

# FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## REGULAR MEETING

March 02, 2022

10:00 AM



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



## MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

**Ratification Date: April 13, 2022**

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

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)	PRESENT
Liz Hausmann, Vice-Chairman (District 1)	PRESENT
Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)	PRESENT
Lee Morris, Commissioner (District 3)	PRESENT
Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)	PRESENT
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	PRESENT
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)	PRESENT

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****22-0137 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 Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing item #22-0141 for separate consideration as requested by the County Manager. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**22-0138 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Karen Jordan Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**  
February 15, 2022

Proclamation recognizing "Black McDonald's Operators Association Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**  
February 21, 2022

Proclamation recognizing "Harry Belafonte Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
March 1, 2022

Proclamation recognizing "Sang Gon Kim Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**  
March 1, 2022

Proclamation recognizing "New Hope Baptist Church Appreciation Day."  
**(Arrington)**  
March 20, 2022

**Arts and Libraries****22-0139 Arts and Culture**

Request approval to accept the Co-Marketing Agreement grant in the amount of \$40,000.00 from Microsoft Corporation (Redmond, WA) to support the operation of the recently launched Public Art Futures Lab. The grant does not require a cash match. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Health and Human Services****22-0140 Public Works**

Request approval of a change order less than 10% - Department of Public Works, 20ITB125848K-DB, Road Resurfacing at no additional cost with C.W. Matthews Contracting Company (Marietta, GA) to amend the list of roadways to be resurfaced are within the unincorporated area of the Fulton Industrial District. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Infrastructure and Economic Development****22-0141 Select Fulton**

Request approval of a Resolution for a Fulton County Tax Allocation District (TAD) Review Process for Participation - to provide the Board of Commissioners with clear information on the goals, accountability and use of funds in a proposed TAD seeking the inclusion of Fulton County ad valorem taxes. **(HELD)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****22-0142 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Vice-Chairman Hausmann, to adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by removing Proclamations recognizing "National Nutrition Month" and "Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Appreciation Day," as requested by Commissioner Hall; and moving up item #22-0162 as requested by Commissioner Arrington. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**22-0143 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Regular Meeting Minutes, February 2, 2022

Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, February 4, 2022

Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, February 16, 2022

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

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

**22-0144 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.”  
**(Pitts/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing “Addiction Recovery Awareness Day.” **(Hall/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing “Busy Bee Restaurant Appreciation Day.” **(Pitts)**

Proclamation recognizing “Cascade Nature Gurlz Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing “Deborah Scott Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing “District Attorney Fani T. Willis Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing “Helen Butler Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**

~~\*Proclamation recognizing “National Nutrition Month.” **(Hall)**~~

~~\*Proclamation recognizing “Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**~~

Proclamation recognizing “100 Black Women Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing “Mayor Shirley Franklin Appreciation Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**

Proclamation recognizing “Women’s History Month.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**

*\*removed during the meeting*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****22-0145 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.

**Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed thirty minutes at the Recess Meeting.** In the event the 30 minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Similarly, written comments (that were timely submitted) not previously read, may be read at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

**3 Speakers: Maggie Goldman (Commission Budget/Elections); Lucia Frazier (Elections) and Sandra Burchardt (Elections)**

**10 Zoom Speakers: Bridget Thorne (Elections); Matt Rowenzcak (Elections); Ben Howard (Elder Affairs); Joseph Blount (Elections); Kevin Muldowney (Elections); Ngina Sydney Jemmott (Elections); Ms. Marika (Elections); Ms. Rohr (Elections); Heather Fluker (Elections) and Sheila Hamilton (Homelessness and Affordable Housing)**

**3 Emailed Comments: Caressa Kao (Hate Crimes); Candice Stockham (Elections) and Susan Ortiz-Villajos (Elections)**

**PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD****Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority****22-0146 Board of Commissioners**MARTA Quarterly Update **(PRESENTED)****Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority****22-0147 Board of Commissioners**Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority Quarterly Update **(PRESENTED)****COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****22-0148 County Manager**Presentation of COVID-19 Operational Response Update. **(PRESENTED)**

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Hausmann and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to accept the recommendations of the County Manager: to end the mask requirement in most indoor facilities; discontinue the “Vax & Test” policy for Fulton County employees; discontinue the proof of vaccination requirement for new employees; the County’s COVID Isolation & Quarantine Protocol will remain in place and updated to match CDC guidance; Employees who have not provided proof of vaccination or updated vaccination (booster), by health insurance open enrollment deadline, will lose \$250 wellness credit, and Disciplinary actions for non-compliance will be satisfied by July 1st. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Arrington**Abstain:** Abdur-Rahman**22-0149 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**Request ratification of emergency procurement - County Manager, Countywide Emergency Procurements. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Arrington**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**22-0150 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB130447C-GS, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups E, F, G, H & I) in the total amount of \$771,929.00 with (A) Chi-ADA Corporation, (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$437,224.00 for Groups E (South Libraries), F (Other Offices North) & (Other Offices South), & H (Arts Centers); (B) Quality Cleaning Services, Inc. (Douglasville, GA) in the amount of \$194,646.00 for Group G (South Senior Centers); and (C) American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) in the amount of \$140,059.00 for Group I (North & South Service Centers), to provide the highest quality cleaning services for selected Fulton County facilities effective April 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**Health and Human Services****22-0151 Senior Services**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Senior Services, 17RFP109210A-FB, Comprehensive Nutrition Care, with Open Hand Atlanta (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$313,074.00 to provide home delivered meals, nutritional screening, nutrition education, and nutrition counseling for Fulton County residents aged 60 and above. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**22-0152 Community Development**

