- I believe can, you know, be on top of my job and not get myself overwhelmed, you know, because if you don't do that, and you come back, you're going to miss a lot of important e-mails and all that kind of thing. So all those division managers, you know, really helped me greatly to get the department to running, so I thank them for their contribution and everything that they did. And to the

finance department staff, of course, you know, I can't forget them. What you did, you know, we were able to meet all of our annual financial metrics that, you know, we're supposed to have, and that was due to your dedication, your commitment, and your contribution, so thank you. I appreciate you. I will never forget you. Thank you. And to other departments, you know, cause I worked a lot with other departments. And some of them that, you know, well, they're happy that, you know, to see me go, because you know -- because sometimes, sometimes when you have to say no, you have to say no. You know, me starting as the budget manager, you know and in developing, you know, some forms, and just like that, you know we can use to control the budget, you know. Even thought people say, oh, finance department micromanages department budget, but, I mean, y'all can see the fruit of the pudding out of, you know, what's -- what has happened in terms of a minimum fund balance that you know we have to maintain. And each year we've been able to, all of us, you know, working together as a team. We've been able to have enough underruns that will carry us forward to the point that, you know, you're looking at budgets, we are able to have a higher fund balance each year, and to the credit of our manager also, you're looking at revenue and you look at expenses, we're able to budget more than, you know, we have in our revenue each year. So it's a good thing and I thank of all of, you know, the department heads and, you know, the staff in those departments. Thank you for, you know, your contribution and thank you for being good colleagues. So when I see you outside, you know, let's just rejoice in that. Don't think about the no's. Think about all the years that you know we had, you know. So as the saying goes, you know, it is always -- you know, it's not a good time, it's not a good time to leave a good job that, you know, you love, but there's a right time to say, hey, you're going to retire. So this is the time and I'm ready to move forward, but I will never, never forget, you know, Fulton County. And when I'm driving around, you know, and every now and then, you know, I'm coming to see this guy, so au revoir. I appreciate you, you know. Bye for now. Thank you all."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Older Americans Month' sponsored by Chairman Pitts, Commissioners Abdur-Rahman, Ivory, with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Now, we have a group of seniors that's coming down, I think, for the Older American's Month. Can we please get these lovely people to come down and stand with us? These are the true jewels of Fulton County. I was getting ready to say, where's Ladisa? Okay. All right. Good morning. How are you doing? Come on in, ladies. Good morning. Come on in. Everybody looks beautiful. Will all of the senior services staff, please join us as well? See nobody does it like Fulton County when it comes to senior services. I see our mayor of Palmetto. Can you join us as well, please? All of our senior services staff, please join us. Where is Brandy? I was told to ask where is Brandy. Brandy, you're being summoned. Alrighty. Alrighty. We good? Everybody's good? Boy, all this wisdom right here, you got a billion dollars' worth of wisdom or more, and I'm so proud and honored with my other colleagues to present this proclamation. This is -- WHEREAS, Older Americans Month was established in by 1963 by President John F. Kennedy and Members of the National Council of Senior Citizens to address the growing concerns of older adults and later to celebrate and honor their contributions including those who served our country; and

WHEREAS, Fulton County government has allocated funding for senior services informally since 1973, established the Office of Aging in 1989, and today through the Department of Senior Services provides preventative, intervention, and supportive services that support independence, health, and delay of cognitive decline; and WHEREAS, Senior Services provides home delivered meals, transportation, in-home services, case management, AmeriCorps' senior companions, volunteers, kinship care, facility-based programs, and adult day neighborhood senior citizens, and multipurpose center facilities and so much more that we can't even list it here; and WHEREAS, this year's Older Americans Month theme, 'Flip the Script' encourages all Americans to think and converse differently about former misconceptions and assumptions regarding aging and understand the value, experience, example, knowledge, and wisdom of older adults. And as I close, being 61 years old, I bash that misconception every day. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners urges every senior, caregiver, employee, nonprofit, business and resident to attend the numerous events, workshops, seminars, and programs that 'Flip the Scripts' on conversations; and does hereby proclaim May 2025 as 'Older Americans Month in Fulton County, Georgia. Can you please put your hands together for this great, great part of our society?"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Good morning. Thank you so much, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. I'm not going to take time away from our speaker, Ms. Eloise Gilbert, who's going to accept the proclamation on behalf of all older adults in Fulton County. Okay, if mayor could you say a few words before and then we'll have Eloise."

TERESA THOMAS-SMITH, MAYOR OF PALMETTO: "Warm greetings, everyone. I am so honored to be standing here at this moment. I am here for a completely different reason; didn't even know that our sassy and amazing seniors from the city of Palmetto would be representing today. So again, to be the mayor of this great group of seniors; if you haven't had the opportunity to come down to the Palmetto Senior facility, please do. They will give you the joy of an experience that will change you. So please come and check us out down in 30268. Thank you."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: Thank you so much, mayor, and I'm sorry, I was remiss that the Department of Senior Services staff is here, just a portion, but all of us -- our hope is to help seniors age well and in the most healthy and engaged way possible. So to the team here, I want to let you know that I love you very much. I appreciate all the hard work that you do, and without further ado, Ms. Eloise."

ELOISE GILBERT, RECIPIENT: "Hello. Well, it's an honor to be here. I want to invite everybody to come down to the center because we're like family. We love each other and look forward to it. It's just a home away from home, and I appreciate everything you do."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Atlanta CASA 30th Anniversary Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Ivory with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "If anybody is here from CASA, please come down? All right. Thank you. Just come join us, please. Who's going to speak here? Welcome, welcome. Yeah, on both sides. All right, I'm really excited. I wanted to present this as not only because I believe in this organization, but as an attorney I know the work that they do, and I know how important it is. So for 30 years, CASA, which is the court-appointed special advocates, have been a steadfast advocate for the well-being and rights of children in foster care ensuring they have a voice in court and a pathway to a brighter future. WHEREAS, Atlanta CASA has worked to recruit, train, and support volunteers who provide essential advocacy for children who have experienced abuse and neglect, giving them a dedicated and compassionate presence in their lives; and WHEREAS, under the leadership of CEO and Atlanta CASA, Dominique Cooper, committed Board of Directors and the entire staff, Atlanta CASA has expanded services, strengthen community partnerships and elevated the standard of child advocacy in Fulton County and beyond; and WHEREAS, Atlanta CASA has created positive outcomes for children and families by ensuring they receive the support, stability, and guidance necessary for lifelong success; and WHEREAS, the organization unwavering commitment to child welfare and judicial advocacy, reflects the highest ideals of community service, volunteerism, and justice making a lasting impact on the future of our youth; and WHEREAS, in recognition of its 30th anniversary, Atlanta CASA is celebrated for its extraordinary contributions to Fulton County, to the city of Atlanta, its dedication to empowering children and its continued efforts to build a bright future for the most vulnerable members of our community. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognize Atlanta CASA, it's CEO staff and Board of Directors for 30 years of service, advocacy, and leadership in championing the needs of children and families in our community; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 7th, 2025, as 'Atlanta CASA 30th Anniversary Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. And let's hear from our CASA CEO, Dominique Cooper."

DOMINIQUE COOPER, CEO, CASA: "Good morning, everyone, and thank you so much to Mo Ivory, to all the Commissioners here in Fulton County. On behalf of our Board of Directors, our staff, our volunteers and myself, I just want to say thank you for today's recognition. We appreciate all of your support and look forward to your continued support for the children that we serve here in Fulton County. Thank you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Good morning, everyone. I just wanted to say I've had the pleasure of working with CASA in my day job as an attorney and having a court-appointed special advocate help represent the interest of a young child that I represented. And the work that they do is really good, and it takes a real special person to do this work, so thank you all for the work that you do. And more importantly, with the national budget and grant cuts that have been going on, their budget has been cut. They're not going to be receiving a grant this year. So when you think about giving, make sure that you think about the court-appointed special advocates, CASA: a great organization doing great work. Thank you so much."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Water Safety Month' sponsored by Commissioner Ivory with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Is there anybody here to -- yes, yes, okay, good. Well, I mean, we all drank water so we all can come. We need water. Yes, everybody needs water."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. In light of May being here and all the pools are starting to open, drowning is a big problem that we have in the state of Georgia, and being a Tech Grad back in my day, we used to have to take drown proofing back in those days as a required class. Fortunately, before I graduated they got rid of it. But even as a child growing up with a mom who ran programs for migrants in the Hispanic community, it's one of the leading causes of death in children. And so my job as a high school student was to give swimming lessons to the migrant children, every Friday in a lake where the water wasn't very clear, so I don't know if that was very safe for me to do, but it was something that I did and my mom strongly advocated for it. So it gives me a privilege to read this proclamation. WHEREAS, drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in children from ages one to four-year-old in the United States, and the second leading cause of accidental death in children ages five to 14 in the United States; and WHEREAS, all review drowning deaths were children in the state of Georgia were reported as preventable in the most recent Georgia child fatality review panel annual report; and WHEREAS, collaboration among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, schools, and community stakeholders is essential to effectively address water safety challenges and promote a culture of safe swimming and recreation; and WHEREAS, learning to swim and understanding water safety practices are crucial life skills that can save lives and prevent tragedies and promoting proper supervision, barriers, and emergency preparedness can reduce the risk of drowning incidents, especially among children and inexperienced swimmers; and WHEREAS, National Water Safety Month designated as the month of May, aims to raise awareness with the importance of water safety education and drowning prevention measures; and WHEREAS, the Atlanta Water Safety Coalition seeks to use the platform of National Water Safety Month to elevate opportunities for swim lessons, water safety education, lifeguard training and recruitment and CPR certification provided by coalition partners. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of water safety education as a life skill, urges all residents to become proficient in water safety and drowning prevention; and does hereby proclaim May 2025 as 'Water Safety Month' in Fulton County, Georgia."

RECIPIENT: "So on behalf of the YMCA of Metro Atlanta and all the Water Safety Coalition partners including Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, I just want to encourage you all to get out to the water, get out there safely, come visit the Y, learn CPR. We're about to enter that part of the year where drowning rates do go up. Unfortunately, across the state, we're at a 20-year high for drownings. It is a big problem, and as the Commissioner commented on, federal cuts impacting CASA, we're concerned that the CDC drowning center has been cut as well, so we want you all to get out there; be safe, and thank you to Commissioner Ivory and all the other Commissioners for the support."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Mayor Shirley C. Franklin Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioners Arrington, Pitts, Ellis, Thorne, Barrett, and Ivory."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Let's give another big round of applause for Mayor Franklin. It is truly an honor to present this proclamation today. As a young child growing up, Shirley Franklin was like a second mother. We used to play in her house with her children, Kai and Cabral, and Callie. And so, it is just truly an honor to be able to present this proclamation today. As you all know, the city of Atlanta just renamed the street after her, so we are thankful for your service, Mayor Franklin. You have made -- as you promised -- you made us proud. The proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Shirley Franklin is the 58th Mayor of the city of Atlanta, Georgia, and the first woman to hold the post, and the first black woman elected mayor of a major southern city; and WHEREAS, Mayor Franklin is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; is a graduate of Philadelphia High School for Girls; and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Howard University and her Masters of arts degree in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania; and WHEREAS, prior to her role as Mayor, Shirley Franklin served as the Commissioner of Cultural Affairs under Mayor Maynard Jackson; and she was named chief administrative officer and city manager under Mayor Andrew young; and WHEREAS, during two terms as mayor, Shirley Franklin led the effort to have the papers of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. given to his alma mater, Morehouse College, instead of being sold at auction. She is also the recipient of the Profile in Courage Award issued by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and she received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Oglethorpe University; and WHEREAS, Mayor Franklin is the chairman of the board and CEO of Purpose Built Communities and the Barbara Jordan visiting professor in ethics and political values, in the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin; and WHEREAS, in 2025, Mayor Franklin was honored with a street renaming on a portion of Central Avenue now named Shirley C. Franklin Boulevard, Southwest, and Westside Reservoir Park was also renamed after her to the Shirley Clark Franklin Park. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Mayor Shirley C. Franklin for her trailblazing role as the mayor of the city of Atlanta, celebrates her milestone 80th birthday; and does hereby proclaim Saturday, May 10th, 2025, as 'Mayor Shirley Clark Franklin Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Let's hear it for her."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes. Yes. When I was at Spelman College, I started to learn a little bit about the politics in Atlanta and watched it happening and I saw that Mayor Franklin was running for office as mayor, it really helped me to understand the role that women play in politics and the role that we have to step up and run for office. And so, she's always been a huge inspiration for me to think about public service. And a couple semesters ago, I taught a class on the Olympic Games at Georgia State Law School and I would have the pleasure of having Mayor Franklin come and speak in my class about all of her experiences running the 1996 Olympic Games here in Atlanta. And when I won this office and I started thinking about how I needed to be, I reflected upon one thing she said in class that day when I was talking to her about the Olympics, and she said that when you are responsible for people in the public and you are an

elected official, you need to understand the law, and know that there's the law that you have to read and understand as it relates to your position. And I don't know if you remember saying that, but that not only hit me just as a lawyer, but made me really feel like that would be in a guiding principle in the way I behaved as an elected official, which was to go back to the law and read what is allowed and isn't allowed. So I just want to say that that really meant something to me that you said that, and I've been trying to follow that, you know, in the last four or five months that I've been here; so I honor you and you're a role model for me, and I thank you for being here today."

MAYOR SHIRLEY C. FRANKLIN, RECIPIENT: "So thank all of you, especially the Commission Members, and Marvin and I have come a long way. I don't think when I met him as a child that I imagine that I would run for office, and I didn't imagine that he would run for office. But thankfully, we live in a country where that is the possibility and we need to preserve that. I am most used to being behind-the-scenes. I spent 21 years in city government, only eight of which was as mayor. I met Mr. Anderson in his other life and remember him fondly, so it's really hard for me to say anything more than thank you. My mother told me that's all that's required, that I didn't have to give an explanation. I didn't have to deflect it or explain it, but thank you. Thank you for the support that you've given to really all of the people of Atlanta, but especially to me in my public service. And I am turning 80, so I -- I almost came up for senior citizens' month, but it was already planned, so I sat in my seat. But I've been a senior citizen for a couple of decades now, and I feel blessed that God has giving me such a long life and an opportunity to be productive. Thank you very much."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Certified Public Managers Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Arrington with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. We got a great group coming down. Welcome, welcome, thank you. All right. All right. So this group is being honored for the great work that they do, but specifically for the training that they've received. It's so important that we receive continual training to improve our skills and to learn best practices. And so, I'm so proud of this group and what they have done, and I'll go ahead and read the proclamation, but it is so important in partnering with the University of Georgia for this ongoing training, and it is part of what makes Fulton County the great government that it is. The proclamation reads: WHEREAS, Fulton County Government entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, to offer the certified public manager program to managers and supervisors within Fulton County; and WHEREAS, the University of Georgia is the only organization within the state of Georgia authorized by the national CPM Consortium to offer the CPM program, and Fulton County CPM class of 2025 is the ninth class in Fulton County to receive the CPM certification; and WHEREAS, Cohort Q supported the Fulton County South Training Center, which serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, by donating clothes, books, and personal care items through rallying support across multiple County departments collecting over 400 items while raising awareness of the center's vital role in the community; and WHEREAS, the CPM class, Cohort R, launched the Amazing People/Amazing Grace donation drive by coordinating with the sisters that the Gift of Grace House, a nonprofit organization that

provides compassionate care for indigent women living with AIDS, collecting essential items like hygiene products and cleaning supplies through both in-person and virtual efforts, a total of 289 items were collected; and WHEREAS, the CPM class has completed 300 hours of coursework in nine months dedicating three full consecutive days per month to attending classes, completing out-of-class homework and academic studies, and giving back to the community of their time, talents, and intellectual help. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County congratulates the CPM Class of 2025 for successfully completing the requirements to receive their professional certifications as certified public managers; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 7th, 2025 as 'Fulton County Certified Public Managers Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Let's give them a big hand. Mr. Hermon, we only have to get 60 hours for Commissioners to be certified. That's a bit short of that 300. Great work."

KENNETH HERMON, JR., CHIEF HR OFFICER: "I'll work with UGA on that. Good morning, everyone. Congratulations again to the CPM graduates. This program again is our cornerstone program, and it talks about employee development. And it could not be accomplished without the support of the County leadership through the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners dedicating the resources to make sure that we are able to provide you guys the opportunity to not only develop yourself, but then take the development and bring it back into the workforce in the respective department that you work in. And one thing I've always professed that the value of a CPM is not really the certification, but the network of individuals that you've been able to work with over the past ten months, that without this program you would have never had the opportunity to see skill set and be able to build those relationships that you now have; and we expect you to continue on in to your future with Fulton County. Some of the stats that I would like to share quickly is that, you know, while this is our ninth class, this is also -- we have now hit the 421 employees that have successfully graduated the class and more so, for Commissioners, you know, when you talk about a return on investment, of that population, we still have 75 percent of those individuals from 10 years ago still with the organization, so this type of program shows to the employees that we are committed to them and, you know, if we commit to them, they commit to us, so that retention rate is very beneficial. And I'll say one last thing, since today is his last day, and now I can let the secret out, the CPM program, we had a big advocate secretly. So in public, it's required for him to provide as much adversary towards the HR initiative of spending the resources on employee development. But when they get around the table in the August meeting, I'll get a phone call to say don't worry, Mr. Hermon, we'll make sure the money is there for CPM, and he's done that consistently for the last nine years, so let's again say thank you very much, Hakeem, for making sure that's been -- and again, lastly, I'll just end with congratulating to Brenda and Daniel and the team in employee development to making sure that you guys are submitting your mileage reimbursements on time, that's part of the test, right? Okay. Good. And ensuring that they coordinate the program and made sure that you had as beneficial of an experience as possible, and again, congratulations. And I assume -- I think we have the presidents are going to say a few words. Brenda, the president."

JADA ROBINSON, RECIPIENT: "Short people to the front. Good morning, my name is Jade Robinson, I work in customer service with the County Manager's office. I would just like to say thank you for recommending the program. Thank you for recommending us. Thank you for investing in us. Thank you for recognizing that we have these leadership skills that are worth it. That's about it. We just love the bond that it created, the collaboration; being able to work with each other, talk to each other outside of work; learning about our lives, kids, dogs, and connecting is the best part about CPM."

MIKE, RECIPIENT: "Good morning. My name is Mike (indiscernible.). I'm with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. And I too want to say thank you on behalf of Cohort Q. It was an awesome experience. I attribute it to we practice what we become and have an opportunity to practice servant leadership, and we all agree that we all servants. We serve our community well, but having that extra education, that extra toolbox to be able to serve with excellence. I just want to say thank you to the Commissioners, thank you to Fulton County, thank you to my cohort members in regards to how we came together to learn more about each other and learn the importance of serving others. And I absolutely recommend that anybody that's in leadership within Fulton County Government participate in this program and if you're even seeking membership, I think that that should be a prerequisite to seek this type of program because it does make a difference. Again, we can't thank you. The gratitude is overflowing, so continue this program, please. And I can't say enough thank you's for each and every one of us. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The last proclamation is recognizing 'Mental Health Awareness Month' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can I get all of the employees of the behavioral health department as well as our allies, our director. I want to take this time to just apologize. I know we're running a little over, but I'm going to take a -- I'm going to take a moment of personal privilege to say you save the best for last. And so, if I can get all those wonderful people that work in behavioral health, the director and the allies, all -- if you can come forward, please. And we love each other, so get in tight. As they're coming down, as they're coming down, I remember earlier this year dressing up in red, and you all missed a wonderful fashion show that they had over there. They had heart month, health information; they had information for the body and the soul. And when I saw individuals strut the catwalk during that fashion show, it warmed my heart. As I get into this proclamation, I'm so honored to present it, but I have to say this: yesterday, the Department of Education abolished a billion-dollar budget for mental health services for our schoolchildren. Now let that stick with you that we as elected officials at the county, at the state, and the municipal are going to have to work harder with the private and the nonprofit sector to make sure these babies do not fall through the cracks. I'm praying that that will be reversed, but right now a billion dollars nationwide has been moved from behavioral health in all of our schools. Now I know that probably don't make you feel that good, but I'm one -- I'm a woman of faith and I know God has the last say. So as I get into this proclamation for these wonderful, wonderful people; WHEREAS, mental health conditions are real and prevalent and only look at any of the BOC meetings to know that -- that part wasn't in, I'm sorry, y'all. Let me start over, I'm sorry."

WHEREAS, 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 in 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, 'Turn Awareness Into Action', is focused on celebrating the progress already made, and recognizes the importance of mental health; and challenge us to turn understanding into meaningful steps towards change. We will help Fulton County residents to achieve these goals; 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 shares that burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental health wellness and prevention efforts. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED 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 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 -- let me say that one more time for the people in the back -- to provide appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions; and does hereby proclaim the month of May 2025, as 'Mental Health Awareness Month' in Fulton County, Georgia. Can you put your hands together for this group of people that worked so hard? And I'm going to turn it over to you."

PHYLLIS LEVERETT, FC DBHDD: "Good morning. My name is Phyllis Leverett. I am a behavioral health program manager with Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and I want to extend a sincere thank you to Fulton Board of Commissioners as well as Fulton County leadership for their ongoing support. Mental health touches everyone. Nurturing it helps us all thrive. Thank you."

RECIPIENT: "Good morning. On behalf of the Fulton County mental health network, which I'm part of, we are so proud of this occasion, and I want to thank the Board -- the Board of Commissioners for this outstanding recognition in the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health, LaTrina Foster and her team for all the support they've given us over the years. Thank you very much."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Oh, you're boss looking at you like, no. Okay, we're going to close it out. Chairman Pitts, unfortunately, isn't here today, but this is one of his babies that he's loves, and he wants to make sure that I announce that if he could be here, he would. But mental health is everybody's responsibility."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, BHDD: "I want to say one thing. Since Chairman Pitts is not here, I'll take one moment. I just want to acknowledge really quick: the County Manager and Commissioner Ellis for their advocacy around Fulton County investing in school-based mental health. And as Commissioner Abdur-Rahman just mentioned, with the funding being removed from Fulton -- well, from schools, I think that

Commissioner Ellis and the County Manager were ahead of the game to ensure that our department became involved in school-based mental health, so I just wanted to take a moment to thank both of them for their advocacy around funding to provide an opportunity for us to place mental health therapists within all Fulton County schools, so thank you very much."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right, Commissioners, as noted at the adoption of our agenda, we said that we're going to take up the item on the Tax Anticipation Note, so I'm going to ask the Clerk to go ahead and sound it, because we're ready, right?"

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, under County Manager's Item for Open and Responsible Government, **25-0347**, Finance: Request approval to accept the lowest acceptable bid for the County's 2025 Tax Anticipation Note in the aggregate principal amount of \$275 million and approval of an Amendatory and Supplemental Pricing Resolution, which authorizes the issuance and sale of the 275 million-dollar General Fund Tax Anticipation Notes of Fulton County, Georgia with a maturity date of December 30th, 2025."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Would you all like to say anything from the finance side?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did receive four bids this morning, so it was well received in the market. The bids ranged from a low bid of 3.017819 to 3.069839. The lowest bid received and awarded bidder is Wells Fargo Bank at that 3.017819 percent."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Thank you. Any questions, Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Hearing none, we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington; seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Vice Chair, can I make a motion to amend the agenda to allow the city of Palmetto tax item so that the mayor?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Can we take that up after public comment? We have some other items, I think, that we're asked to be moved up, too. So maybe we'll just take it up reprioritization at the end of public comment."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 8, Public Hearings, **25-0345**, 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.fultoncountygga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comments will be suspended, and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Vice Chairman and Members of the Board, we'll start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have 11 speaker cards. Will the first six speakers, please come forward: Mayor Bill Kolbrener, Misty Fernandez, Gloria Smith, Emma Davis, Kevin Bacon, Maudray Giles."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Mr. Mayor, welcome, welcome."

BILL KOLBRENER, MAYOR OF MOUNTAIN PARK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Vice Chairman Ellis and esteemed Commissioners of Fulton County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Bill Kolbrener and I proudly serve as the mayor of the city of Mountain Park; a soon to be celebrated 100th anniversary nestled in northern Fulton County. On behalf of the Mountain Park residents, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to the Fulton County Sheriff's department for their services to our community. Their presence of patrols in Mountain Park have made a significant difference in enhancing our public safety and our sense of security throughout the city. Their efforts have been invaluable in addressing issues ranging from traffic violations, ensuring that our school bus stops are safe for the youth of our city, and for investigating irregularities in Mountain Park, and recently responding to a personal threat made against me. Their vigilance and dedication have not gone unnoticed, and me and our citizens are very much appreciative. A safer environment has been created, and we're truly grateful for their commitment. The Fulton County Sheriff's Department has made an incredible positive impact on the safety and well-being of Mountain Park, and for that we are deeply grateful. Some may ask why does the Fulton County Sheriff's Department do these things for Mountain Park. My response is why wouldn't they? They conduct this type of coverage throughout the entire County. Why should the needs of Mountain Park or any other part of Fulton County be ignored? Mountain Park residents pay taxes to Fulton County, Mountain Park residents deserve the same secure environment, public safety, and recognition that every citizen in Mountain Park and throughout the Fulton County has. Thank you for this opportunity to be seen and to be heard; and as a personal note, thank you so much for your commitment and dedication to the city of Mountain Park, to the other cities throughout the Fulton County and all the citizens that construct and make Fulton County the wonderful County that it is. Enjoy your day and stay well. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Next speaker."

MISTY FERNANDEZ, GEORGIA POWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I am Misty Fernandez an external affairs executive for Georgia Power Company, and appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this morning. I wanted to give you and our customers an update on a transmission line project that we have taking place called the Jefferson Street Northwest 115 KB line. So some of you may already be aware that this line -- these are two new lines that Georgia Power is constructing on the Westside of Atlanta and just north of the Fulton County Jail. These two lines are being built to increase capacity and improve system resiliency for our power grid. These two lines help to make sure that we are poised and ready to meet the growing energy needs for the entire west metro Atlanta region. We received lots of questions about how this route was selected, and I wanted to share this morning that Georgia Power has a very thorough process for determining how transmission line routing is done, and where we place facilities. Among those factors, we consider safety, we consider existing land use in the area, we consider existing transmission corridors, environmental conditions; we also consider engineering practices related to the construction and operation of our facilities. And lastly, we also consider cost impacts to customers as it relates to the construction, operation, and maintenance of those lines. We've received several calls and requests from residents and community leaders who've reached out with questions about this project, and we wanted to share that Georgia Power is responding, and has a community stakeholder engagement plan in place where we are working to follow up with each one of the residents who've reached out to us directly. We are also working and partnering with the Howell Station Neighborhood Association and their leadership team to collect and share feedback. And in fact, we just had a very good productive meeting with the Howell Station leadership group last night where we listened to the community concerns to get a deeper understanding and shared more specifically about the project details. We also have an open house in closing that is scheduled for May 13th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the M28 Church. So thank you again. Know that Georgia Power is committed to delivering the clean, safe, and affordable energy that our customers expect and deserve. We appreciate the time."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you. Next speaker."

GLORIA SMITH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Gloria Smith. I'm a senior. I live in District Four. I'm here to speak about the Fulton Atlanta Community Action LIHEAP program. The cooling assistance program for seniors 65 and over started April the 1st and general population started on May 1st. On behalf of seniors and myself, it is not working for us. We have to call to get an appointment on the phone that is busy, busy, busy and never getting through. I am the founder of a program called 'Grandparents on the Move for Seniors' who are raising their grandchildren have been calling me, sharing that they're not getting through to schedule an appointment and wondering what they should do. I'm here to ask you guys. We used to be able to go to community senior programs to get that process -- last year we are at the senior -- Helene Mills Senior, what happened to that? I encourage each one of you to go yourself to 341 Kelley Street and see seniors in wheelchairs, walkers, and canes just

trying to get an appointment. On April the 1st, I was able to get an appointment, was given a paper and told to check the website. Never received an appointment. Called on May 1st, never got through, well as other seniors on the website. Went to 341 Kelley Street on Monday, lines of folks outside still trying to get an appointment. No luck. We were told that they would take the first ten people who had cutoff notice. Who wants to wait till it's cutoff? The system is broken and we're counting on you guys to fix it. I'd like to say to my Commissioner, Ms. Mo Ivory, how are reaching out to your constituents? I have not had a piece of mail or e-mail from you since you've been elected. I called your office on Monday to be added to the mailing list, but how are you reaching your other constituents? And, please, make sure your staff give out accurate --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, ma'am. Thank you."

GLORIA SMITH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Don't give us anything; we deserve better."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Next speaker."

EMMA DAVIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Say please state your name. My name is Emma Gene Davis. And today, I woke up at 4 o'clock this morning; the Lord told me the word for today was grace, G-R-A-C-E. I heard that mention here today three times, so I know that the Lord is right on track. And I concur with my senior friend that just spoke to you. There is something going on with seniors, and it seems like it's only in senior facilities. Some of us don't get there. Some of us don't have e-mails. Some of us don't even have phones that take messages, but what I do know is when you sent me some information in the mail, you ordered a list of people who are regular voters and seniors because you know we vote. You can do that same thing with a newsletter to let us know what's going on. I don't want to hear from you when it's time for you to run. I want to hear from you every time something is going on. Had no idea that you were even giving a proclamation for senior day. So when you order that list to put labels on something that say vote for me, order that list and send me a newsletter. Grace says for me, I wrote it down so I wouldn't get it wrong, I'm 85. Shirley Franklin got to come up five more years to get to me, okay? It says that grace is a person who has fair, kindness, unmerited favor, kindness towards humanity and especially salvation forgiveness. I forgive y'all for not communicating with us all the time. Coming here, you know how much I have to pay; \$20 for parking. Ain't that something? I'd like to know if you would consider coming to us some times letting us not have to pay to park."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you. Next speaker."

KEVIN BACON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm Kevin Beacon. I'm not just a regular peasant with no permanent address. You know, you all were talking about mental health. Yeah, I would like to turn your attention to the Fulton County Jail. How many of you stepped foot in that facility? Yes, that is ground zero for mental health, and nothing is being done about it. There should be a place, 21st century facility, to rehabilitate those in our community who are suffering from mental health who have done wrong, but deserve a chance at rehabilitation. There is no rehabilitation taking place at the Fulton County Jail. Please address that and stop talking. All we hear is talk. Talk."

Participation trophies, proclamations, all this talk and no action. There needs to be action to address the mental health crisis taking place on the streets and in homes across the city. Y'all should be ashamed of yourselves. You want to talk. Do something. Nobody -- no human being -- I don't care what they did deserves to be in that place. I'm not saying build another jail, I'm saying build a place that we can put people who needs to be isolated from society, who are suffering for whatever reason and need those issues addressed. A 21st century facility, not that thing that you wouldn't put slaves in."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Next speaker."

MAUDRAY GILES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I am Maudray Giles. I am the Organizing Director of Georgia Federation Public Service Employees, better known as FPSE. I just wanted to stop by and put a face of the name. I will be helping to lead our efforts in Fulton County and working positively with the managers and staff. We are grateful for Commissioner -- Chairman Pitts' leadership in ensuring that County workers have access to benefits, options, and representation. We are excited about the future, and thank you to the Board of Commissioners and especially to Chairman Pitts."

CLERK GRIER: "Last speakers in Assembly Hall please forward: LA Pink, J. Wesley Day, Ena Harrison, and Sabrina Cown."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So once again we know how hard you guys are trying to brush up under the rug the inmate welfare funding. And the DOJ just won't let you. So the streets is talking. We put in two requests -- well, several requests, for open records for a check that was given to Helen Willis in District 3, \$5,000 from Fulton County, South Fulton, both of them saying there is no trace of this check, and we have a very serious problem about that, okay? Because it's on the inmate welfare funding. So I want to know what else is on the inmate welfare funding that has been just passed by and there's no check, there's no cover. So I'm asking for the County Attorney, I need a copy of the check. I need a copy of the check today, because we put in this months ago, still nothing. Rob Pitts, Bob Ellis did interviews digging into the inmate welfare funding, so the red flag should have been that check as well, and several other things that's on there. But we won't let up. Trust me. Everybody that is on that inmate welfare funding -- and I mean I know y'all thinking it's gone away, it will not leave. Now, if it is up under investigation, then I understand why I have not received anything, but I need documentations of that too. So I come here today to let you know, since I have five minutes of fame, okay? This is what the Sheriff said I was looking for. But see that DOJ report; it's more than five minutes to read. And everything I've been saying is what the DOJ says -- the DOJ report says. So if I'm looking for the fame, I'm looking for the handcuffs too. So get ready, because I know you all think that this is a joke, and those that don't think it's a joke --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you. Next speaker."

SABRINA COWN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning everyone. My name is Sabrina Cown, and I'm here as a resident of Howell Station to voice opposition of the sale of the

easement between our neighborhood and the Fulton County Jail to Georgia Power. I've been informed by the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management that this particular land sale has been in negotiations since 2023, but our neighborhood only found out about it on April 15th when a curious neighbor asked the contractors why they were cutting down trees and in a seemingly unintended portion of our neighborhood. This item appeared on this -- before this Board on March 19th with documentation stating that there was no opposition from the neighborhood, but as of that time, no one from DREAM, Georgia Power, or anyone in Fulton County had reached out to contact any of the 300 homes that are potentially impacted by these changes. We are very easy to find. We have a neighborhood association board and public contact information on a website. We have an MPU through the city of Atlanta, and we are a very active and conscious group of citizens, a community that looks out for each other. I personally live two houses down from the end of Longley Avenue. I can see the service entrance of Rice Street Jail from the front porch of my home. Currently the noise and light pollution that comes from the jail is an annoyance, but if Georgia Power is allowed to remove the tree canopy and the brush that serves as a barrier between our homes and the jail, it will be an unbearable cacophony. Jails are noisy places and, unfortunately, we've already lost half of our natural barrier when the County removed the trees on the jail side due to contraband. We've been informed by Georgia Power that likely there will not be any trees planted in place of the ones that are being removed, and if they are planted, it will be something that can grow no less than five to 10 feet. And on our block, we are a community of small families. On my street alone, the lower half of Longley, there are 17 children, elementary age and younger. We are concerned about the safety of our children if this path becomes easily traversable, and we are also concerned about the value of our properties. I urge this Board to intervene on behalf of Howell Station and its citizens and help us preserve our beloved community."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you. Next speaker."