Request approval of the 2022 Community Services Program (CSP) Evaluation Committee recommendations in the amount of \$5,363,958.00. CSP funding will support the delivery of essential community services to Fulton County residents in the areas of: Children and Youth Services; Disabilities; Economic Stability/Poverty; Health and Wellness, Homelessness; and Senior Services.

**(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to approve as amended by allocating an additional \$1.5 million. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Morris

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**Justice and Safety****22-0153 Sheriff**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Sheriff's Office, 21ITB1122B-EC, Prisoner Transportation Services in the amount of \$254,730.00 with U.S. Corrections, LLC (Whites Creek, TN) to provide national prisoner transportation services effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2022 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**22-0154 Sheriff**

Request approval of the 2022 Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification with the U.S. Department of Justice for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, establishing the requirements for participation in the Federal Equitable Sharing Program and the restrictions upon the use of federally forfeited cash, property, or proceeds.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****22-0097 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County to provide initial fiscal resources to fund the Fulton Technology and Energy Enhancement Authority; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (HELD ON 2/2/22 and 2/16/22) (FILED)**

**22-0129 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution pursuant to O.C.G.A. ss 15-18-19 (e) (6), 15-6-27(h) and 15-6-28 to approve salary supplements for State paid staff in the office of the District Attorney and State paid staff employed by the Chief Superior Court Judge. **(Hall) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 2/16/22) (HELD)**

**22-0155 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of **Presentation** regarding a Resolution authorizing the County Manager to convert County owned property located at 4430 Frederick Drive SW, into supportive housing for persons afflicted with behavioral health or substance abuse issues; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (PRESENTED)**

**22-0156 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution approving the clean up of certain Fulton County-owned property located in the City of South Fulton due to tornado storm damage; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (FILED)**

**22-0157 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution approving emergency maintenance on certain storm water detention ponds located within the boundaries of the City of South Fulton, Georgia pursuant to certain Fulton County easement rights; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (FILED)**

**22-0158 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the County Manager to allocate \$1 million to Arts and Culture. **(Arrington) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve as amended by allocating \$1 million to Arts and Culture for contracts for services. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**22-0159 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the County Manager to establish a program for the County to give \$1 million for Veterans' organizations currently serving Veterans in Fulton County. **(Arrington)**

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

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

**Absent:** Morris

**COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****22-0160 External Affairs**

Presentation of 2022 Legislative Agenda. **(PRESENTED)**

**22-0161 External Affairs**

Presentation of 2022 Federal Legislative Update. **(PRESENTED)**

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****22-0162 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Veterans CSP Framework and Staffing Needs (**Arrington**)  
**(DISCUSSED)**

**HEARD WITH ITEM #22-0159**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****22-0163 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the representation requests in items #1, #2, #3, and #4 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.**

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 2, 2022

10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning, everyone and welcome to the Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. This is March 2<sup>nd</sup>; it's 10:02 a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Vice Chairman Liz Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Lee Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman."

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

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

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2 Consent Agenda **22-0137**: 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 Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, we have one item to be moved to the Regular Meeting Agenda on page 3, 22-0141: Select Fulton. Request approval of a resolution for a Fulton County Tax Allocation District, review process for participation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To the Regular Agenda?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Moved to the Regular Agenda, yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Any other items, Commissioners? All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. A motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Cast your vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 3, Regular Meeting Agenda **22-0142**: Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, we have two proclamations to be removed from today's meeting. And moved to March 16th, as requested by Commissioner Hall. On page 4, proclamation recognizing National Nutrition Month and the proclamation recognizing Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Appreciation Day. Those will be moved to March 16<sup>th</sup>."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else with respect to the agenda for today? Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like for items 22-0159 and 22-0162 to be heard together. They're both dealing with the veteran's initiative."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What are the numbers, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "22-0159 and 22-0162. That's fine."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Then, Madam Clerk, on page 6, yeah, page 6, item 22-0155, where it says, request approval. That should read, it's a presentation today. And on just a presentation today because it's still some other information that I'm waiting for on that project -- projects that I do not have yet. So we'll have the presentation today, but not action."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "So noted."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, anything else? All right. Then a motion to entertain -- rather, a motion to approve the Regular Agenda as amended, motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Vice Chair Hausmann. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "22-0143: Ratification of Minutes, Regular Meeting Minutes, February 2nd; Special Called Meeting Post-Agenda Minutes, February 4th; and Recess Meeting Post-Agenda Minutes, February 16th, 2022."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4, 22-0144: Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, sponsored by Chairman Pitts with Full Board support."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What is this? That's not correct. That's a Full Board. That's fine. All right. Now listen we have, what -- we originally we had 15, is it 15 proclamations. If you assume five minutes each, that's about an hour and 10 to 15 minutes just on proclamations."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Mr. Chair, if you would allow me."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm only -- I know some them have been removed."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, but I'm going to -- what I'm going to do is, all of the women that are being honored today, will come up together and we will -- I will read only a portion of their proclamation for celebration of Women's History Month. They have all been made aware that this is how we'll present today. For the sake of time and to ensure that we do have a timely -- like, you know, do this in a timely fashion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Excellent. Excellent."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Can always count on you. Excellent, thank you. All right. That first one though is a -- is that a Full Board regarding diabetes?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Good morning. Pleased to share this proclamation. **WHEREAS**, in 1987 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to increase public awareness the needs and exceptional potential of Americans with intellectual developmental disabilities. And **WHEREAS**, intellectual developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas that began during the developmental period and may impact day-to-day functioning that usually lasts throughout a person's lifetime. And **WHEREAS**, Developmental Disability Awareness Month shines a spotlight on intellectual developmental disabled individuals in every area of daily life and acknowledge their potential to serve as productive citizens in society, with this year's theme being, 'In My Shoes'. And **WHEREAS**, Fulton Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities promotes inclusion in all aspects of life because individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities are capable of living full and productive lives and deserving of opportunities to become more independent, economically self-sufficient, and contributing members of their communities. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County recognizes the intellectual developmentally disabled as valuable members of the Fulton County community, encourages their inclusion in every fact of life -- facet of life in Metro Atlanta. And does hereby proclaim, March 2022 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Fulton County Georgia. All right. A round of applause. Share a few remarks with us? All right. Come on up here."