RAYNARD BURRELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Raynard Burrell. I'm the Executive Director of the Federation of Public Service Employees. And with the recent updating of the County's employee relations ordinance and our administrative offices coordinating with your finance department, we are all set to begin enrollment and impact in positive engagement with the County and your employees. I wanted to stop by this morning to reaffirm our commitment to working collaboratively with the Board and your management team to help make Fulton County an even better place to work and call home. Soon you will notice our positive presence and constructive engagement. We are forever grateful to Chairman Pitts and his leadership for helping to enhance Fulton County's employee benefits and options. Indeed, we thank each of you. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Vice Chairman and Members of the Board, we have 30 speakers on Zoom."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So we have 30 speakers on Zoom, and I believe we have roughly about 30 minutes left here in the public comment period, so we will end promptly at that 30-minute -- at that 30-minute mark, so if you look at the time and just notate that when we begin the remarks. Madam Clerk, and for those speakers on Zoom, if you would mind keeping your comments brief and to the point, and if someone else has said what you've said, you know, consider refrain from speaking. Open up the --"

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

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I believe the chair; the appointment for chair of the BRE is coming up soon. Sherry Allen is not a good fit for the chair of the Board of Registration and Elections. Are we ever going to get a nonpartisan chairperson? It seems not in this lifetime. She circumvents her own board by filing a lawsuit against the SEB without board approval. She's very good at obstructing fellow board members access to election documentation necessary for an accurate and correct election certification. It seems her attitude is tough, you have to certify anyway. That's a whole other problem. She seems oblivious to Fulton County's violation of law. Sheriff candidate Rambo had to wait for months to get the actual results of his election. We can do better. Fulton deserves better. Thank you."

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

MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Commissioner Ivory, you quoted Mayor Franklin this morning, which was very timely saying, you have to understand the law and follow the law. You say you've tried to follow that which is great advice, but it's very easy for folks to follow this advice when one isn't making a difficult decision or under any pressure. When it's really tested is when folks want to look maybe the other way, and they aren't as supportive of following that advice. They become fair-weather fans, if you will. Commissioners, if you had a fellow Commissioner that routinely violated the law, disregarded board rules, and obstructed access to information and transparency, what would you do? Would it depend on the issue? Would you pick and choose when the law should be followed and transparency should be prioritized? That's a genuine question. Maybe you were even told it's not that big of a deal, don't worry about it. What would you do? Well, Commissioners, this is happening on the Board of Elections. Chairman Sherry Allen has made decisions and circumvented the board routinely. This includes spending our taxpayer dollars without proper board approval. How much does she cost the taxpayers without the board approval? I'm asking you to find out. How much has she cost us as a rogue board chair? She has consistently obstructed access to documents and prevented the board from doing its job as directed in the law by the state legislature. Any efforts to provide need of transparency, she stamps it out. How is Chairman Pitts and the rest of this Board going to keep finding these corrupt individuals? Her term needs to end. She's been a disgrace to this County and to her profession. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Jennifer Upton. Jennifer Upton. All right. The next person to speak is Matthew Harrison.

MATTHEW HARRISON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hey, good morning. I'm also a resident of Howell Station and, you know, I would say I echo our opposition to the removal of the trees between the jail and the neighborhood. You know, it just doesn't make sense, you know. All of these houses that border the jail are now going to have a backyard or a side yard that has people coming to the jail, leaving the jail, basically just going to turn our neighborhood into a connection with the jail. And you know, we're definitely not happy about it, and I know we're just one small piece of the puzzle, but if you look at the west side, you know, there's a trail east of us, south of us, and west of us that the city has put in for the Beltline and, so at this point, you can travel to QTS, you can travel to the jail, and other than that, you know, there's really no reason to be on the Westside Beltline. So I feel like the city is really failing in this aspect, and then there's just so much opportunity to relocate the jail, not put in these power lines and improve the Westside and this is just another Band-Aid to get \$2.5 million and, you know, more power for QTS. So I just don't see the reason behind it other than to help Georgia Power out, and I don't see how it would serve us as, you know, residents. I don't think this is going to make, you know, families with young children want to stay here, want to go to the schools in this area, or invest any more in the neighborhood. So it really is just sad the way we found out and sad that it's our, you know, local government that's doing this. You know, this green space could be a park, it could be anything, but you know, right now, it's just going to be a space for transmission lines."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Ena Harrison. Ena Harrison."

ENA HARRISON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Good morning, Commissioners. I'm speaking today as a resident of Howell Station. My home sits closest next to the Fulton County jail and its parking lot. So when I bought it, it was definitely because of the vibrant community that our neighborhood offers, and the mature trees that have provided us a natural protective buffer for my family. Like many of my neighbors, I was shocked to learn about Georgia Power's plan to install high-voltage transmission lines just feet from our homes. To be clear, this route is not being built to serve our community, it's for a data center. Georgia Power's claimed this morning that they are working with our community is not totally true. Every single one of the meetings our neighbors has had with Georgia Power that was mentioned earlier was at our request. This project moved forward without any public notice or any public input. Kevin Bacon recently spoke on the deplorable conditions at the jail, and it is a crisis. It's under the investigation of the DOJ removing that natural buffer between that facility and our homes only worsen the situation. We have constant sirens, flashing lights, and, frankly, corruption that allowed for eleven deaths within one calendar year. Misty Fernandez of Georgia Power said they have engaged with our community, and I just want to be clear: they have not before starting this project. We only learned about this project by word-of-mouth after they began clearing trees in our neighborhood. Not a single door knock, mailer, or meeting or opportunity to weigh in, yet official records claim that there were no community concerns. That's just not true. We've been vocal,

organized and present; and the lack of transparency under minds trust and disregards our voices that are most affected. We're not against progress. It should not come at the expense of our children's health, our safety, our property values. We are asking you to take a stand with the people who live here and direct Georgia Power to reroute those lines to Jefferson Street. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Arthur Toal.

ARTHUR TOAL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. Thank you. My name is Arthur Toal. I'm also a resident of the Howell Station neighborhood. I'm going to offer a little bit of new information that you may not have heard yet. Georgia Power continues to think that this -- this plan is for the community, these lines need to be built for the community for the whole westside. However, this is clearly just for QTS. QTS advertises on their website 278 megawatts of critical capacity, and I'm quoting here, three dedicated on-site expandable Georgia Power substations on their campus. These transmission lines do not serve the community; they serve a private company, which is QTS. And the sale of public land to pad the pockets of QTS is not acceptable. Additionally, I'd like to state -- reiterate Ena's comment that there has been no community engagement. We know that this deal has been in the works since 2023, and Fulton County has been aware of it, but not in Fulton County nor Georgia Power has reached out to us. I've also become aware that there are more of these projects that are being undertaken between Fulton County and Georgia Power. I would recommend that any resident in Atlanta reach out to their Commissioners and ask them if they are working on plans to sell public land to Georgia Power. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Sean Doyle. Sean Doyle."

SEAN DOYLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Can y'all hear me? Hello."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes."

SEAN DOYLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hey, y'all, my name is Sean Doyle. Thanks for taking the time here. I'm a historic Howell Station resident as well. I just want to echo everyone that has been making comments here, especially what Arthur just said there a minute ago, my household is a member of the board, and we've been deeply involved in conversation with QTS going back, I don't know about three-ish years now. And QTS keeps saying they have no idea why Georgia Power is running these lines, what they're doing. They're waiting to hear more information from Georgia Power. Whenever every we ask our contacts at QTS, and clearly, as Arthur just stated, this entire project is to run power to QTS and we're getting the runaround from Georgia Power; we're getting the runaround from QTS, and we're just trying to preserve our historic, you know, family, neighborhood and make sure it's not -- these trees aren't cut down and it's rerouted down Jefferson Street where it makes more sense and where QTS owns a bunch of property already you can go, if it's to feed QTS, then it should run on QTS's property. And just to echo the fact that it's taken away the tree canopy and it's going to open us wide open to the jail. At times already you can hear screams and yelling coming from

the jail on our street and on this Beltline spur. And if you take down these trees to run this needless power just for QTS, it's going to be even worse, and our -- essentially, our neighborhood will be part of the jail yard. We'll just be wide open, and I appreciate y'all's time. Please reroute these power lines down Jefferson. Don't bury them. Reroute them. This is only for QTS, and they should pay the price to run power to their facility, not us. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "That next person to speak is Jennifer Upton. Jennifer Upton."

JENNIFER UPTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. Good morning. Thank you for taking the time. My name is Jennifer Upton, and I'm also a resident of the historic Howell Station neighborhood that lies just north of the Fulton County Jail. I want to also reiterate that on March 18th, at the Fulton County Board of Commissioners meeting, Georgia Power put forth legislation to purchase a 2.5 acre easement from the Fulton County Jail to build two high-voltages, a 115 kilovolts power lines, just feet from my house where my kids sleep. As previously mentioned, this easement would require removal of thick forests that also serves as a buffer between the residential community in the busy 24-hour-a-day activities of the Fulton County Jail. Essentially, our homes and yards where kids play will now be fully visible and accessible to the jail and all who enter and exit from the Rice Street access point. In the legislation Georgia Power brought to the Commissioners, they stated that there was no community opposition to this massive project. This is unequivocally untrue as my wonderful historic neighborhood that I called home for 15 years filled with families and children, absolutely opposed this. Therefore, this approval was based on inaccurate information and should be null and void. I speak now directly to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, our elected officials, who unanimously approve the sale of this easement last month without questioning how Georgia Power engaged the community or how they came to have the opinion that the neighborhood was unopposed when their documentation clearly states that the back half of the neighborhood would be exposed to the jail as a result of the project. The lack of transparency here is absolutely remarkable as my community learned about this project quite by accident when a neighbor questioned workers as to why they were moving perfectly healthy trees. Three hundred homes who are your constituents, 2,000 plus jail occupants, and employees who are also your constituents, who will now be exposed to the health effects of living that close to high-voltage power lines. Many families in Howell Station are now being forced to move with this risk, in addition to exposure to the jail, from the loss of trees is just too much. Our property values will plummet and our finances will suffer -- families will suffer because of this oversight. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Molly Chase."

MOLLY CHASE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, thank you. I will add to what has already been said about Howell Station. I will say -- my name is Molly Chase, I am a homeowner in Howell Station and have been for 25 years. If you are tempted to dismiss these issues as a not-in-my-backyard type of issue, I just want to remind you, we have cohabitated with a jail, with intense construction, with homeless shelters, and

we've existed peacefully and had a wonderful neighborhood that is very resilient in the face of that. However, that data center, and I encourage y'all to get more savvy about what a data center uses in terms of electricity and water, and the horrifying effects the data centers have had on neighborhoods where they've been established for a few years. You know, the wolf is in the house now, but there is no reason to roll over to the demands of Georgia Power just to fuel QTS. Any scant research will show you the amount of power that the data centers use, looking on their website will show you. And this is just not the removal of trees, and the removal of trees is important, it's also the installation of these power lines. It will decimate this neighborhood, which otherwise has thrived, and that is because you have chosen not to represent your constituents, but to make things easy for Georgia Power. I think the whole neighborhood is pretty enraged, and every Fulton County resident needs to pay attention. Because this can happen anywhere because the Fulton County Commission is not paying attention; not representing their constituents and rolling over to more powerful entities like QTS and Georgia Power. If you are not aware of the amount of power and the water quality decrease in water pressure, decrease in the actual quality of water, please make yourself informed. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Tracie Marlowe. Tracie Marlowe. The next person to speak is Edwin Ortiz. Edwin Ortiz."

EDWIN ORITZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Oh, yes. My name is Edwin Ortiz, and I just kind of echo a lot of the members of my community in Howell Station. At this point, it's not just a concern, it's the fact that the community has spoken; dozens of residents, media coverage, open records requests, and denies the outreach as well. I confer the same thing. This project was pushed through without transparency, public notice, or property and those people impacted. We know these trees are being cleared, we know the lines are coming, but what we also know is it wasn't done right. If you have this much pushback this must be -- this must be doubt, and this community engagement, why not pause and do the right thing? This doesn't feel like community planning, it feels like damage's in store and we're the collateral. We're not anti-progress, we're against this collusion, and we're against decisions being made in silence at our expense. So what we do, we urge you to pause and review the process and to include us before being permanently and deeply harmful is being forced in our neighborhood and we never get a chance to speak. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Naomi Green."

NAOMI GREEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Naomi Green, and I am a legacy resident of the city of Atlanta, born and raised here, and a current resident of historic Howell Station. This is actually my first time joining a Commission meeting of this nature. And to say that I am alarmed by the number of public comments displaying the lack of transparency between this Commission and their constituents would be an understatement. I'm further alarmed by our neighbors' public comment on the condition of the jail and the lack of support of neighbors experiencing mental health crises who end up there. I am here to lend my voice to the comments that were already shared by Howell Station neighbors and urge this Commission of elected officials to do better. Let

this meeting show that with minimal effort, the community could have been engaged, and the safety and well-being of Fulton County residents prioritized over profits."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Adam Martin. Adam Martin. The next person to speak is Callie Frank. Callie Frank. The next person to speak is Cara Cown. Cara Cown."

CARA COWN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, I have problems with my voice, so please excuse that. But I just want to say that I would like to echo the sentiments of all of my neighbors from Howell Station, and please do -- please do encourage the Commissioners to take this as note that we are not unreasonable, but we do really expect to be involved in these conversations moving forward. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Colin Murphy. Colin Murphy. Next person to speak is Gary Baker. Gary Baker. Next person to speak is Julia Marso. Julia Marso. Next person to speak is Juls Marso. Juls Marso. Next person to speak is Lynn Mays. Lynn Mays. Next person to speak is Mariela Cisneros. Mariela Cisneros. Next person to speak is Megan DiFiore. Megan DiFiore. Next person to speak is Robin Udell. Robin Udell. Next person to speak is Tracie Marlowe. Tracie Marlowe."

TRACIE MARLOWE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: Yes, hello. Hi. My name is Tracie Marlowe and I too am a resident of lovely Howell Station. I'm wondering, though, how much research anyone put into the previous sale of the property or how the property came to exist and belong to the County; and how they purchased -- they built a jail there, because it's my understanding from my now deceased grandmother and uncle that it was supposed to remain a buffer between the jail and the homeowners for perpetuity. Doesn't that mean forever? So when the jail was built, that was the agreement that was drawn up, to my knowledge. So that puts it in a place where you really can't sell it, you're not supposed to do anything with it, right? Anyway, my lovely neighbors have spoken much more eloquently than I will, or I have. But know that this is -- these power lines they cause cancer. It's proven. And the jail -- while we exist -- coexist with the jail, removing that buffer opens up a whole another scenario for just not coexisting well together. We're open to anything except this. I mean, Jefferson Street is not that far away to have to move power lines. Thank you for listening."

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

CLERK GRIER: "No further speakers."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We had a couple of requests to bring forward a few items; I guess we could start with the first one that was requested. I believe it was 25-0308,

and then there was a request by Commissioner Arrington to reconsider the agenda to move forward item 25-0358; is that correct, Commissioner Arrington?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, for the city of Palmetto, to have the Tax Commissioner collect. I think we have someone from Union City here as well."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So we can maybe move both of those items at the same time."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So 0357 and 0358, we can hear those after 0308? Is there any -- what's that?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "It's all the same issue, these three."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "This is separate."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "It's the same amount you did it's just on her. (inaudible.). City of Atlanta, city of Palmetto, city of Union City."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, we can -- we can take 0308 and then come forth with -- is there any objection to brining those other items forward Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, with no objection, we can sound 0308 and then we'll bring forward the other ones."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, under Arts and Libraries, **25-0308**, Arts and Culture: Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and the National Blacks Arts Festival Inc. for the purpose of providing funding in the amount of \$200,000."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Madam Clerk. This is an item that I held at our last meeting, and I just wanted to give an update and then present to you, the board chair, Attorney Lisa Bonner. So I first want to say that I held this because, and I mentioned this the last time it was because I wanted to have the chance to sit and get an organizational update from the leadership at National Black Arts Festival, an organization that I support greatly, and I did have the chance to do that to all of the Commissioners. I actually had a fantastic meeting with the board chair, and the board vice chair, and the new executive director whose name is Leatrice Ellzy, who I know very well; and who is a former employee of National Black Arts Festival for a very long time and left to go to the Apollo Theater in New York to lead that effort, and is now going to be returning to Atlanta to everybody in the arts and cultural worlds' happiness; and we had a chance to -- several of us Commissioners including Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Arrington had an opportunity to attend one of the premier events of the National Black Arts Festival, which is fine art and fashion last week. It was a beautiful

event at the Atlanta History Center, well supported, well attended. So I longer have any reservations about the way that NBAF is moving forward. In fact, I'm really delighted and pleased at the way that they're moving forward and I like to bring their board chair, Attorney Lisa Bonner, who would just like to give us a little bit of a report. Thank you."

LISA BONNER, BOARD CHAIR, NBAF: "Thank you, Commissioner Ivory. First of all, I want to say we did not plan our outfits, so though it looks like it. But good afternoon, Vice Chair Bob Ellis, and Members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. My name is Lisa Bonner, and I had the distinct honor of serving as chair of the National Black Arts Festival Board of Directors. On behalf of the entire NBAF organization, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to this Board in your steadfast support as our founding entity and your continued commitment to NBAF as a legacy partner. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. I'm here on behalf of NBAF and the students in the artistic community that NBAF supports to speak about the importance of Fulton County's continued support, and to ask for your help in ensuring that our funding remains intact during this critical time. NBAF has been a cornerstone of black arts and culture in Atlanta for over three decades. Our legacy is rooted right here in Fulton County, and your support has been instrumental to our ability to thrive and grow. As you know, Georgia currently ranks last in the nation in per capita public arts funding. That reality makes Fulton County's investment in the arts not just valuable; it makes it indispensable. For organizations like NBAF, it can mean the difference between sustaining a year of programming or having to cut back opportunities for the very communities we serve. NBAF offers year-round impactful arts education programs throughout Atlanta Public Schools in Fulton County. These programs provide students with access to high-quality instruction, exposure to professional artists and creative pathways and mentorship that help shapes confidence, expression, and future careers. Your support help makes all of this possible. Over the past few years, NBAF has seen steady growth in revenue and programmatic reach. We've invested in our infrastructure, human resources, expanded our partnerships, and continue to build a sustainable future; however, this year, we are facing new challenges including the ripple effects of shrinking DEI-focused funding on both the public and private levels. As Georgia continues to rank last in per capita arts funding, local support, especially that of Fulton County, has never been more critical. In spite of these challenges, we're building tremendous momentum. We recently welcomed a new CEO, Leatrice Ellzy, a national respected leader -- arts leader, with deep Atlanta roots. With over two and a half decades of experience, Leatrice has dedicated herself to amplifying black arts and culture celebrating the creators who bring it to life. Prior to her return to NBAF, she served as Senior Director of Programming at the Apollo Theatre where she was a key steward of the Apollo's artistic vision and played a pivotal role in shaking the strategic direction of New York City's most vital arts performance centers. Prior to joining the Apollo, Leatrice was executive director of Hammonds House Museum where she led efforts to reimagine the organization for the 21st century. We are excited to welcome Leatrice home where she is leading us into a transformative new chapter, and we've already seen that energy taking shape. Even during our time of transition, NBAF continued to thrive. NBAF was selected by the city of Atlanta as a recipient of Bloomberg Philanthropies Striving Together grant. This prestigious grant not only brings national recognition, but also tangible support for public arts projects across the city of

Atlanta. Our collaboration with Bloomberg and the city of Atlanta, we've already begun activating spaces throughout the city with bold new art installations. And just last week on April 27th -- excuse me, April 26th, we unveiled our first major mural in the Old Fourth Ward, which was entitled Old Fourth Ward to Victory. This citywide initiative will culminate in a thriving together festival which will serve as a launch plane for some -- excuse me, a launch point for something our community has long awaited, the return of NBAF's iconic in-person national arts festival in 2027. We're bringing it back with the vision, partnerships, and energy to reimagine it for new generations, while honoring the legacy that has made such a powerful cultural touchstones. Commissioners, we are doing the work. We are bringing in national resources creating local impact and continuing to serve our community through art education and culture, but we cannot do it alone. Your investment and NBAF is an investment in the creative soul of Fulton County for our youth in Atlanta as a future global and cultural leader. We respectfully ask for your continued support, and for the release of the delayed funding that is so crucial to our arts this year. Thank you again for your time, your leadership, and your dedication to the arts and people of Fulton County. And I'm happy to answer any questions you may have or any additional information needed."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Lisa."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Do you have any further, Commissioner Ivory? Okay. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.""

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Vice Chair. I just want to go on record saying that I've always been supportive. This organization is what I call the landmark of arts and culture in Fulton County. I am so proud at the age of 61 years old that I was once a vendor for the National Black Arts Festival. And so, I've always supported; I've always had individuals that were in other parts of the country to come in to the county. And so, it brings individuals here. And so, what I wanted to go on record saying, sometimes asking questions is just accountability. During the last meeting, you know, questions were asked. I already knew that you all had made the effort to answer those questions, but accountability is always good. It is not indicative of any malfeasance or anything. So I just want to go on record saying you've had my support in the past, you will always have my support; it is a cornerstone of the culture here. And I will always support it. And so, thank you. I had a great relationship with the previous leadership. I look forward to the relationship of the new leadership, and I believe that we continue to have mutual respect; open and honest communication like Commissioner Ivory put in place to make sure that this was not construed another way. It was just all about accountability and it was good to sometimes see the individuals that work so hard behind-the-scenes. And the fact that you all dressed alike, let's me know you all think alike. And so, thank you for showing up, and you do have my support."

LISA BONNER, BOARD CHAIR, NBAF: "Thank you, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. I just wanted to reinforce what you said in terms of accountability. That is why I prepared a speech and specifically asked to speak today because I wanted you to understand -- you all to understand where we were coming from and what we were doing and how we were trying to move this organization forward. So thank you for that."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you for the work that you all are doing with the National Black Arts Festival has done; nothing but fond memories growing up, attending the National Black Arts Festival in Piedmont Park throughout the years. And so, happy that this will be moving forward today. Sad that it was delayed, but glad that questions were answered, so that we could move this forward. Thank you."

LISA BONNER, BOARD CHAIR, NBAF: "Thank you, Commissioner Arrington."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Are there any further questions from any Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right, hearing none, there's a motion on the floor by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Arrington."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That was a Steph Curry walk-off for y'all."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just don't pull your hamstrings."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. We had two items to bring forward and then there's -- move forward in the agenda with 0358 and 57 and 58. I don't know if it matters which one we sound first. Okay, 0358, if we could do that first."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, **25-0358**: Request approval of a Resolution approving an agreement between Fulton County, the Fulton County Tax Commissioner, and the city of Palmetto to provide billing and collection services concerning municipal ad valorem taxes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Colleagues, I would ask that you all move favorably on this item. The city of Palmetto has a new wonderful mayor, they had a good mayor previously, but they have a new mayor now, Mayor Teresa who is here with us, and she and the city are wanting Tax Commissioner to collect their taxes for them, so like many of the other cities in Fulton County. And so, I urge you to move favorably on this matter."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Vice Chair. I just want to take this opportunity to shamelessly plug Mays High Raiders and the Mayor of Palmetto and I go

way back when she did the work as a City Councilwoman. And so, to see that this is something that you want to move forward, as much as I like, Dr. Ferdinand, he can't tell me to do nothing. He really can't. He can ask, but he can't tell me. But I appreciate that this is something that you want to move forward, and I wholeheartedly support it today."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. I just have one comment. I am fully supportive and like all of our cities to use our Tax Commissioner, you know, for these purposes, but I'm not going to be able to support it, not because I'm not interested in all our cities doing it, but I've just -- Dr. Ferdinand and I have had this conversation before, so I'm not going to repeat it right now. I just have problems with the way the agreements are structured, and Dr. Ferdinand is not willing to make any modifications to them to address my concerns with that. So while I'm voting, no with it, I'm fully supportive of you all engaging the services of our Tax Commissioner. All right, we have a motion on the floor to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

TERESA THOMAS-SMITH, MAYOR OF PALMETTO: "Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0357**: Request approval of a Resolution approving an agreement between Fulton County -- the Fulton County Tax Commissioner and the city of Union City to provide billing and collection services concerning municipal ad valorem taxes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any questions or comments here?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah. I would just, colleagues; ask that you move favorably on this. We do have a representative from Union City, if you will give us your name and your title."

TOSHA CALLOWAY, UNION CITY: "Hi, my name is Tosha Calloway. I'm the assistant city manager at Union City, and I'm here on behalf of Mayor Williams who couldn't be here today so he sends his regrets, but we are very excited about partnering with the Tax Commissioner offices to collect our taxes for us. And so, we just ask for your favorable approval of this request."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Commissioner Arrington."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Dr. Ferdinand, if you could just hold there for just one second. Commissioners, there was a -- since we have another tax item on here, item 25-0269 was previously held. This is Chairman Pitts had brought this forward. As I understand it, there were some adjustments that do need to be made to this particular agreement which have not been -- you know, are not available for us to view, and there's a request that this be removed from the agenda by our County Attorney; is that correct?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes. This item at the last meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Commissioners had indicated a desire to have certain language fortified to protect the County's interest. That language has been drafted, but it's not been fully circulated with the city of Atlanta. So my recommendation would be to hold it at this time to provide enough time to come to a finalized draft and agreement with the city of Atlanta on the additional language that was discussed at the last Board meeting."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Is there any objection from anybody on the Board? Any Commissioners on the Board or discussion?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Maybe a question. I guess soon there's no timeline for which this has to be done by? This is just for ongoing. This isn't for collection of taxes which is affected by the other data?"

ARTHUR FERDINAND, FC TAX COMMISSIONER: "This does not affect the collection of taxes as we know it today."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And so there's no deadline by which this has to be done? Holding it isn't going to prevent --"

DR. ARTHUR FERDINAND, FC TAX COMMISSIONER: "-- not particularly. It's nice to get it done, but there is no real rush to get it done. I go along with the County Attorney."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Vice Chair. In light of the fact that the Chairman isn't here today and I think we do have the motion to hold, so I'm just support holding this until we get that final verbiage added."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So without objection, we'll hold this item? Anybody have a formal vote?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I make a motion to hold it."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I second."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. All right, motion to hold by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

DR. ARTHUR FERDINAND, FC TAX COMMISSIONER: "Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you. We can return to our regular order."

CLERK GRIER: "Back on page 8, under County Manager's items, **25-0346**, Finance: Presentation, review, and approval of the May 7, 2025, Budget Soundings and Resolution."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. The item that's before you includes two action items. One is modification to the annual hardware and software maintenance and support list to add two items. Neither of them require additional funding from the Board. Funding is available. It's just an increase the spending authority for each of the items -- actually, the second item is a new add for a legal research for juvenile court. The second major item that's included in the soundings for this cycle it is a transfer from nonagency to behavioral health and developmental disabilities of \$1.7 million. It's for the funds that have been allocated for the operation of the diversion center located at the Atlanta Detention Center. So this will move the funds out of nonagency into behavioral health where the full \$4.25 million commitment that the Board has made by IGA will rest, and the behavioral health department will continue to manage our relationship with Atlanta on that particular IGA."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "In the queue we have Commissioner Abdur-Rahman followed by Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Vice Chair, I withdraw my request."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I just had a quick question. Why was this in nonagency at budget time versus just in the behavioral health budget?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We actually had intended to move it to behavioral health. I think that was a miss on our part. It had been sitting in nonagency because when we originally entered into the agreement, the center was not open, and so the center opened towards the end of last year, and behavioral health had sufficient resources in their budget to cover it. So this now just moves the money over there. They're fully encumbered to that IGA, so the funds will be available to pay the invoices as they come in."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. That's why I was confused, because I knew it was already opened when we --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. It's something we should have moved during the budget cycle, and we missed it, so we just cleaning that up now. We have been receiving invoices from Atlanta on the operations thus far this year, so this will just put all the resources in one places for Behavior Health to manage."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Hi. So this is an increase in spending of how much towards the IT?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "For the product on the annual hardware maintenance list, it's an additional \$30,000 for spending to increase the total amount to 80,000."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And the 1.7 is not an increase in spending; it's just a transfer line?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It is a transfer. Actually, the amount for IT, they have the money in their budget; this is just allowing them to spend up to 80,000 of what they already have in the budget for this particular product."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So is there any new money in this sounding?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, ma'am, it's just -- it's spending authority on the annual maintenance and hardware list and transfer of existing budget between nonagency and behavioral health."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Great. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any further questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Hearing none, we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Arrington."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0348**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval to extend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$660,511.29 to provide project

management services for the Fulton County Urban Redevelopment Capital Improvement Programs."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any discussion? All right, seeing none, we've got a motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, **25-0349**: Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in an amount not to exceed \$3,480,325.44 for a lease purchase program that will deliver 301 new vehicles and includes all scheduled preventive maintenance."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Thank you, Mr. Davis. You got the floor if you want to provide a little bit of background on this. You have some presentation data or are you just talking? Okay. All right. Can we bring that up?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. This presentation is going to provide you an update on the Fulton County fleet, as well as giving you an overview of what we believe to be a transformative initiative as it relates to our vehicle acquisition program and practice. Next slide, please. Quite some time ago, a few Board Members expressed concerns regarding County vehicles that they saw that seemed to be sitting for quite an inordinate amount of time. As a result of those communications, we embarked upon a physical verification of all County owned vehicles. The purpose of that verification was to confirm the vehicles' condition, the mileage, how much it's being used; and then it led to the opportunity to identify certain vehicles within the County's fleet to be reassigned to agencies that had a greater need for them. This involves us evaluating the vehicle's use patterns; again, how much it's being fueled, where it's parked and so forth. Additionally, we always go about on an annual basis identifying vehicles within the County fleet that are eligible for replacement according to Board policy 400-6, which essentially says that non-pursuit vehicles are eligible for replacement after five years and 100,000 miles of usage. For our pursuit vehicles, that criteria is two years or 100,000 miles. So as a result of identifying as a part of this overall verification process exactly how many vehicles that we needed to replace, and we'll look at those numbers on a subsequent slide, we also took the opportunity to evaluate how we are at acquiring vehicles, what would be the most cost-efficient method to acquire the maximum number of replacement vehicles. Next slide. So as a result of our investigation or verification of the fleet, we wanted to present you with some various data. Number one, we have 1,117 vehicles in our overall fleet; we identified 286 vehicles that are eligible by current work policy for replacement; we've reassigned what we deemed to be underutilized vehicles, 24 units. In the existing County fleet we have 166 pursuit vehicles and 809 non-pursuit vehicles. What I would like to point out here is the difference between the 975 between the sums of pursuit and non-pursuit, and what you see as the total fleet inventory is essentially representative of all our heavy equipment: bulldozers, bucket trucks, sewer vacuum jet trucks, things of that nature. We currently have 21 vehicles that are pending salvage. Real Estate and

Asset Management uses govdeals.com to dispose of vehicles that have been deemed necessary to salvage or surplus. We have 57 vehicles that are currently pending risk or legal release. Essentially, if a vehicle is involved in an accident, we are required to hold on to that vehicle until the case is fully disposed and, in most cases, that could be upwards of two, possibly three years. On the right-hand portion of the slide -- excuse me -- you'll see a graphical depiction of the data that's presented here on the left. Next slide. As it relates to vehicle reassignment, I just want to give you one essential procedural change that we've decided as a part of this process; we're going to begin quarterly assessments of vehicle usage of all user agencies looking at their condition, their usage, how much they're being driven, and we've come up with, if your vehicle -- a vehicle that is assigned exclusively to a user agency has not been driven 8,000 miles or more during the year, or 2,000 miles per quarter or greater, we may very well decide that it's time to reassign that vehicle to another department that has a greater need. One very important tool that we use in terms of evaluating whether or not a vehicle needs to be reassigned, two tools, is our fuel management platform, EJ Ward, as well as our vehicle maintenance platform, Maximo. We've recently, through working with the County Manager's Office of Strategy and Performance, were able to tie the two systems together so they could communicate, thereby giving us the ability to, at the press of a button, be able to see the full status of a vehicle, not only its maintenance issues, but also its fuel consumption, how much is being fueled and where, all in one fell swoop, which allows us to readily identify vehicles that may very well need to be reassigned. One of the reassignment options is for us to put the vehicle in our motor pool. So if we determined that a vehicle does not need to be exclusively assigned to an agency and we don't have another agency that has a critical need for a vehicle, we can then assign that vehicle to our motor pool, which allows users in the downtown area to come to the government center and check out literally a vehicle for the day's use. The vehicles that you see on the table at the bottom of the slide are those vehicles that are currently in our County motor pool. Next slide. So the new initiative is to embark upon a lease purchase program versus our traditional capital purchase of vehicles. Right now, if we were to replace all replacement-eligible vehicles using our traditional capital allocation model, it would require \$16.5 million to replace all our vehicles. Historically, the County allocates between \$2 and \$4 million for vehicle purchases, whether it be for programmatically new vehicles or replacement vehicles. The four million is pretty much only an anomaly. It's not often that that happens, but at that current rate, it would take us between four and six years to replace the vehicles that are currently eligible by policy with our traditional or historical annual funding allocation. Whereas, the lease purchase costs is \$3.48 million, and what we have on the right-hand side is a breakdown of how the proposed lease purchase program is going to be funded. As you can see at the top, on the top right, you see for the lease, we're looking at from the general fund, \$2.4 million, a combined \$800,000 for the public works between the airport and both water and sewer funds, and \$330,000 from the South Fulton Special Service District Fund for a grand total annual cost of \$3.48 million. As you'll see, the same breakdown under the purchase section that tells you how much money would have been spent out of those respective funds, if we were to buy those vehicles. Next slide, please. So what are the benefits of going this route versus our traditional model? First of all, Enterprise has incredible buying power in the vehicle market, and this allows us to leverage that buying power and get more for our bang for our buck, if you will. Probably the single most