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR:** "Thank you. Good morning. As the Medical Director for the DD Division and on behalf of the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and our Director, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the County Commissioner's office and the Board of Commissioners for your continued support and for the recognition of March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. As we mentioned, this year's theme is, 'In My Shoes', which reflects the desire of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be recognized and to be understood. To help raise awareness of their accomplishments, our department is collaborating with the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture to develop an exhibit, art by adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The exhibit will occur at the end of this month, so stay tuned. We do appreciate the forward-thinking policies that the Board has implemented to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all citizens. As these actions help to eliminate the stigma surrounding individuals and our citizens who are differently abled. For that, we extend our deepest gratitude. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I also wanted -- get this thing back up here. Just one quick remark, too. I also want to thank all of our Fulton County employees that work in this space. It can be a challenging space, it's a very rewarding space, I think, for all the folks that do work in there. But it's a -- it can be very challenging. And we just, we thank you for your dedication and the work that you do to make this happen so that our citizens with developmental disabilities are included and are living a more full life. So, thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing Addiction Recovery Awareness Day, sponsored by Commissioner Hall and the Full Board of Commissioners."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Good morning, everyone. Good morning. It is an honor and it is also a personal matter for me as it relates to addiction. I have had family member, who was very close to me struggle with addiction. So being a part of this and hearing all the stories about -- from the members of your board, your organization, have been a tremendous help for so many others who struggle with addiction, just to know that there are people who have been through those situations and have literally become successful on the other side of it is -- is just outstanding for everyone to know about. So the proclamation reads, **WHEREAS**, behavioral health is an essential part of one's overall health and wellness. And the 13th Annual Addiction Recovery Awareness Day celebrates the power of recovery in everyday Georgians, showing that recovery is real and stronger than COVID-19. **WHEREAS**, there are over 800,000 people in recovery across Georgia and over 23 million in the United States. And recovery from alcohol and other drug use occurs every day through a variety of recovery support resources and treatment programs. And **WHEREAS**, education about recovery and addiction is essential to combating the stigma and discrimination faced by people in recovery is needed by all Georgians including public health and safety officials, the workforce, older adults, and families. And **WHEREAS**, to help more people achieve and sustain long-term recovery. RISE Recovery Community Organization, Recover Resources of Atlanta, Midtown Recovery Community Organizations, Peers Empowering Peers Recovery Community Organization, and the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse provide recovery support programs everyday across Fulton County. Now, therefore be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners supports this year's theme; Recovery is for Everyone, Every Person, Every Family, Every Community. And does hereby proclaim Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as Addiction Recovery Awareness Day in Fulton County Georgia. Congratulations."

**JEFF BREEDLOVE:** "Thank you, Commissioner. And thank you to the entire Board of Commissioners. My name is Jeff Breedlove and I stand before you as a person in long-term recovery and a resident of Fulton County. And I'm proud to be joined by my brothers and sisters in recovery from those organizations you just heard of. And I thought about,

well, what would I say. And here's what I want to say, two things. First of all, recovery is real. And the second thing I want to say is, how appropriate that we're here this morning. Last night at the State of the Union, the President of the United States for the first time that we can tell in history, acknowledged the recovery community when he said the phrase, I celebrate the 23 million people in recovery. What a moment. And then to come here at our local community the very next day and receive a proclamation where our local leaders celebrate recovery. Y'all are breaking stigma. Y'all are saving lives. And your constituency, your families, we thank you. We respect you and we love you. Recovery is real."

**BEVERLY RAGLAND:** "Good morning. Good morning. I am Beverly Ragland. I'm a person in long-term recovery and what that means for me, it's been nearly 23 years since I've had the need to use any drugs, alcohol, or succumb to my severe grief, anxiety, and depression. I live my recovery out loud because I believe in the benefit of everyone knowing that they deserve long lasting quality recovery. I have a kaleidoscope philosophy about my recovery. There were many tools and many jewels that were in my life. I had treatment counselors, people that supported me in my recovery. And they are the kaleidoscope, the jewels of my kaleidoscope. I change them when I need to make my life different. And I live to be a jewel in somebody else's recovery kaleidoscope. I celebrate recovery and I understand that recovery is real. Thank you."

**ALEXIA JONES:** "My name is Alexia Jones and I'm a person in long-term recovery. And what that means for me is it's been 27 years since I had a need or desire to use any mind-altering substances. It also means I'm a mother, a grandmother, and the Executive Director of RISE. And at RISE we have found a new paradigm. We sing through our hardest time. We dance and celebrate our recovery. And we take up our paintbrushes and we paint our stories through every color of the rainbow. And we are so proud to be in the West End of Atlanta. Last year we served 17,028 peer interactions. And we are so proud to be able to stand in Fulton County and raise the banner of recovery and welcome our peers into our center every single day. Thank you."

**PAUL THOMPSON:** "Good morning, my name is Paul Thompson and I'm also a person in long-term recovery. What that means to me, it's been over 22 years since I used any alcohol or drugs. I now, head a -- I'm Executive Director of Peers Empowering Peers in Sandy Springs. You know, a lot of people say it's no drugs or alcohol in Sandy Springs. But I'm here to let you know, there is, and we're there to help. And to salute those who come in. Our peers that we help each and every day, are something that I look forward to, it gives me energy every day. And I thank you, Commissioners for everything you've done. Proclamation is needed. And if we can get the support and recovery is real. Thank you."

**SHAWN MASON:** "Good morning everyone, my name is Shawn Mason. I'm Director of Community Engagement for Covenant Community and Recovery Resources of Atlanta, Midtown. And I'm also a person in long-term recovery. For that -- to me, that means that it's been over 30 years since I've had the need to have any mind or mood-altering substances. I appreciate the opportunity stand before you all today to share with you that recovery is real and that it can be done. And to show everyone that hope is alive in the recovery community. And that with the efforts of everybody here, we'll continue to do the best that we can. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You want to take a picture?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing Cascade Nature Gurlz Appreciation Day, sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Let me just say, greetings everyone. It's a very beautiful and blessed good morning to each and every one of you. I'm your Commissioner who believes in collaboration and not competition. With that being said, I'm going to ask all of the honorees to come down for Women's History Month. Cascade Nature Gurlz, Deborah Scott, Helen Butler, Mrs. Virginia Harris, and DA Fani Willis and all your guests. Because this is what people need to see in Fulton County and across America, women coming together, standing together, supporting each other, working together, and doing what we do. There's a young man in the audience named Keith Lewis, who has an organization called 'I'm A Father F1rst'. And their motto is, Collaboration Over Competition. And that is what this should always be, women standing strong together. So I'm going to ask, Douglas, can you bring all of these proclamations, please, to me? I'm going to read a portion of every proclamation in honor of Women's History Month in appreciation to all of these women. From the Cascade Nature Gurlz, Deborah Scott. From Standup, Helen Butler. We have all of you, right? All right, excellent. And District Attorney, Fani Willis. All right, excellent. So Douglas, where are the other ones? You can just stack them right here. We're going to go through every single one of them. See, that's what togetherness looks like, all right. The first one is for the Cascade Nature Gurlz. And these -- that's these beautiful women with the Nature Gurlz hoodies on around me. Yes, aren't they wonderful, beautiful. **WHEREAS**, the Cascade Nature Gurlz were founded on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, when two friends and long-time neighbors decided to visit the Cascade Springs Nature Preserve for the first time during the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown. And **WHEREAS**, the beautiful scenery and the flowing water of the springs led the friends to invite others and friends to experience the beauty and tranquility of the Nature Preserve. And the very next day and the days that followed, more, and more ladies joined the excursion. That's togetherness. Now, therefore be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, in commemoration of Women's History Month recognizes the