beneficiary aspect of this is that it allows us to replace all currently eligible vehicles in one action. There are no mileage restrictions. This cost that you saw outlined on the previous slide includes maintenance, with the exception of tires and brakes. Enterprise uses a network of dealers. I'm sure that you all are familiar with the ARI contract that we enter into for vehicle maintenance with outside dealers. Most, if not all of those dealers, are also in Enterprise's network. Our annual maintenance costs for FY24 was \$841,000. Tires and brakes represent 30% of that maintenance cost. We anticipate saving almost \$600,000 a year in maintenance costs due to this program being inclusive of maintenance. After the five-year term, the County will actually own the vehicle. This gives the County the flexibility for us to choose to either dispose of the vehicle on our own through our traditional means, or turn those vehicles back into Enterprise and allow them to do so. By turning those vehicles back into Enterprise, it results in a significant reduction in the first year of cost of the subsequent five-year lease term. We'll look at those numbers on a subsequent slide. And it also provides us with a cost-effective means to include future fleet expansion; gives us a lot of flexibility for programmatic expenses that might be due to legislative mandate, regulatory compliance, anything that requires an agency to need a vehicle for that which they don't use now. Next slide, please. This slide essentially breaks down by agency the number of vehicles that this program, this action that we're requesting your approval today will actually receive. As you can see there's 214 vehicles from the general fund, multiple agencies; 26 vehicles for the Fulton County Police Department and or public works being funded out of the South Fulton Special Service District Fund, and for the airport and the water and sewer funds, 61 vehicles. Next slide. I won't go into gross detail on this slide, but the information is shown here to allow you to know exactly what we're proposing, be acquired under this new program. We have the vehicle types, the make, the model, the quantity that we're actually looking to lease. We also have the estimated monthly lease cost with maintenance. That same cost annualized, and also that cost annualized by the quantity for each type of vehicle. Next slide, please. This is the same level of detail for the airport and water and sewer proposed in today's action. Next slide. And this is the same information for those vehicles that will be purchased -- excuse me -- acquired through this program for the Fulton County Police Department using the South Fulton Special Services District Fund. Next slide. Now this is where it gets interesting. One of the things that we definitely wanted to be able to show you is a ten year cost model or projection that shows you how this program financially benefits the County. As one caveat I did want to state, you saw on a previous slide that we annually spend between \$2 and \$4 million on capital vehicle purchases. Therefore, we used that million-dollar mark to develop this model knowing that in the absence of additional funding in subsequent years, we needed to make sure that we stayed close to \$4 million as our total or sum or our annual funding allocation. So what you'll see here in year one, and this is for the general fund. I didn't bother doing this cost model for all the other funds; they all operate with the same logic that will be explained here. In year one, 214 general fund vehicles will be acquired through this program. Per what we saw on the previous slide, that annual cost is \$2.4 million. But please keep in mind, for each of these 214 vehicles, we're going to be giving Enterprise 214 existing vehicles for salvage purposes. Using the very bottom end of valuation of salvage vehicles of \$2,000 per vehicle, at the first year, we will receive equity for the vehicles that we allow Enterprise to salvage at \$428,000. That really reduces our first year's allocation or

expenditure to 1.976 million. We also have to think about, as we progress through the lease term, additional vehicles will become eligible for replacement. So to account for that, in year's three and year's five, we added 60 additional vehicles, bringing the total to a grand total of 334 vehicles, using the same logic of \$2,000, the low end of the spectrum, for salvage value that brings our annual budget for vehicles to 2.8 million in year three and 3.4 million in year five. This is where it gets really interesting and, more importantly, beneficial for the County. So now we entered into year six, it's time for -- we now own 214 vehicles as of year six. In order to replace those vehicles, we give those vehicles back to Enterprise; you see in this column, equity leased \$2.196 million. That represents the current market rate for salvage of the vehicles that we would have acquired in year one, thereby reducing our year six cost all the way down to \$1.362 million. And so, now we spread that out over through year ten. You see year eight accounting for the 60 vehicles added in year three, and you see year ten accounting for another 60 vehicles that we added in year five. Along with the equity that we would have gained at that time, we see that in year ten our budget is just at the \$4 million. I also would like to point out; we are not bound to turn in the same vehicles that we leased from Enterprise. We have the flexibility of saying we wanted to move forward with the program, but we can turn in another subset of vehicles and start this process over. What this ensures us is a consistent and reliable refreshing of the County fleet over time, so that we don't see ourselves or find ourselves in a position where we have an inordinate number of vehicles that are out of policy. And that is the end of the presentation."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Davis. Very informative. I've got in the queue, Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Barrett, followed by Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Davis. This looks like it makes perfect sense and coincides with the useful life of the vehicles anyway. And so, I'm glad that you all have brought this forward. It looks like it's going to save us money. My biggest question, and I think you've really answered, was the cost savings on the maintenance, and I think you showed about a half-million-dollar-a-year savings on annual maintenance. I guess you said they also use the same contractor that we use for maintenance, so I guess there won't really be any lag time or downtime between having them do the maintenance and us do the maintenance?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "No, sir. We currently perform certain low-level vehicle maintenance at our fleet location. Other more complex repairs, the Board approves annually the use of the statewide ARI contract, and it's a network of repair or auto shops across the city. As it turns out, our three or four most used of those in that network are also part of Enterprise. As it relates to the efficiency of that process, those dealers or those shops already know they're simply going to change their pricing model when we send those vehicles for repairs or preventive maintenance, it won't cost us anything, unlike what we're doing now."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "They're going to send the bill to them, not to us."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "That is correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That's all I have for now. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Mr. Davis, first of all, I just want to thank you for the level of effort that went into not only finding the program and working out all the details to make sure it works for us in the long run, the ability to turn in the, you know, the older cars that weren't sort of part of the original program, I think is a really great feature of the way this has worked out. So I want to thank you for that. But I also think it's important for people to understand the safety that we're buying here as well. So while we're keeping the costs sort of what they were when we had this presentation in the office, I had asked about the ages of some of the cars that were currently eligible, and some of them are quite old. Can you talk about sort of the ages of some of the cars that are in that 268, I believe it was?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Some of those vehicles are 16 years old. Our fleet obviously has a diverse usage, so we have some vehicles that are seven or eight years old, but they only have 70,000 miles on them. We have other vehicles that are 10 to 12 years old and have 150 or more thousand miles on them. And with that significant portion of the fleet with that age and that mileage, needless to say reliability of the vehicles becomes a problem, and that directly impacts service delivery to the Fulton County citizens. And so that was another aspect of this program that we were excited about is that we would be able to improve our efficiency and approve the reliability of service delivery through keeping the vehicles on the road."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I think that is all commendable as well as just the safety of Fulton County employees who are driving newer vehicles that have newer safety features and are just generally in better shape because they're newer. So overall, I just wanted to say thank you; great work, and this is a great program."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Can you just explain? I'm just misunderstanding the difference -- oh, the difference between when you went from like 214 vehicles to 334, and what is the reason for the increase, the increase in the amount of vehicles?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "If we could can we go back to that slide, please; to the previous slide? So we got here because we have vehicles out of policy that are over their age, over the mileage that keeps them, by policy, able to be owned by the County. What we're trying to do is prevent getting in this position with this large percentage of the fleet in that condition. As we go through the years of this program, we have to be able to account for more vehicles becoming out of compliance as we go. So to account for that, we added 60 more vehicles in year three and 60 more vehicles in

year five bringing our grand total to 334 vehicles. If you look at -- if you remember, I mentioned that we're really at about 950 vehicles; in the entirety of the fleet is not heavy equipment. What this does is, it keeps a third of our fleet in constant rotation of being upgraded"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Got it. Thank you."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Thorne".

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you, Mr. Davis, and thank you for meeting with my office yesterday as well. And your detailed presentations were key. And in that meeting yesterday, I addressed the 16 vehicles from the DA that she has. We approved funding in 2023, my first year, nearly a million dollars for new vehicles, an additional 600,000 the following year in 20 -- last year in 2024. And your answer to that, the one point, nearly 1.6 million that we authorized spending on vehicles, and the fact that she has 16 vehicles, is that they were expensive, Tahoe, Chevys, that type of thing, correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "During that time frame?"

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Because it was post-COVID and cars were expensive."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. I do have some other questions since that meeting that I thought of. On one of the pages, you said we're required to hold vehicles for pending risk and legal release, that's 57 vehicles. With this agreement with Enterprise, are they okay with us hanging on to their vehicles? Are the -- are they able to replace those vehicles? Do we have to buy insurance through Enterprise, because I know we're self-funded? How -- how does that all work?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: ""Well, one of the benefits of the program is that we have the option to essentially operate business as usual, as it relates to vehicles involved in accidents and subsequent litigation. So once a vehicle is a total loss or involved in an accident, keep in mind, we are still required to pay our annual lease cost. So in our current fashion, current setup, we basically have to pay out from Risk, the Risk Fund, for any damages associated with that particular vehicle and that loss. This program requires the same thing. But the beauty of it is, if an agency wants to replace the vehicle, instead of coming up with 40,000 or so dollars out of their budget, we're able to now say your lease cost, if you go to the slides that have the actual dollar values of the annual lease, they're only going to spend \$10,000 or \$11,000 at the most in order

to get that vehicle back into their agency fleet. But the beauty of it is, the following year, we've already accounted for that vehicle in our total number. And so the agency would only have to be responsible for finding that smaller budget amount versus having to find the difference between \$5,000 worth of salvage versus \$47,000 for a new purchase. So it actually makes it easier for us to move forward than it would have been in the past. We're not looking for as many dollars. And so ultimately, our Risk Management, management of accidents, would be the exact same as it is now. The only difference would be we can say, Enterprise, you can do it, or our Risk, we prefer that it be through our Risk agent, Risk Management team."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And then also, some of our cars are wrapped. We will still be able to wrap the vehicles with proper signage or whatever?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So as a part of this new program, we had a lot of conversations in this regard. And it was determined that because the benefit was ridding ourselves of this number of out-of-policy vehicles, agencies, user agencies now will be responsible for covering the costs their up fitments. Now, as it relates to your typical County logos and striping on the cars, we will do that. That's what we would do if we were buying cars or not. But when you get into all of the up fitments that, say, our law forcing partners would do, those agencies would have to fund that out of their budgets."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And then we also approve a lot of rental leases for Elections. I know a lot of that is just temporary, but will -- can we get a deal for our Election usage through this contract as well? Or can our Elections use that common pool of cars that you have?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Elections is more than able to use our existing motor pool, which may very well grow over time, so that's one avenue. But I know that Elections uses a lot of larger vehicles because they have heavy equipment delivery. And I do know that they use -- have used at times Enterprise in the past. In terms of leveraging our exist -- this particular contract for that purpose, we have not had that conversation, but would be more than willing to explore that."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, I think we pay a lot for box trucks, so if you could get that price down, that would help --"

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- immensely. And then everything -- you know, I'm fully supportive of this, the numbers look great. But those numbers are likely to change in ten years, and how long is the length of the contract that we're looking at?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So the lease term is five years. However, because of Fulton County Procurement regulations, we'll be coming back to the Board

every year to renew the agreement for the subsequent years of the term. So technically, the Board has the opportunity to exit this program at any given time it so chooses. The only problem is, we'll then have to turn in a whole lot of cars and figure out what you're going to do at that particular point. We will receive whatever accrued equity we would have at that time. But not to say this would be in perpetuity, but as long as the Board continues to approve this, every cost model, the agreement is ultimately based on a five-year term."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "In regards to those vehicles, the risk vehicles and the release, the 57, are those vehicles out of service after an accident? I mean, just because you had an accident, doesn't mean that the vehicle has to remain out of service, right?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Those vehicles are out of service."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So they're out of service. So if there's an accident in a vehicle, it remains out of service until the --"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- case is resolved?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Those are totaled vehicles, the 57 that I mentioned --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Those are all totaled?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Those are total losses."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, okay, thank you."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I just had just a few. The item you had up there is sort -- it was described as pending salvage, are those all damaged vehicles, or are those could be items that are just --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Those are vehicles that have been deemed worthy of surplus. They've exceeded their useful life. There's the maintenance costs on them. And we sell those on Govdeals.com for public auction."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So going forward, is our general view that we'll stop that, and we'll just run these -- these items through Enterprise?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "No. I think when our team met, our goal is to evaluate on a case-by-case basis, what best serves the County, whether it be to go through Govdeals or use Enterprise to surplus it."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. We seem to have had sort of episodic waves where we got, you know, these big parking lots full of old vehicles. In terms of our effectiveness of getting these things and getting rid of them, I mean -- I mean, I don't know where we're at with that right now. I mean, we have any idea about how many just -- is that a true number, or there are other things out there that are just sort of sitting like a, you know --"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "That's a true number."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: -- like a wasteland? Okay.

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "The 57 you referenced --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Right."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "-- that number was closer to 80 about three to four months ago."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "And so it's -- yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So what -- just walk me through again, like what we're doing for maintenance today, and what's going to change for maintenance under this program, and is that applicable to all vehicles or just the vehicles that will become part of the initial batch of this program?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So this program covers the maintenance on just the vehicles that are included as a part of this program. The remainder of the fleet will continue to go through the exact same process. And to be perfectly honest, the process will be the same for both sets of vehicles."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "One third of our fleet, though, the maintenance costs will be covered by Enterprise. The other two thirds, vehicle comes to Central Maintenance, we determine whether or not the repair that's necessary is something that we can do with our in-house auto techs, or whether we send it to an outside dealer. If we send it to an outside dealer, if that vehicle is a part of this action, it will go to -- it'll be billed as a part of this action where the County doesn't get billed for it. If it's one of our other two thirds, vehicles we'll be billed in accordance, just simply, how we've always been."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So once we get to the point of this being sort of a fully functional program with all our fleet in it, or the majority of our fleet in it, what we're doing in terms of a need for maintenance facilities, your view is that remains unchanged?"

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. And then so let's just say during the course of an individual year, somebody says, some years, or group says, well, you know, for whatever reason, I don't like this approach. I want to go buy my own, is that an option or, no?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "No, sir. We do evaluate all those such requests on a case-by-case basis. But to be direct, we look at this from the standpoint of a user agency's budget is not funding this action or any capital purchase. There have been agencies that have purchased vehicles using their budget, and that could potentially still occur, particularly with constitutional officers. However, that's not a consideration that DREAM would actually take to the County Manager and/or Purchasing to have one-off purchases if they don't like that particular vehicle."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So programs is a program, there's some need that particularly you want to go off script, better go find the funds and --"

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Okay, all right. Any other questions?

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Okay. Seeing none, we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0350**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for preventive and predictive maintenance services for chillers in the amount -- in the total amount not to exceed \$1,200,000."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Got a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Any discussion?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "None? Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0351, Request approval of a recommended proposals for general landscaping and lawn care services for countywide facilities in the total amount not to exceed \$1,628,000."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any discussion on this item?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Seeing none, we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0352, Request approval of a recommended proposal for Landfill Post-Closure Services in the amount not to exceed \$806,000."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I had one question. Is this a, I think, a single bidder on this item?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Yes, Commissioner. There was only one bidder that --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. This is 25-0352, what are the -- how did the cost of this compare to -- I didn't -- maybe it was in there and I missed it in terms of just prior periods?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "And historically, we have only had one bidder on this. But I'll let Mr. Davis, I'll defer to Mr. Davis on the cost."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "From a historical perspective, we have built in a little bit of additional authority, well, \$300,000 worth of additional authority. For this contract term, we have an existing Environmental Protection -- Protection Division mandate regarding Morgan Falls, the landfill in Sandy Springs. And we have a quote from our vendor for \$315,000 to take the necessary steps to repair a detention pond and dam that's on the property. And that's why you see the number significantly higher than prior years."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So it is -- all right. I didn't see that in there, but it felt like it was higher."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "But that's the reason why. Okay, all right, thank you. All right, we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Commissioners, it is 1:01, so entertain a motion to move to Executive Session for matters regarding litigation, real estate and personnel. Motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Ivory."

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

(Adjourned for Executive Session at 1:01 p.m.)

(Resumed Regular Session at 3:23 p.m.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Back in session. Madam County Attorney, you want to -- have any items coming out of Executive Session?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Vice Chair."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. We have several items coming out of Executive Session. First, is there a motion to approve the requests for representation in items 1 through 6 of the Executive Session agenda?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for settlement authority in item 7 of the Executive Session agenda?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a request -- excuse me. Is there a motion to approve the request for Conflict Council in item 8 of the Executive Session agenda?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "And finally, is there a motion to opt out of the multi-district litigation and continue litigating the item in item 9 of the Executive Session agenda?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, **25-0353**, Human Resources Management request approval of an amendment to the Pregnant Worker Awareness Act Policy."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Have a -- Commissioner Barrett is in the queue, followed by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I just had a question on what prompted this change, because it seems like we passed this -- I'm not sure really who to direct this to, but it seems like we passed this at the, I think it was, what, December of '23 originally. And so I was just wondering if this was something that has been sort of -- that the language was something that was just sort of in the queue to be looked at, back burner-ed or whatever, if you will, because it is like a year and a half later, and -- or did something -- did something happen that prompted us to relook at the language?"

MELISSA CUTHRELL, DIRECTOR, DCRC: "Okay. Good afternoon, Vice Chairman and Commissioners. My name is Melissa Cuthrell, I'm the Director for the Department of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance. Thank you for your question, Commissioner. One of the actions that occurs when new legislation and a law passes is that guidance is given to the employers to give them instruction on how to administer that law. And in the federal government, they refer to that as the final rule. And so when we initially had conversation about the new legislation, implementing the law, we as an employer went ahead and moved forward with establishing a policy and procedure to incorporate that for Fulton County. Subsequent to that, the EEOC, which is the enforcement agency for the law, executed their -- or final rule, or issued their final rule. And so per the conversations of our office and the review of the County Attorney's office, it was determined that there should be some adjustments to the language to make sure that it

aligned with what the EEOC's guidance and interpretation of the statute and the law is. And so that sort of caused us to make some adaptations to the policy language."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So just for clarity, thank you for that, because that is a process I was not aware of. So -- because it -- it's a year and five months later or something, so it -- does that process start immediately when the resolution was passed? And then like, was it the EEOC that took a lot of time with the -- I'm just sort of wondering about the time. I just -- feels like a long time."

MELISSA CUTHRELL, DIRECTOR, DCRC: "Right, so --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And in theory, just -- sorry, and I'll let you answer. But it seems like, you know, we had this in effect all this time, but maybe incorrectly, which is a little concerning."