Cascade Nature Gurlz for their innovative spirits and for the dedication to improvement and beautification of their community. And does hereby proclaim, Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as Cascade Nature Gurlz Appreciation Day in Fulton County Georgia. And I'm just going to ask you to hold that while I move to the next one. Yes, yes, togetherness. And the next proclamation reads, **WHEREAS**, Helen Butler is a native of Morgan County, Georgia and graduated from Pearl High School in Madison as a National Merit Scholar and as her classes Salute -- Salutatorian. Sorry about that, Ms. Butler. **WHEREAS**, Helen was one of the first 50 African-American students to attend the University of Georgia, after its integration by Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Hamilton E. Holmes, and earned her Bachelor of business administration degree in accounting. And **WHEREAS**, Helen is a charter member of the Zeta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at the University of Georgia, a member of the Mount Zion -- I heard somebody, say, okay, now -- a member of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. And she is the recipient of the city of Atlanta's highest honor, the Phoenix Award. And she was named an outstanding Georgia citizen by the Secretary of State in 2009. Now, therefore be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commend Helen Butler for her tireless work and dedication for the rights of Georgia citizens in commemoration of Women's History Month. And does hereby proclaim, Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as Helen Butler Appreciation Day in Fulton County Georgia. You're so welcome. And the next proclamation reads, **WHEREAS**, Deborah Scott is the founding Executive Director, CEO of Georgia Standup and Think and Act Tank for working families and a nationally recognized proponent of civic, education, and community power, mentor to a rising generation of activists and engaged leadership, and a builder of impactful institutions and including the Movement Center, a multipurpose facility that serves as a hub for progressive ideas and collaboration across the South. And **WHEREAS**, Deborah plays a key role in community development through her championing of affordable housing, accessible transit, and investment in human infrastructure. And through the founding of Tradeup, which prepares marginalized individuals for skilled construction of jobs through her elevation of civic affairs by founding the Policy Institute of Civic Leadership; and by training and molding a new wave of social activist through speeches and motivational talks. And **WHEREAS**, Deborah is a proud member of the inaugural 1988 graduating class of Clark Atlanta University. And is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commends Deborah Scott in commemoration of Women's History Month for her dedication to the civil liberties of all citizens. And does hereby proclaim, Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as Deborah Scott Appreciation Day in Fulton County Georgia. Yes, ma'am. And the next proclamation reads, **WHEREAS**, Fani T. Willis is the first woman elected to serve as District Attorney in Fulton County Georgia beginning her term on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. And **WHEREAS**, before DA Willis assumed her current role, she was a prosecutor and career

trial lawyer you for 25 years and has led over 100 jury trials and has prosecuted hundreds of murder cases, as well as many other serious crimes including those against women and children. And **WHEREAS**, DA Willis created Fulton County's first Pre-indictment Diversion Program, which gives offenders who would benefit from a second chance, the opportunity to earn one. She also is partnering with community organizations to give those offenders the opportunity to gain life skills and the responsibilities that comes from community service to have a better path forward than one marred by a criminal record. And **WHEREAS**, DA Willis earned her Bachelor's Degree from Howard University and her Juris Doctor Degree from Emory University School of Law. I hear people saying, all right, now. She is the proud mother of two daughters, who are both HBCU graduates and a resident of the city of South Fulton, where she had the honor of serving as Chief Judge of the Municipal Court. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in commemoration of Women's History Month recognizes District Attorney Fani T. Willis for her stellar career and trailblazing role as the first woman District Attorney of Fulton County. And does hereby proclaim, Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as District Attorney Fani T. Willis Appreciation Day in Fulton County Georgia. And last, but not least, **WHEREAS**, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated was founded in 1981 in New York City and is an advocacy organization, whose vision is that black women and girls will live in a world where socio-economic inequity does not exist. And **WHEREAS**, NCBW advocates on behalf of black women and girls to promote leadership development and gender equity in the areas of health, education, economic development, and public policy advocacy actions. And **WHEREAS**, during the fiscal year 2020-2021 more than 19,500 youth were served in mentoring and stem programs. More than 175,000 individuals attended workshops and training events. Over \$800,000 in local scholarships were awarded to students in financial need. And more than 75,000 people were served via voter registration, strategic partnerships, and community forums. Now, therefore be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in commemoration of Women's History Month recognizes the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated for their positive impact on their local communities and beyond. And does hereby proclaim, Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as 100 Black Women Appreciation Day in Fulton County Georgia. And Ms. Virginia Harris, we will hold this award for you when you get here to give it to you. All right. And we need to move this out of the way. Here comes Douglas."

**CECILIA HOUSTON-TORRENCE:** "Good morning, Chairman Pitts, Commissioner Arrington, who is also the son of a Nature Gurl, my Commissioner, Natalie Hall, and our honorary Nature Gurl, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and all the esteemed members of the Fulton County Commission. On behalf of the Nature Gurlz, we're extremely humbled by this recognition this morning. I am Cecilia Houston-Torrence, the cofounder. Two years ago my friend, Sonya Young, who stands with me today, encouraged me to walk

at the park right across the street from her home in Southwest Atlanta and I did. It's amazing to think that out of necessity, a group of like-minded women, some married, some divorced, some widowed, and some single. All of various backgrounds, denominations, sororities, political affiliations, professed -- professions, races and, yes, we even route for different sports teams. We all came together, yet, with all of our differences, we have bonded in a way that I've never dreamed possible without actually having to form a 501c3 and get incorporated. As stated in the proclamation, this sisterhood sustained us during the most troubling times as the country was dealing with mass protests over the senseless murder of George Floyd, and the pandemic, where we were forced to do something most people hate -- hated and dreaded, especially teenagers. We were compelled to isolate from our family and friends. The Nature Gurlz prayed, walked, hiked, strolled, stumbled, fall, get back up, debate, dance, celebrate, sing, and most importantly, we laughed and take in the beautiful scenery and fresh air there at the majestic Cascade Springs Nature Preserve. And, yes, sometimes we even cried and as we faced realities of aging and dealing with health challenges. But one thing is certain, we always leave better than we did before we came. As my dear friend and Nature Gurl sister, Sue Ross, who has documented much of our history by capturing it with her amazing photography since she was a little girl. But let me just say, younger, because she's still little. You just don't know at the time, you're part of history, you just do the work and take the pictures. As we celebrate Women's History Month today in this Chamber, we stand here on the shoulders of our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, and so many other strong role models. And I have a whole page of names, but I'm not going to read them. The Nature Gurlz are a testimony to the power of resilience and transition. Please come and join us. Thank you, Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You're welcome. You're very welcome."

**DEBORAH SCOTT:** "So I just wanted to thank Commissioner Hall for all her advocacy. Thank you to all of the black women that helped to get the vote out. We stand on your shoulders. So if you are the unnamed Mrs. Jackson and Ms. Johnson, we are here for you and we celebrate you today. Thank you."

**HELEN BUTLER:** "To Commissioner Pitts and to Commissioner Hall, Arrington and all of the Commission, Abdur-Rahman, thank you, everybody. We just thank you for this honor. And on behalf of an ancestor that has gone on, Rita Jackson Samuels, who always, who always fought for the rights of black women. We stand here today to celebrate all black women across the state. But to celebrate women, who stand for our community. And we just say, thank you for this honor. It was so wonderful seeing you Saturday night with the Boss Girls. And we are just honored by you passing on the legacy of so many. And thank you so much."

**FANI WILLIS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** "First of all, I want to thank Chair Pitts Vice Chair Natalie, the Mighty6 Khadijah, my classmate and very good friend, Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Hausmann, who was the very first Commissioner to reach out to me when I was elected to kind of show me the way and help me. And of course, Commissioner Morris and Commissioner Lee. I feel very, very humbled to be recognized today. And one of the things I'm most proud of in life is being the first woman District Attorney. And I know that I don't do it alone. And I'll come up here and argue with you, but I really do have a lot of love and appreciation for the way you all support the County and support the District Attorney's Office. But it is really not my award. If you'll just give me a minute, I'd like to ask a couple of people here to be recognized. My legal counsel for the DA, who gets frustrated with me, but keeps me straight, Mr. Don Geary; my Executive District Attorney Michael Carlson; my Executive District Attorney George Jenkins; my Deputy District Attorney Kevin Armstrong; Deputy Legal Assistant Felicia Dickens; Chief Legal Assistant Valencia Younger; Deputy District Attorney Dexter Bond; my Chief of Investigations Capers Green; as well as my Assistant Chief Thomas Ricks, who in these times, has a really hard job. And his whole job is to keep me alive. So we got to give him a lot of love. And he makes sure that he does that. And my two bosses, my Director of Technology Tashekka; my Deputy District Attorney over Strategy and Media Jeff Disantis; and my two bosses, Executive Assistant Jazmin Dilligard, and my number one boss, Deputy Executive Assistant Tia Green. I get a lot of credit and a lot of spotlight and a lot of news media and courage. But I'm a team in a real, little funny-looking family. We're white, black, straight, gay, Republican, Democrat. But we all have one mission and that's to keep this county safe. And I do it with these men and women. And I'm just humbled that they let me serve as their District Attorney. So thank you for acknowledging us. Thank you for acknowledging my team because it's their credit, not mine. And just thank you for having us today."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I just wanted to acknowledge City Council President Doug Shipman is here. He is actually here to support Women's History Month and the Nature Gurlz. All right. Thank you so much, ladies. And let's continue to work together. Can Fani's people run down here real quick, please? Let's get one good big picture with the Board of Commissioners, the Full Board of Commissioners and all the ladies for Women's History Month."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Stay in place. Nature Gurlz stay in place."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing Mayor Shirley Franklin Appreciation Day, sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm want to take this time. I had an opportunity to speak to the recipient. Unfortunately, our former Mayor Shirley Franklin, couldn't be here today. But the Nature Gurlz and Sue Ross will accept her proclamation. But she wanted to me to state this, this morning at the beginning of the proclamation. We lost an icon. And I'm going to try to get through this without crying. We lost an icon, SiMan Baby, this morning. And he's a good friend of my family. He was part of Cousins with Cancer, DJ Mix Master Mitch, we lost him earlier this summer. And now we've lost SiMan. And I know he's up there making the angels sing, saying SiMan Baby. And so Shirley wanted to make sure that we take -- we took a moment to recognize SiMan. Thank you.

**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 the Philadelphia High School for Girls and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Howard University and her Master 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 Encourage 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 LBG School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, and a loyal member of the Nature Gurlz. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in commemoration of Women's History Month recognizes Mayor Shirley Franklin for her trailblazing and historic career and for her tireless dedication to the citizens of Atlanta, and does hereby proclaim, Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as Mayor Shirley Franklin Appreciation Day in Fulton County Georgia. This proclamation has full support from the Board of Commissioners. Please give her a round of applause. I'm going to ask for Sue Ross on behalf of the Nature Gurlz to please give comments followed by the president of Atlanta City Council Doug Shipman."