MELISSA CUTHRELL, DIRECTOR, DCRC: Okay. So I would not define it as incorrectly. There, like I said, the guidance gives us -- allows us to perfect it. And the adjustments are more so to perfect how we are administering and applying the law, because our policies, of course, is not directly the law, but it is a reflection of the legislation that's passed and been put in, sign in to law. So to answer your question directly about the time frame, there is always a lag between the passage of the law and the guidance provided through the final rule. And so I -- I would say that probably took back -- with the Federal Government, about six months to put in place. But that, again, prompted conversations here at the County, engagement with the County Attorney's office, and the adjusted recommendations that sort of moved through the pipeline to get it here on today's agenda."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, I appreciate that. Thank you."

MELISSA CUTHRELL, DIRECTOR, DCRC: "You're welcome."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I guess -- I want -- I guess I'll just thank Commissioner Barrett, because my questions were -- were kind of similar, and I guess I was also wondering, you know, how this affects just everyday employees. I think we got this issue resolved with the County Manager. But apparently, a lady had to -- a pregnant woman had to leave her primary care doctor in order to go with Kaiser Permanente, because she was hired on to the County, and we were requiring that. And I guess my question would be, would this change or this Act prevent us from -- from doing that going forward, even though we've already corrected, self corrected?"

MELISSA CUTHRELL, DIRECTOR, DCRC: "Well, to speak specifically about someone's plan or healthcare plan, is that what we're -- is that the question? I want to be -- make sure I'm answering your question."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "We were requiring all employees to go with Kaiser Permanente for some reason. And a woman who was pregnant had to leave her primary care doctor in order to go with Kaiser Permanente. We have since changed that policy, but I guess what I'm asking is, it seems like that would be something that will fall under the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act policy."

MELISSA CUTHRELL, DIRECTOR, DCRC: "Okay. So to share a little bit about the law and the policy that we -- that mirrors the law, it's specific to workplace accommodations. And so the -- we've always had a process in Fulton County that allow for individuals who are pregnant to receive workplace accommodations. The law gave expansion to that for pregnant workers. So if you were a pregnant worker and you needed a workplace accommodation, it was processed under our ADA process. Well, after the establishment with the law, there -- gave additional umbrella coverage and expansion there. It doesn't speak to any healthcare coverages. It's not -- it does not apply with -- under this particular policy. And so I'll allow, you know, someone to speak on the healthcare coverages. But the coverage for the law is specific to workplace accommodations for individuals who are pregnant or have a pregnancy related condition."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I would argue that being able to keep your primary care doctor is a reasonable accommodation that the workplace could offer you."

MELISSA CUTHRELL, DIRECTOR, DCRC: "Well, we haven't received any requests to our office specific to someone's desire to have a specific healthcare plan. And so I -- we had not had the opportunity to engage in any evaluation of such requests."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. Yes, Mr. Hermon."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO: "Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you very much, Melissa. And if I may, Commissioner Arrington. Good afternoon, Commissioners. Yes. So we have since changed that posture, which allows new hires on their initial hiring to choose whichever plan that they want to, whether it's Kaiser or Anthem or opt out. So I don't think that is a matter of concern as of today because we've already adjusted to give that flexibility to new hires."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I -- yes, I was just wondering. It seemed like it would also have been something that would have applied here, because it seemed unfair, and it was happening to person that was pregnant. But that's fine."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you for coming today, I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Hermon. I'm well aware of that situation, and I understand, with the new employees that changes were made. So I just wanted publicly for the public who may be listening to understand that new hires -- and a side note, at the age of 61 years old, I

have been on several jobs that when I changed jobs, I had to change plans, or I had to change doctors. In a perfect world, we want to have that same physician our entire lifetime, but sometimes we have to change according to that new employment we have. And so let's not act like this was something that was anomaly. By the way, speaking of anomalies, County Attorney, is it in the regular course of business, as sitting elected officials who are legislators to change policy as needed, to accommodate changes in the law or circumstances? It is not an anomaly for us to put something in place, and then you have a conversation in your office or with that department, and Mr. Hermon, I will pick on you, okay? You may have to come in front of us again, because we may have put something in place, and you say, oh, wait a minute, we need to fine tune that. So that is not anomaly. That is part of the five years I've been here, I've seen us do that with several issues. And so I just want to make sure for the listening public that this is a part of what we do as Commissioners. This is not an anomaly. County Attorney, can you please opine on that?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. The initial policy change was in response to legislation, and was put in place to be in compliance with federal legislation. In the normal course of federal legislation, as Ms. Cuthrell was saying, some agencies in the federal government will provide additional detailed guidance on how it should be implemented, including examples and other refinements to assist employers in being in compliance, and that is what happened in this instance. And today's proposed legislation and action is in response to the additional guidance that was more recently provided by the EEOC."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "County Attorney, you've been here how long?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "About three and a half years."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "In three and a half years, has this been a common practice?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "To have additional refinements in policy in response to federal guidance?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, ma'am."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I don't recall a specific instance, but certainly that would be something that -- that we would do in response to guidance."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay, thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any other further questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No responses.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0354**, Community Development request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$860,341.54 to provide housing rehabilitation services."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any questions, comments on this one?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Seeing none, we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0355**, Public Works request approval to increase the spending authority for Landscaping Restoration Services in an amount not to exceed \$13,192.30."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0356**, Request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$79,567.34 to provide water meters."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ivory."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, Commissioners' Action Items, **25-0359**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 101, Article II, Division 2 of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to modify Section 101-66(b)(3) to discontinue emailed public comments and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, thank you, Vice Chair. Initially -- well, in the past, recent months, we've gotten some anonymous emails, emails that we don't know who sent them, what their authority was to send them, and they had several severe accusations in them. So initially, I wanted to draft a resolution that we would not accept anonymous, emailed public comments. I looked into various ways of doing it. I actually have a resolution that was drafted. But the purpose of having a public meeting is to be public, and when the public comes down here to speak, they fill out a speaker card. They show who they are. We have Zoom comments for those who can't come down here. And on Zoom, you have to register. You have to basically fill out a speaker card to make a comment via Zoom. So it was only, you know, necessary that we would have our emailed public comments be public as well. But when you try to go in and look and regulate it, just even looking at our recent public comments that we had for this meeting, one person sent in 42 emails, the same person, whereas, a person who comes down here, can only talk two minutes. We had other emails that were rather lengthy that would take five, 10 minutes to read. So it's only -- they're at a greater advantage than someone who comes down here and makes a public comment in person. And one commenter today made a comment how they paid \$20 for parking as well. These comments can be used, the anonymous comments can be used to be weaponized, especially during a campaign season, to spread false rumors or misinformation. And then looking back at it, we didn't start accepting public, emailed public comments until COVID, I believe it was August of 2021. And we did that just as a COVID option, because we were meeting on Zoom at that time, although I wasn't elected at that time. So this is not restricting free speech. There's multiple avenues for participants to make comment to us. They can still email us, our emails are publicly available on our website, and reach out to us directly. And honestly, when I get an email directly to my inbox, I read it. When we get the packet, I kind of just skim through it, because it's so many emails, and my staff goes through it as well. So all in all, I just thought it'd be better just to go back to it was -- to the way it was pre-COVID period."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Just for my own information, who gets the emails? I'm not sure if this a County Clerk question. Who gets the emails for public comment?"

CLERK GRIER: "They come to my office."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And how do you handle multiple emails, as Commissioner Thorne mentioned, one person sent so many? How do you handle those multiple emails? And then how do you, you know, decide what you disseminate as the one email?"

CLERK GRIER: "We send everything we -- everything that receive in that inbox, we forward it to the Commissioners."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And that is in the email that you forward that says the public comments --"

CLERK GRIER: Yes.

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- portion. Has -- is your handling of the emails for public comment burdensome to you, or does it take you away from other work that you need to do?"

CLERK GRIER: "No."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay, all right. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I just wanted to sort of say that Commissioner Thorne and I did speak about this coming into the meeting, and it -- because these are not put on, they're not read into the minutes of the -- of the public record for the meeting any longer, it really is just another way to send the Commissioners a group email. And I think to her point, it was put in place for COVID as an extra means, and it isn't really needed anymore. So I'm happy to be supportive."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So we have -- Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I just think it's important for me to put that on the record that while I do understand the idea of, you know, sort of taking, going back and looking at something that was done during COVID and saying, you know, it may not be necessary or whatever, I would not at all want to restrict anybody's ability to provide public comment about what their elected officials are doing, whether it was from email or coming here. Maybe the person that has the \$20 to park doesn't have it, if they do it on email or they don't want to. I -- when people do the Zoom public comment, we don't see their faces. We hear their voices, but we don't see their faces. So just in the spirit of allowing any type of access to us that doesn't overburden or even place any burden on our staff, I'm open to. And that is the reason why I asked the question about whether it was a burdensome effort because I would be thinking differently if it was eating up County resources or time or anything like that. But from a matter of pure access to the ability to express yourself in any manner whether it is violating or not violating a free speech, I think is something we need to protect. So I'm going to vote against this, against removing the email."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'm going to -- I'm going to ask for this to be held, and I'm going to tell you why. I can support this, however, as I'm getting texts, we have saw, as a result of COVID, hybrid business, how we do things a little bit differently. I could support this in theory, but my concern is, when we start stopping one, what's

going to stop us from doing Zoom? What's going to stop us from saying, okay, hour becomes 30 minutes. And so not that I don't want to support it, because I, in theory, I understand what you're trying to get at. You're trying to get at anonymous, you're trying to get that weaponizing email comments out. I -- Commissioner Thorne, I see where you're trying to go with this. But I'm going to put in a motion to hold this because I think we need to have some more conversation and fine tune it to see if it's something that we all can be on board with. Because I think free, freedom of speech, whether we like it or not, whether you come down here and talk against me or for me, it is still your right to come down here and talk. But if you can't physically get here, what other avenue do we have? But we still need safeguards, so I'm on -- on that, I'm going to -- I'm going to put in a motion to hold."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Thorne. Okay. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. I am -- I going to support the motion to hold. I do think that adding those email comments as part of public comment is not necessary, like people -- it doesn't take away people's right to still email us. The public still has the right to email us. It's just a matter of whether those emails then become part of the public comments for the meeting. So I don't think it takes away anyone's right to contact us or to communicate with any individual Commissioner, nor with the entire board of Commissioners. But I think that the language may still need some tweaking as it is now. But I think it does makes sense to remove those from being public comment that the emails are still there. If you send the email to all of the Commissioners, we still get it. And it's still subject to open records requests. So I don't think it takes away anyone's rights to communicate with us. But I think it is better to have people register and know who they are when they're communicating and not be able to just submit random, anonymous emails that, you know, may wind up holding up someone's \$200,000 grant or something."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I had a question just to understand, the -- right now, the emailed comments, they come to us, but they're nowhere else? So they're not placed as part of any sort of public record in our (indiscernible)?"

CLERK GRIER: "No, it's -- no."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "The spoken comments, whether they're via Zoom or here, are read in, are part of the record?"

CLERK GRIER: "That is correct, yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So it's my understanding that this was to basically remove this from the public comment portion of things, because it's not really tied to our meeting or associated to our meeting in any form or fashion? Is that, Commissioner Thorne; is that correct? So my question is, is the -- the emailed comments are not, not -

- they are not part of any public record associated with our meeting. All of the vocal comments, whether they're face to face or via Zoom, are part of our public record. So it's my understanding then, the purpose of this resolution was just to clarify that the emailed portion has -- have no tie or no direction to our individual public comment period associated with our meeting. Okay, so to me, I mean, this is pretty straightforward. It's -- and probably should have been done when we stopped reading them into the record at that point in time. It should have, probably should have just been removed entirely from portion. So I'll offer a substitute motion to approve it. All right. It's a motion on the floor to approve, second -- by me, seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right, thank you. Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0360**, Request approval of a resolution to establish supplemental funding for overtime pay and other incentives intended to promote increased staffing and retention of Detention Officers and Sheriff Deputies whose full-time role is to provide detention services in Fulton County jail facilities, and for purposes sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Commissioners, we've had multiple kind of -- we've had lengthy conversation with many of you about this. Before we kind of go into it, I want to note to change -- a couple of changes to the resolution specific wording on page 3, line 62 where it says, be it further resolved that a detention services overtime fund in the amount of 1 million. That number of 1 million shall be changed to \$1,796,492. Okay, that's a quarterly figure that which will equate, on an annualized basis to 5.38 -- 89476 million. And then on line 63, it would strike the words whose full, and then line 64 -- 64, time role is the provision, and the wording would just read for the purpose of overtime pay for Sheriff's office employees providing detention services in Fulton County jail facilities. And then on page 4, line 83 would read that overtime payments from this fund are made to Sheriff's employee providing detention services in Fulton County jail facilities. So those are the changes to this. For purposes of the listening public, the change in dollar figure was to arrive at a figure of -- it was provided to us by our Finance team of -- that provided for a full year on the basis of kind of a projection of stuff, based upon kind of the analysis of the overtime that's been provided, provided to date from the entirety of the Sheriff's office. And so with those changes noted, just -- just a couple words or comments, I'm not going to belabor this. But we've obviously had a difficult time with staffing specifically for detention services in our jails. It's been a persistent issue over, particularly over the past four years. We've applied a lot of