**SUE ROSS:** "I'm very honored to accept this proclamation on behalf of Mayor Franklin. She was unable to participate because she's participating in a panel leading up to the 92nd -- 90th birthday of Mayor -- former Mayor, Ambassador Andrew Young. And she expresses her appreciation for this honor. And she walks with the Nature Gurlz regularly. And so we talk politics, register voters, we do all kinds of things. But she continues to

contribute to the political well-being of the citizens of Atlanta and Fulton County. And she is very grateful for this honor from Commissioner Khadijah of the Mighty6."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And Nature Gurlz get people elected too. She didn't put that in there, but I'm going to put that in there. Come on, Doug."

**DOUG SHIPMAN, PRESIDENT, ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL:** "Well, good morning. I just want to briefly say, I have wanted to walk across the street because sometimes we can see the contributions of folks. I had the honor of working side by side with Mayor Franklin on the effort to secure the King Papers. And sometimes we don't see the efforts of folks. But I have personally gotten to know the Nature Gurlz individually over the years, but as a group over the last two years. This is a health, environmental protection, political, community advocacy, friendship organization. So much happens because of the work of these women standing here who are connected to each other in this unique way that we often don't see but we feel. And so I just want to say, on behalf of the citizens of Atlanta, thank you for all that you do as individuals, and all that you do, so much more as a collective group of the Nature Gurlz."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you. Chairman, did you want say -- all right. And one more, we have one more proclamation. Did you want to -- in expediency of time? We have one more proclamation. Stay still because we want the picture. But basically, I will just kind of paraphrase this. This proclamation is honoring Women's History Month Highlights. This is a Full Board proclamation. **WHEREAS**, Women History Month highlights the contributions of women in history and contemporary society and is celebrated during the month of March in United States, Great Britain, and Australia with - - corresponds with International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>. And **WHEREAS**, Women's History Month traces its beginnings back to the first International Women's Day in 1911. And in February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1980 as a National Women's History Month. And you can see clearly here with Board participation and Commissioner Natalie Hall as well as others, this was a collaborative effort today to recognize all these wonderful women, who have given tirelessly to this community. And we all have supported them on the Women's History Month. And I would like to have a round of applause for women who tirelessly, the ones that you see, but more importantly, the ones that are unseen. So can we please have a round of applause, and please wait for pictures."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing Busy Bee Restaurant Appreciation Day, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Marvin."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing Busy Bee Restaurant Appreciation Day, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Happy to read this proclamation, as the Nature Gurlz see themselves out. We thank you so much for being here with us today. This next proclamation is one y'all know about too, it's for Busy Bee Restaurant. **WHEREAS**, Busy Bee Restaurant was established in 1974 by Lucy Jackson, a self-taught cook who named her restaurant after seeing a picture of a bee on a large sign and felt inspired. After a missionary thoroughly enjoyed Lucy's cooking, she predicted that her business would also always be busy and blessed, hence the name Busy Bee. And **WHEREAS**, the Southwest Atlanta restaurant located on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, has been a staple in the city for 75 years as a gathering spot for civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, Reverend Hosea Williams, Ambassador Andrew Young, and Reverend Joseph E. Lowery. And **WHEREAS**, Busy Bee Restaurant was named one of six recipients of the 2022 James Beard Award, which is awarded annually to locally-owned restaurants with exceptional talent in the culinary arts and reflect the character of the communities that they serve. And **WHEREAS**, Busy Bee Restaurant is currently owned by Tracy Gates, whose family took over the restaurant -- took over the business in the early 1980s. She will accept the award at the James Beard Restaurant and Chef Awards ceremony on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Busy Bee Restaurant for its outstanding legacy as one of the most recognizable and favorite community gathering spots, as well as popular tourist destination in the city. And does hereby proclaim, Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as Busy Bee Restaurant Appreciation Day in Fulton County Georgia. And she wasn't able to join us this morning, but we will certainly make sure that she receives it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's almost 11:00 o'clock colleagues. Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 4, Public Hearings **22-0145**: 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 online by registering on the County website [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov). 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 30 minutes. In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC Meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, we will start with the speakers here

in Assembly Hall. We have received three speaker cards. Will the three speakers please come down: Maggie Goldman, Lucia Frazier, and Sandra Burchardt."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Come on down. Again, when you have 15 seconds remaining, I'll simply say, 15 seconds."

**MAGGIE GOLDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Not used to being first. My name is Maggie Goldman, District 1, Johns Creek. I'm glad to see that there are the community service program grants on the agenda today. Those are probably one of my core favorite parts of the budget. So we definitely want to approve those. And I'm going to be interested to see, you know, where we could potentially expand on those. Because I think those are the programs that really touch our families the most. And where we could potentially do some more work there. I'd also like to see if we can, again, look at the county budget before we pass the millage rate. I'm going to keep coming here and talking about this until we do something about this. I'm not saying you have to spend more money. I want you to confirm ahead of the millage rate that we are paying for everything that we need to pay for. How many departments have to come in front of us and beg for money for staff. Between -- I mean, off the top of my head, Sheriff's Department the DA's Office. Who did we have last time, the IT Department. I mean, the Tax Commissioner's Office. Now, I'll admit, we got to do something about the extra money that the Tax Commissioner is getting. Maybe we can reallocate that, I don't disagree. What happened to Dwight Robinson? He's gone. I was at the BOE the other day. The Director of Board of Equalization is gone. Like, where are these staff? Why can't we retain staff? Do we need to pay more? The fact that you work for a government agency might be an appealing part of your resume, as Commissioner Pitts mentioned at the last meeting. But that is not going to put food on your table."