different sort of measures to try to increase it. We've obviously have altered our annual funding resources to the overall Sheriff's office some 52 and half percent over the period of 2021 to 2024. That equates to an annual figure of 60, almost 67.2 or \$67.1 million. We boosted, you know, salaries. We've done retention efforts. We've done hiring efforts, et cetera. We've provided large chunks of overtime at different points and period of time, as evidenced by the figures that are shared within the resolution, but with -- but that, despite that, our staffing numbers have largely remained unchanged throughout that period of time. And as of March 20th, '25 -- March 25, 2025, information provided by HR Department show that there were 144 vacant positions, with the largest number of those being in the -- were folks that provide detention services. So given the hiring and retention stuff, the issues that we have seen and the operational and supervisory issues that we've seen within the DOJ investigative report and that we've read about on our own, we realize that some stopgap measures do need to be applied, and thus, thus the inaction of this overtime fund, which would sunset at the end of 2025 and be reevaluated. The resolution does have -- would be staged so that the funding comes forward in a quarterly -- quarterly fashion, with the money placed up front and then -- and then reports provided quarterly and then replenished based upon satisfaction of the reporting and an amount wouldn't exceed that quarterly amount that's noted. So the other thing I would note in here is that also will establish a -- an initial fund of a million dollars to be given towards efforts to increase staffing, retention and hiring. This has been a persistent issue, as noted. What's that? A million is just for -- sort of would be a separate fund, funding amount altogether just to be applied for hiring purposes and different tools and techniques that could be used, you know, separate and distinct from overtime. Overtime would be 1.796, okay? And the -- and that could be used for -- and those funds, you know, we'll expect that the HR team to come up with and work with the Sheriff's Department to figure out how those, that secondary portion, that a million dollars for retention and so forth, could be used in the manner and the best fashion to drive increase hiring and retention. That could be with prescreening, that could be with a number of things. But that would be based upon the two of them working together and coming back and determining how those would best be used. You know, I think prescreening, there are a lot of things that we could note, prescreening could be an issue. We've seen significant number of arrests within the jail facilities themselves, about 28 or so, with a large amount of those being folks that are working in jail facilities, bringing in contraband, which one could presume it be can be a contributing factor to the violence and vandalism present within the jail. So hopefully, that secondary fund of a million dollars could be applied to good use as well. So that, I'll -- I'll end my commentary, and hopefully we'll have -- receive favorable approval of this so that we can move forward with try to increase and bolster retention of our Detention Officers and hiring in that, in that space and the overall safety and security of our jail facilities. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. A couple questions or -- on your changes. I think there were a couple of other lines that you didn't mention that still refer to full-time role of detention -- full-time role being the provision of detention services. Line -- and if you met -- if you mentioned them, I apologize. I was trying to keep track, as you were saying it. But I think it's also referred to in line -- on lines 59 and 60 on page 3, which I think should probably be adjusted as well as. And also on page 4, I think you mentioned line 83, but maybe -- but it's also again on lines 85 and 86. And if you mentioned, again, this is sort of partially for the County Attorney too, just to make sure that we're all on the same page, that what we're approving is meant for people who are doing overtime at the jail, whether or not their full-time designation is at the jail."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Correct. The -- I think for the overtime piece that is the case for the -- for the funding for retention and hiring of Detention Officers that would be for, specifically for those providing detention services, sort of two distinct things. But in terms of any changes necessary to specify that the applicability for the overtime funding would be specific to, you know, anyone who was providing detention services in the jail facilities, whether that was their principal role or not that, you know, those changes, you know, would -- should be made. And I think the only place that is in -- that other, the first one you noted in 59 and 60, I believe, 50 and 59."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "And before we would present for your signature, our office would conform to reflect that intent."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So I understand the need to do this and a, you know, time-sensitive fashion, and not wait for the changes to the documents we made in order to pass this. But it is a fair amount of changes to the wording, which, without seeing it, it's a little concerning. So even though, you know, I mean, look, I'm going to support it, because I want the Sheriff's office to be able to pay overtime for these services. And I want us to be able to make sure that we have those staffing hours covered in the jail. But I think, you know, I know it's not really standard practice to send the -- a resolution around once we've approved it. You normally, I think, just send it to the person whose signature is needed, correct?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, is it -- may I ask that it also be sent to my office? I'd like to be able to read the final version."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, sure."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Certainly, I can send it around --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Send it to everybody."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "-- to the full Board if that, if that would be -- if that's the will of the Board."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, that would be helpful. As I said, you know, I'm going to support it because I think we need this, these funds there for the purposes as defined. But I will say that there is a lot of language in this resolution, both in the whereas sections and somewhat in the -- in the secondary sections, the therefore be it resolved sections that are wording I don't particularly agree with. I think there's a lot of unnecessary, whatever, unnecessary commentary in there. But again, I will go ahead and support it."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I am supportive of the numbers and the budget as broken down and is recommended by our County Manager, Chief Financial Officer. But some of this other language is just too, it's just too much. I think it -- I think it's -- it involves finger pointing. And at the end of the day, if we point the finger, we -- if we point the finger at someone else, we wind up still having to pay the budget. So I would love if we could just do the numbers, and do the budget without all of the finger pointing and who did this and what did that? Because it just, I think we're setting ourselves up for destruction. We're setting ourselves up to point the finger at someone else that we wind up still having to write the check for. And I don't think it's necessary. I think the only thing we need to do is to approve the amounts. And I don't know if you'll take that as a friendly amendment or not, but I just -- there's too much objectionable language in here that I just, I just can't -- I just can't support it, I'm sorry. You know, again, I'm supportive of the amount, but all of this finger pointing and who did what, and what they did, and I -- it's -- it's just too much. And I think -- I think we're digging a hole for ourselves. We're trying to point the finger at someone else, and I think we wind up digging a hole for ourselves, because even if we point the finger at the other person, we still have to write the check. So I don't know if you'll take that, accept it as a friendly amendment or not."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I cannot. All right. So we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open to approve as amended. And the motion passes; five yeas, one abstention."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Presentation and Discussion Items, **25-0361**, Opportunities to generate market rate rental revenue for vacant and underutilized office space owned and maintained by Fulton County sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Thorne, you got the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you, Vice Chair. Yes, the discussion has been brought to my attention for over a year now, with 4700 North Point Parkway. We -- the building is approximately 80,000 square feet. Joe can tell me if I'm wrong, and we're using around 65 to 68,000 square feet. So we have extra space in that facility. And we talked about using, letting nonprofits use or rent the existing space. And we've had recently elected officials that would like to run constituent service offices in the building as well. So the purpose of coming to you today, Commissioners, is just to see are you willing to rent the space for at a market rate to generate revenue for unused space throughout all our buildings. And then the services that are going to be provided are strictly, you know, constituent services, people who serve our community. For instance, with on the federal level, we have a lot of people that reach out with social security issues, IRS issues. In my area, a lot of VA, have a lot of veterans in my area. And then as well as recently a lot of immigration issues, they're needing federal assistance, as well as with their Medicare as well. So already in our Maxwell building lease space to the state of Georgia, and we have a tag office there, and it's a great service, because our constituents can go to the tag office and then go directly over to the Tax Commissioner's office and get their license plate. I just feel like with so much extra space that we have, I would like to try to start generating revenue from that, even in this building."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much, Commissioner Thorne for raising the issue of our, you know, underutilized office space, you know, owned and maintained by Fulton County. I think it's -- it's an important -- it's something I noticed, you know, before and now as a Commissioner. But I do have some items that I'd like to uplift, and I do -- I think at the end, I will ask to hold on this so we can flesh it out a little bit more. But what I want to -- and I'd even partner with you on this to flesh it out in a better way. But I think we need to also include space for under-market value for small businesses within the communities. So if we are going to open up our space, I think we need to think about it in a two-pronged manner. What is the space that we can offer as fair market value, and what is the space that we can provide under-market value for small businesses, for nonprofits, for whoever is in our community that is in need of the resources that we already have available, but wouldn't -- it would never be affordable for them under any other circumstance. This would expand opportunities and access for small businesses to grow in Fulton County, and also boost economic development for us. So I think it's great for a revenue model to think about it that way, but at the same time, I think we need to think about those that might really need opportunity in Fulton County to have office space, and we could think of an under-market value that we can make available to our constituents."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Vice Chair. I fully support improving access to resources for constituents, as outlined in this resolution. However, for me to back it, I think we do need to hold it, because I would like to get with the County Attorney. I think that the lease agreement must include a clause that explicitly states that any campaigning defined clearly by tenants in their constituent offices will lead to immediate termination of the lease and forfeiture -- forfeiture of all deposits. The reason I say it, being 61 years old, I was part of what you call the individuals that wanted to usher new leadership. However, I've seen a lot over my years, and I have been in offices that had campaign literature in it. I have been in offices that had campaign signs in it. Now, I'm not saying that anyone of my colleagues did it, but it would be unfair for me not to bring it up that nobody should do it. Because at the end of the day, we have the offices for the constituents, not for you to have a warehouse for your reelection. So that is a concern of mine. So County Attorney, if you can opine on that, because I'm going to ask for it to be held. Also, to what Commissioner Ivory said, we had a senior to come here this morning and said she's got one address that she can go to for her LIHEAP. Can we not -- and I'll -- I'll speak with Ladisa about this. But can we not, County Manager, maybe offer just during times that the LIHEAP is open to our seniors and our disabled to maybe use some of the county building, to use some of the offices for them to be able to come in and get those appointments. Can we not help out with this? I think that government can't do everything, but what we can do is work with partnerships, whether they're nonprofit and whether they're a business to serve the community. So I would like to hold this and seeing if we can get that language in the lease agreement, and if we can look as to how we can use some of this space to work with some of the organizations, especially when we have time of the year when there's a opportunity to apply for LIHEAP. And those of you that don't know who it is, or the listening public that is actual financial help that's available to the community that meets certain guidelines. And usually when they open it up, and I can be corrected if needed, they open it up to the seniors first, they open it up to the disabled community first, and then the general public to keep their utilities on. So I believe that if we can work out some kind of partnership, we should be able to help with that. So I want to see if that -- if we can do that and how that can be maybe formatted or put in this resolution while we hold it."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I wasn't really doing a formal resolution, because I knew a lot of things had to be hashed out. I was just going to make a motion to instruct the County Manager to come back -- conduct an investigation, an inventory of all our county-owned real estate assets and underutilized spaces that we have to identify opportunities for potential rental income at a market rate, or I understand we can't make

a profit, is that -- is there -- are there rules, like, we can't make a profit off our spaces, or?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "There are lots rules that will have -- that we'll have to look at, depending on how the spaces were acquired and whether we still have debt outstanding on them, private activity use, things like that. We'll also want to give consideration to the fact that we have some agencies in leased space our self. So would we want to bring those agencies back in house as part of the - or have a plan for bringing them back in house as part of the inventory -- the inventorying process? So yeah, there are -- there are a number of considerations that will have to be made, particularly for those facilities that have debt outstanding."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And maybe one other thing you can instruct us to do is, I'm assuming you would not want us to build out space in order to provide it."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "No."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So for example, when you talk about 4700, the reason it's constrained like that is because we don't have the funds to build it out. So if someone goes in there, they'll need to be -- if you can instruct us in that way, they'll need to be responsible for their own tenant improvements."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, I would think whatever is beneficial to us, we make beneficial, you know, make it -- put it on them. Yeah, so I was just going to instruct them to investigate and estimate the potential rental for each property and deliver a report back to us by the beginning of June. I don't know if that's a timeline you can meet or not -- or not. And when it comes to federal -- federal official -- officials having constituent service offices, it is against the law for them to have any partisan activities or any campaign activities going on in a constituent office. When I visited, the first time I visited an office was when I first took office in 2023, and I brought up something partisan about a fundraiser going on or something. And they're like, shh, you can't talk about that. And I'm like, okay, so I went on my tour of the building, then we went over to pizza in the pizza shop, and then we could talk about it. But we can't -- you cannot discuss politics, you can't have any campaigning, you can't have any brochures or materials that are partisan in any fashion in the constituent services. And we can write that into a contract what the limitations are, and that would be another thing to investigate. But at this time, I just want us to give the County Management Team the okay to look into it for us and see what the possibilities are."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Yeah, I think it's certainly interesting enough for us to look into it and see, you know, how many spaces this might

be relevant for. And I think to Commissioner Ivory's point, is there, you know, would we want to offer it -- and again, I don't know what the rules are in terms of government offering something. But do we, you know, sort of make it a broad offering to anybody who wants it, or do we put some guardrails around who can use the space, how it can be used? Probably some spaces will need to be built out and with tenant improvements, others maybe don't. So I think it's a pretty broad question right now. And I, you know, I think it would be interesting, certainly, to see if it's something viable. Is it a one-location thing, just for the space you're talking about, or does it apply to multiple locations? And what's the cost of managing and implementing and all of those things? Liabilities? You know, all of that, so I think for sure, I'm okay with County Management spending some time researching that."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I know I sound like a broke record. But whatever y'all have on the north side, we want it on the south side. So if y'all want to approve this for the north side, fine, find a way to make sure we have it on the south side too."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I just had a couple remarks, and number one, I don't -- I don't know that end of June is probably allows you enough time to really do, analyze it. But I'd leave that to you all to figure out. But my only just thoughts on it, and we've as a Board, have had these types of discussions about access and use of our facilities, you know. And we've gone through different cycles over the course of the past decade. And I think, one sort of clear thing comes back is that our core competency is not to be a landlord. And that -- and I -- that's sort of borne out and in terms of different things we've arrived at in terms of our ability to execute, broaden, sort of fill facility use agreements and that sort of thing. So you know, I just sort of, as we go through this, you know, while certain other things may be well intentioned and good in mind, there's a lot of reasons for why they haven't -- haven't played out and been executed on in the past. And I think we may go through some of those things, and we go through this analysis, you know, as -- as the CFO sort of annotated some of those things already about financing ties, et cetera. And then also, kind of all those questions will come in mind in terms of, where do you -- who do you -- how do you say, no? How do you monitor stuff, you know, et cetera, and where do you -- where do you stop, and where do you start? And I think they're a lot of unintended consequences that'll play out with that, that, you know, may bring us back to some of the decisions that we've made in the past to, you know, not go down some of these paths. So I think wherever we go with it, I think rather than entertain things sort of episodically, we should try to wind up with a policy that's neutral to any party, individual, whatever, which would govern the way that we entertain any of these sorts of requests. So that would be my thought. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Commissioner Thorne, do you want to just amend this language a little bit to just, you know, say that you want to direct the -- I don't know, do we have to vote? We don't have to. It's a discussion, so we don't have to vote on it."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: (Off-mic remarks.)

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Was any objection to the request?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Hearing none. Okay, next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 11, **25-0362**, Discussion: Library parking follow up on designated spaces sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, at the -- at the end of this discussion item at our previous meeting, there was a request that Mr. Davis provide -- to Mr. Davis, he provide information on all of such parking spaces that we had at all of the individual library locations that was provided on April 18th. Was there any further questions on that before allowing them to convert these spaces that don't have individual chargers on them to use for other purposes? Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, Mr. Davis, did we hear back from you?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "It's right here."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Mr. Davis, if you can, just give us the update for the public because they can't look at this memo."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Mr. Davis, do you need -- do you have it handy, or you want me to bring it to you? Okay."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "I have it, sir. Sorry. And Commissioner, your question, just a summary of the memo of the information?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, I mean, I guess this -- this memo talks about the number of spaces available. And I guess I didn't know if, you know, if there was a plan for getting charging stations? Is there, you know, a deadline, or has -- what has been the hold up in actually implementing it? I mean, this memo is good, and it provides the number of spaces at each library. But it doesn't provide any of the other background information as to what was the hold up. Has there been a hold up? Is there a plan to move forward? Was there a plan to actually get charging stations? Do you believe that we need charging stations? I mean, what is your assessment of, do we need to get rid of these spaces or do we need to try to source charging stations?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So I think it's important to note that these fuel-efficient slash low-emission spaces were initially a part of the library renovation and construction designs in order to obtain the Leadership and Energy Efficiency and Design ratings for all the construction for the Library Bond Program. The effort to move forward with electric vehicle charging stations has been challenging in the absence of specifically allocated funding for that program. As you are aware, we have a Board resolution that requires DREAM to install EV charging stations at County facilities wherever feasible. We have done so at two locations. The Metropolitan Library is a part of our resilience hub there. And we are preparing in the next few, couple of weeks or so to install charging stations at the Animal Services Shelter. After that, we no longer have any funding that's currently allocated to add more. We are always exploring opportunities at no cost or low cost to the County to try to get more. I recently met with our team, met with a EV charging entity. But unfortunately, based upon that company's business model, they will have to -- it would have to be a competitive bid. We have entertained the idea of a revenue-sharing contract so that the County could enter into the multiyear contracts needed in order to do it at no cost. It's proving to be very challenging. We were pursuing Tesla for a donated charging stations. But unfortunately, over the last 30 days or so, they've gone dark, and we haven't been able to get anyone to respond to our inquiries about next steps. So right now, as it relates to a plan, we're continuing on the path to pursue grant opportunities, as well as whenever DREAM currently -- or may have under runs in certain capital projects, and we can piece together enough funding to buy the charging station and provide the infrastructure, utilize the Georgia Power Make Ready Program, that's what we'll do. But it certainly is not at the pace that we would prefer."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, so. All right, I'm -- thank you. You always give a great answer. But I don't know if I -- I don't know if I like the answer. But so we got dressed up, and we sold this idea based upon getting LEED certification. And now that we got it, we just abandon it and throw it out the window, right? Like that -- that doesn't feel good in my stomach. That just doesn't feel like the appropriate thing to do. If we -- if we told people that we were using those spaces in order to qualify to get LEED certification, then in my gut, we would follow through with that. And then the other thing I'm having trouble with is, I don't understand how we don't have funding for it when we had millions of dollars left over in the Library fund. We had multimillions of dollars worth left over in the Library fund that we did a \$2 million renovation at Roswell and a \$2 million renovation at East Point, and came back and did something else. So we had funding available. We just chose not to do it, right? There was money left over from the Library fund, right, million -- multimillions of dollars?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "I don't know that I would categorize it as funding left over. As you know, the Library Bond Program started approximately 12 to 13, years ago. Many of the libraries that were in phase I are now in need of some level

of capital renewal. We're already receiving requests to change out furniture, and so the remaining funds that were programmed in the bond, in the overall bond issuance, those are being used for that renewal, as well as repairs to certain buildings that have been damaged by storms and things of that nature."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Oh, yeah, because we -- we absolutely had \$2 million that we used to do renovations at Roswell. We came back and said, hey -- Al Collins stood right there. He said, hey, we've got this money left over, what do y'all want to do with it? Had we -- had we had this memo then that said that I had all of these empty spaces and no charging stations, perhaps we would have said, put -- use the money for the charging stations. But since we didn't have this at that time, we said, hey, spend \$2 million in Roswell. It was Commissioner Hausmann, and I told her the same broken record story, if y'all going to spend 2 million in North Fulton, we're going to spend 2 million in South Fulton. So I'm just saying there was money available. There was money available. And so I -- it just doesn't sit well in my gut that we did a proposal based on qualifying for LEED certification, based on having a certain number of reserved spaces. And I don't know if we said that there will be charging stations there or not, but you know, it just, it doesn't -- it doesn't sit well in my gut that we told one story to get the certification, and then now that we got the certification, we're going to do something different. And I'd love to hear from either one of you, Mr. Davis or Mr. County Manager on this."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So I think one part of clarity is the LEED certification did not require EV charging stations. And I don't recall that ever being a part of the plan, was it?"

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

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So there wasn't an allocation of funds in the capital program for the libraries for EV charging stations. There was a set aside for low-emission vehicle and/or EV vehicle charge -- or parking spaces. So set that aside. That was the story, and so we fulfilled that story. Now, you may consider doing something different now, but that's different, and apart from the other issue. Now, in terms of the creation of the capital to install EV charging stations, it's what Joe is talking about, which we've been creatively trying to look for ways that are either, again, self-funding, paid for by someone else because of the -- the expense. And then comparing that expense against other capital expenses, it'd be hard to rationalize, I think, doing that versus other things that until we know have to be done."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So you're saying that the money that was left over from the Library Bond Fund could not have been used to purchase the charging stations?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I mean, I suppose it could have been. I didn't say it couldn't have been. The question would be, if you -- if you put up against the enhancements that we've done at East Point, the enhancements that we did at Roswell, the furniture that needs to be replaced that you were just telling me today, the - at Wolf Creek, the stone that's come loose from that facade is an example of dollars that we'll use from that Library Capital Fund. I don't know if you put any of those up against EV charging stations that they would have prevailed against, against that. But we didn't even consider it, quite honestly, because that wasn't a part of the Library Capital Program, putting in EV charging stations. I guess it could have been, but it never was."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Look, my comments on this are kind of pretty straightforward and simple, they were last time. I care about citizens, not certifications. And the citizens I got are, you know, we've got spaces that they're not even being abided to. They don't really serve a purpose. They could be better used for, you know, senior citizens, you know, women with young children, families with young children, whatever. They're whatever we -- how we want to re-brand these or just remove them, you know, because they've become somewhat, you know, like a forest right now. And I've had multiple citizens complain about it. And we got great libraries. We're doing other things in there that are environmentally friendly that we weren't talking about doing when we got LEED certification, right, like putting solar panels on certain things and all that sort of stuff, so that are actually meaningful versus just putting a sign up. So you know, my request is that for the ones where we didn't have charger -- charging stations that we convert those to, you know, other purposes, handicapped, senior citizen, however way that the, you know, library wanted to choose to utilize those. So that's the request, and was asking if there's any objection from any of the Commissioners in the districts that would have these."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I guess point of other, Mr. Vice Chair, it sounds like we need a motion and a vote."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, we'll have that. My motion is to convert any -- any space that has an EV sign on at one of our library facilities where there is no charger to some other, some other purpose, whether it's senior citizens, handicapped parking or however that the library facilities chooses to better, better utilize those. That's a motion. All right, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I just have a question. In the -- do we know how many - I think you did give us this number, but how many spaces is this all together? Apologies."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I did the calculation, Joe. I counted 87 this morning, just anticipating that question."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So it's --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I think I got it right, unless I missed a couple."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So it's 87 spaces, and it's all across the -- that's fine, I got it. And it's all across the County, correct?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, 87 across 34 libraries or so."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And what would be the cost to repaint, I guess, or -- and remove signage? I mean, there's got to be some -- I'm sure it's not high, but there's some cost associated in some amount of time, resources spent to make the conversion back."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "So principally, the -- any cost would be centered around the removal of the sign. We would not anticipate any restriping or set asides for -- and unfortunately, their -- each jurisdiction has their own code requirements as it relates to parking spaces at a building and how many assessable spaces you need to have, or even how many parking spaces you must have for the measured foot traffic of the facility. Our costs would be limited to the cost to remove the sign. And it's quite possible I can simply take down the sign, reuse the same pole, and maybe working with the executive team, determine if there's some other alternative that we could put up in its place and just have a change out of the sign, thereby leaving everything in place so that when we are able to move forward with the installation of EV charging stations, we're now just taking the sign off the pole."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, it's good to know there's not a lot of costs associated. I will say, though, as it relates to, I mean, Mr. County Manager, you talked about, you know, the money, some of the capital money, it would make more sense to put it towards the things that it went to, the more -- the higher priority improvements at Roswell and East Point and such. I mean, I guess I just sort of feel this way about the effort to take -- change the signs. I mean, it just seems like you guys have a lot of other things on your plate. And it just doesn't seem to me that this is a huge high priority. I don't really, I guess, I have a problem with it being somewhere on the list. And if it's convenient to do it, then great. But, you know, I just would hate to have this go above some of the other more pressing maintenance issues that we have."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Vice Chair. Would you be open to a friendly amendment as needed? And the only reason I ask is that it may -- because I

know, if I'm not mistaken, I think you did mention the Animal Services that we were putting something there. I'm -- not to get in the weeds with what you all do, County Manager, because I think you all know best. Clearly, every district is different, but Vice Chair, if we can put as needed or as warranted, or however way we could do it. You know, because one -- one library, East Point Library, which is in my district, may need -- have a different need. You know what I'm saying? They may need it changed out. They may not need it changed out, but as needed, that's the only thing, Vice Chair, I would ask as a friendly amendment. Would you be --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That's fine with me."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay, thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Joe, if you got some signs that, you know, I'll go -- go up and I'll do some work on the weekend, and some wrenches and would change them out, right? So that's fine, all right? Friendly amendment accepted. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I wouldn't say it's something that's urgently needed to be done right away, but Commissioner Ellis, when I talked to him about this, he said he has a lot of people that have brought it up, why do we have these EV spaces? As an EV driver, I tend to not want to park in them because they're up front, and I don't want people to think I'm special or anything like that, and so I don't park in them. And I think that's how it's viewed, as they're getting these special treatment, special rights, and they're not charging their car, they're just parking it there. So I can see the complaints. I personally haven't gotten any yet as a Commissioner. But I can see in Commissioner Ellis's district, he has gotten those, and so it does need to be addressed."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right, thanks. Thank you all. We got a motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by, by myself."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Is that a district by district as needed?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Not a problem. I can, if the Vice Chair is willing to accept that, I would -- I would think that you all and DREAM and the County Manager would not do something that the district person would not --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Sure."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- agree with."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Accepted. Let's move on."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, **25-0363**, Discussion: Clerk of Court passport fees, disclosure and reporting update on process and procedures sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'll be real quick on this. There are -- there were some questions as a follow up, there were questions that's been raised on this particular item we had discussion on at the last meeting about what other counties were doing, as well as some questions related to the reporting that was provided to us. Our Clerk's Office reached out to five largest counties around us, Cherokee, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, and Gwinnett. You should have a handout which sort of enumerates the responses, we've gotten responses from Cherokee and Forsyth, and then there were some follow-up questions to our -- to our, Clerk Madam Alexander, the Clerk, and waiting on responses on those. So that's all I have to report on that. Yeah."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "What is the root of this inquiry? Is it to expand the reporting requirements? What is the root of this, this activity?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Clarifications and questions on what was -- what was reported, what do they mean."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And so what other require -- are the reporting requirements for the Clerk from, is that a state requirement, or is that a county requirement?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "It's state. It's a requirement by the state law."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And so are we trying to amend that state -- like, what are -- what are we doing?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'm just trying to -- well, the questions that were raised by myself and others were questions to get clarifications around the report that was provided and what the numbers meant."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And so just simply what the numbers meant? If our - if our Clerk, or any other Clerk in any other county does not want to answer those questions, that's not a violation of any state --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Well, I mean, it's a violation of state law, because they're supposed to report on it. I mean, state law requires a reporting on a quarterly basis, so --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Right. And did we not get the report? Well, we got the report."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We got -- we got some information, but, you know, it's not clear what that information exactly means."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So we did -- it wasn't that we didn't get a report. You're asking for clarification of the report?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yes. I mean, I can read -- I mean, these are some the -- there were questions that people posed, you know, so that's the request. So I mean, in the purview for us to ask -- ask and seek the information even if it wasn't required by state law, you know, it's openly, openly available information. It should be readily provided. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I would suggest, just like with anything else when we've had questions, we had questions with the NBAF, ask the individual to come here for any clarifications. I think they, in my mind, would want to clarify it in an open forum and answer any questions they need to be answered. So I will put forth that we make a request of Madam Clerk to come here, you know, answer the questions."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, I don't -- I don't have an objection to that, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. It was my understanding that she just wanted to provide the information. So that's a request in the written form, but if that's a request that you want, I have no objection to that."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'm making the request --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- that Madam Clerk, come before us and provide answers or provide an understanding of what we may ask and what the state law requires. Because I'm not sure, I've seen the information, but I'm not sure that if there is a compliance issue, what is the -- what is the situation for noncompliance? Not saying that there's a noncompliance issue, but I would just formally ask that at her next available schedule, that she'd be requested to meet before us at a BOC in an open forum."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Or not that there is a lack of compliance or what is really required under state law, you know, different -- I understand our ability to ask any question, and I agree with that. I do think there's just a distinction with National Black Arts Festival that they're not required by state law to provide any, you know, reports to us. And from my understanding, she is required by state law to provide a report, and she has provided that report. Now, I think we're asking for clarification on that report, and I think it's a question of what clarification by state law does she actually have to provide."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Exactly."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. And I just looked, like, at the amount she has processed that would come out to 4,286 passports at \$35. I did have a concern because it seems in Cobb County they had an issue where the Clerk was keeping the expedited fees as well. A total of \$24 per -- per processing fee, and she had to go back and repay \$84,000 back to the county. So I think it's good to get the breakdown, understand it, make sure, you know, we're in compliance, what officials are being used, and -- and I'm very interested in what all the other surrounding counties are doing. It looks like some of the counties Clerks aren't keeping any of the money. Some of them are keeping them within their offices to do some extra things. So it is good to know, be familiar, and be educated on what's happening across the state."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, thank you. Thank you all. Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0364**, Discussion: Update from the County Attorney on progress and addressing the issues at the Fulton County Jail as detailed in the Department of Justice consent decree sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I have been asked to provide an update --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Hold on a sec if you don't mind."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Mr. Vice Chair, may I go ahead?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yep."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thanks. Yeah, colleagues, I put this item on the agenda because, as everybody knows, we're under this consent decree from the Department of Justice regarding our jail. And you know, many of us are out in public quite a bit, and there are questions being asked by the public as to what is -- what is the current status, what is going on, what work has been done thus far, things of that nature. So I did have a conversation with the County Attorney, and asked her to provide an update as to sort of where we are from a scheduling perspective and what is -- what's, you know, where we are in the process is, I guess, the best way to say it. Madam County Attorney."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Madam County Attorney, I mean, I think you're certainly well aware of, you know, the sensitivity of this as it is a form of litigation. So I would just say to you that, say only what you're -- you feel is appropriate to be said in this particular forum, recognizing, you know, kind of the rules that are in play that surround that."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Thank you, Commissioner Barrett. I have been asked to provide an update on the status and progress in our jail consent decree case. And while there are certain things that we

would not discuss in public, both because this is pending litigation and in the interest of security at the jail, what we can share is that we are making good progress, and that the process is currently moving forward. As you know, the consent decree in the DOJ jail investigation case was entered in January of this year, and our Core Appointed Monitor was appointed in late February. Since that time, our Monitor has been assembling her team of subject matter experts, and has been moving towards meeting the milestones that are outlined in the consent decree, such as on-site evaluations and a reporting schedule that is required to the court. Next steps will also include reviewing policies and staffing levels, as well as establishing a website that will include documents and other information that is being made available to the public. While that website is not complete at this time, it should be live in the near future. And when it goes up, that website will be the primary source of interfacing with the public and providing information to the public about the status of our compliance and moving forward with the consent decree."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Madam County Attorney. I appreciate that."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Vice Chair. I just want to go on record, because I did get some phone calls of concerns from not only constituents, I got it from elected officials. When you're talking about something of a legal matter, and I'm of the opinion that the consent decree is a legal matter, I think certain things should be held in Executive Session. Of course, all of us, being legislators, have the opportunity to speak with the County Attorney, and the County Attorney -- Attorney has made us all aware. I think our External Affairs has done a great job in letting the community know what's going on. And I think that we must be careful not to get in the weeds and do the job of other departments. I have to publicly say, I do have a concern when we start trying to piecemeal or give certain things publicly, we're putting the cart before the horse. And part of all of us as elected officials, we have a newsletter, we have email list, we have all kind of access that we can give to the taxpaying constituents of Fulton County. And I believe that we do a disservice when we try to get in other departments and manage those other departments for whatever reason. Hey, maybe we're running for another position, I don't know. But I would say in the future that we are much more careful of what we are asking of individuals who ultimately report to us. Everybody up here, from the County Attorney to the County Manager and all, report to us. They are our employees. And so I would ask -- and I am the person that will ask it in an open forum for transparency, that we keep in mind that there is a slippery slope when we're talking about issues of legal matters, and that we be sensitive to that. And you can have a conversation with a County Manager, with the CFO, with the actual County Attorney that does not require necessarily an open form. I'm just asking for sensitivity to

that. I understand just like anything else, people have opinions, and that is mine. Thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. With all due respect, and just to be a hundred percent clear. Before I put this item on the agenda, I did consult with the County Attorney, and we had a detailed conversation about what was okay to be shared with the public and what wasn't. And I do think we have a responsibility to be as transparent as we possibly can as a county, with our citizens. And this is an issue that people in the community care deeply about. And I just wanted them to have an update that was legally responsible. And I have full faith and confidence that our County Attorney would not have answered or would have told me on that phone call if there was nothing that could be said. And I trust her to use judgment sitting here to give only the response that is appropriate, which she did, and I'm grateful for."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0365**, Discussion: Strategies to address the impact to Fulton County of the loss of federal funding for Health and Human Services sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I know we're kind of at the end of the day and everybody wants to go home. But I did want to put this item on the agenda, because I think we've all seen that cuts that have already happened to some of our healthcare agencies at the federal level, cuts to the CDC and NIH, and we've heard about some potentially additional cuts that may happen to other federal health programs. And you know, the County Manager on the last -- at the last meeting, also brought up the 92-ish million dollars that we receive in federal grants, and that the idea that we were sort of tracking those and keeping an eye on that to make sure that we were aware if that grant funding -- funding was to go away. So given all of that, I also had conversations with the County Manager before putting this on the agenda. I also spoke to Dr. Paxton at the Board of Health. And what I -- what I wanted to do is just start a conversation here to make sure that we were being as proactive as we possibly could in having some contingency plans in place where possible should some of this funding go away. I mean, ultimately, I think all of us can agree that we want to do everything in our power to keep our community healthy. So that was sort of the intent of this. And I want to sort of toss it over to you, Mr. County Manager, to get your thoughts on where we are, what's been done so far, and what your thoughts are about sort of preparing some contingency plans."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am. Glad to do. We have asked Dr. Roshell to take the lead. Of course, she's out today, as I indicated to the Board. But what we will do is put this as a standing item in the operations report. We started it last meeting with the overview of the grants. So we have that. I'll say what we are doing is more or less at three levels. One is through Jessica's efforts and ours, monitoring through our lobbyists, exactly what is happening. The -- I'd say the feedback from that thus far has been pretty spotty. In other words, they have some sense of some programs that might be under review, I'll use that term, but yet they can't get confirmation, or they've only seen an OMB now proposal from the administration. But of course, that's not made its way all the way through the process. But those are, you know, those are indicators. So we're constantly about every, I'd say, week or so, having a conversation with them and we can bring that information back more explicitly and put it in to the report. The second thing that we're doing, which it sounds like you're reaching out and doing something similar, but I think staying in close contact with our primary partners. So we started with Grady. Grady is also concerned, they have federal lobbyists as well, as well as having Ryan Locke go up and spend time himself. They're very concerned about the Medicaid program that is a primary payment that funded, in large part, the clinics that we were able to launch with Grady. But it would also be -- go substantially beyond that, if it were suspended altogether, because I believe it's in the 100 million or so dollar range. That would be, you know, clearly, something that would flow back to us in some shape or form. I'm not saying 100 million, but I'm quite certain that Grady for financial stability as well as service delivery, would be looking to the County for some support if that were to go away in its entirety. So I think that, that's an important thing to keep our eye on. Also, I've talked to Dr. Paxton. What I heard from her is, again, they have received nothing very specific except somewhat like we are, there may be a grant or two that they're not able to access, and there's not an indication that they're going to be. So their plan right now is to, you know, to work around that effectively, which I think that's probably what we will do in the near term, is try to find workarounds to the degree possible. Or we may have to confront the fact that we will, if it's determined that a grant is -- is eliminated, that we'll have to find, you know, another, another path forward, or simply eliminate that service. On the contingency level, we have not started in any serious way, I would say, looking at that, because the numbers are so significant, if you recall in what we presented, it was \$90 million sf 70-plus employees. So we don't have any contingency plan if that's eliminated altogether. I do think, you know, opportunistically, as certain things come up and are confirmed, the that's something that, much like the Board of Health is attempting to do, you know, we'll try to find a way through reallocation of resource or bringing something back to the Board based on what kind of priority this may have because some of those grants, as you know, are not health related. They may be in the justice system, and that may be a totally different, different matter. But if health related, we certainly will look at very closely at that. And again, on our list, the one that's of the highest concern is the Ryan

White grant. So that's, you know, over 38 million, I think, now, and of course, goes across multiple counties as well. So it's -- it is one that probably deserves more than just a Fulton County response, may deserve a broader, and maybe that's the fourth level, you know, of coordination in what I thought you also were alluding to. And that's, you know, a more of an elected leadership or a broader leadership discussion beyond our county, because this will have wide-ranging effects. So we have reached out to Anna Roach at the ARC. You know, her response was, I don't want to mischaracterize it. It's not really in their bailiwick, but I'm not saying that they couldn't be a convener. So I think as we get further down this path they're, certainly, they're certainly an organization that we could lean on. Another one that comes to mind during COVID was the hospital CEOs. We would start with Grady, see if that group potentially wants to get together. Now, they have sometimes different agendas and the like, so we'd have to think through that. I also think Dr. Toomey and Dr. Paxton, so DPH and Board of Health would be a good, good -- two good people to go to that are more at the state level. And they'll be dealing, certainly Dr. Toomey will with issues that will, you know, will range the gamut due to the kind of geography that they cover. So those are probably thoughts on that leadership discussion level that deserve a lot more. Obviously, we'd be glad to try to help facilitate something like that. But I think all of this is very, you know, very challenging right now because of the unknown."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I appreciate that. There was one other thought that came to mind. In talking to Dr. Paxton and just in sort of general conversations around this, there's also the sense that there's some, maybe some thought that needs to be given to a potential health emergency. I know with the CDC, loss of some of the CDC funding, some of the -- the disease tracking has gone away, so you know, if there's a measles outbreak or a new strain of COVID or those kinds of things. So I think maybe it also might be worth looking at just sort of what is the plan for an emergency, because I know also with the COVID pandemic, we had a lot of federal funds to support that emergency relief, and that may or may not be the case if something new should happen; so just some more food for thought. But thank you for all the work you've done."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I really appreciate it."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Vice Chair. First of all, County Manager, thank you for keeping us informed. I remember in January when we start seeing the slashes, and you came down here and you said, we are getting in front of the curve. We're looking at different things, at the state with different -- we're looking at what could impact us. And so I just want to go on record thanking you for what you and your department are already doing, while I also want to thank you for the relationships that you have built at the state. Because I do know from personal experience, people

will share certain things with you that they may not necessarily share with me, because it's, what, not written in stone. They need to make sure that they have the support that they need to have before they share with an elected official as opposed to sharing it with the County Manager. So I just want to go on record saying, hey, I don't want to do your job. But you do a great job, sir, you and your staff. Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Thank you, ma'am."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Any other items to come before us?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. We are adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.