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

**MAGGIE GOLDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "That's not going to pay your college debt. That is not going to put a roof over your head. Thank you."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Lucia Frazier. Last meeting, I was shocked to see more temp agencies added to use in our election. I just didn't realize that Happy Faces was terminated. So they had so many things wrong, it's really great that they were removed. When you voted to extend their contract in January, you acted like it was impossible to remove them. But I guess that wasn't true. So going forward, I would love to see the same quick adjustment in removing temp agencies, while increasing direct hires. And on that note, the reason why we should have more direct hires, let's use more direct hires to handle all aspects of people touching our ballots. And for that, we would need more open enrollment in order to have residents doing these jobs, residents that

don't normally do these jobs so that everyone has the opportunity for civic duty. Therefore, the open enrollment should be broken out to one-to-five day increments. I haven't seen that on the website yet. I hope it's coming. I also want to reiterate how odd and ludicrous the budget was allocated this year. Several people come here in every meeting for public comment requesting funds for various human support programs. You have pretty much voted to rob everyone and everything that might better our county and gave it all to the Elections Department. It doesn't add up to me to spend 18 million in 2020 and 37 million in 2022. They are no new capital expenses. If it costs this much to have electronic voting, it seems easy to make it a case to go back to paper only. And then reallocate these funds back to the taxpayers or the community programs that are in here every month."

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

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "That's it. Thank you very much."

**SANDRA BURCHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Sandra Burchardt. I live in Fulton County. I'm a freedom loving human being. It is a love without color or political party or gender. It is a love based on truth. In order for freedom to prevail, some things are vital, laws and legitimate elections. Commissioner Pitts, do you think some people consider other factors more important than laws and legitimate elections? Do some people ignore laws and use political power and money to manipulate others to ignore the laws and deliver candidates? Some people think they are winning using these tactics. And they have been successful in delivering their choices through use of ballots filled up with their selections that are dropped off in drop boxes earning \$10 a ballot or stored in large containers under skirted tables, scanning perhaps multiple times after the observers are told that the counting is over. Now, all of us are living with the results of their selections. Should we congratulate them? Are they proud of their successes? Do they like the current rising gas prices? Is it better to buy more expensive oil from Russia? Do they like the increased numbers of homelessness that are living in tents all over Atlanta? Do they prefer this higher unemployment rate? How about the human trafficking and the drug situation at our open borders? Is this part of the winning vision? I will not stand aside. And I will not allow these tactics to continue. I will continue to do all that I can to return our country to a place where laws matter and honest elections are transparent --"

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

**SANDRA BURCHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- where an audit does not consist of recounting the mysterious ballots stored under tables. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, we have 16 speakers on Zoom."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sixteen?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning, Commissioners. The first person to speak will be Bridget Thorne."

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, Commissioners. I'm confused. Last year, several times we were told by Richard Barron that Happy Faces Temp Agency was the only agency that could handle our elections. The matter was time sensitive and would take four to six months to onboard another agency, which wasn't possible. You approved the \$7.7 million contracts. Again, on January 19th, Patrick Eskridge gave another presentation that Happy Faces Temp Agency was the only agency that could handle our elections. The matter was, again, time sensitive. Happy Faces was the only solution and you approved it. Yet, all of a sudden on February 16<sup>th</sup>, you approved a new slate of temp agency contracts. And suddenly, you can onboard a new company with a month and a half before an election. So there was another temp agency and it doesn't take four to six months to onboard. Were we lied to? We ask that you be transparent and tell the public why there is this drastic shift. We need absolute transparency in our election process. Currently, all the former Happy Faces workers are being shifted over to Dover. Will anything change? These temp workers can easily slip in and out of our election process undetected and jeopardize the security of our election process. We can't use temp agencies for positions that handle and count our votes. I find it puzzling. Why did Fulton Election's employee, Dominic Olama quit working for Dominion in August of 2020 and then start working for Happy Faces? Why? Was he being paid by Happy Faces and Dominion?"

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

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Remember finding four in the internal audit, Dominion employees were being paid \$2,000 per day and \$5,000 for Elections Day. Dominic was running the warehouse when the normal staff had to be quarantined in October 2020. He was wearing a Dominion employee badge."

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

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you."

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

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Can you hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Great, thanks. Couple points this morning. One is, when are folks that have applied to work Elections Day going to be contacted by the Elections Department? Some already have. But I'm curious as to why so many have not. And the reason why I'm asking the questions to you all is because we can't seem to get answers from the BRE or from the Department. The most recent thing that happened at the BRE is public comment was eliminated for special meetings. And again, there's nothing special about these meetings. All it is is a second meeting within the same month. Secondly, there were many comments in the last meeting about fully funding the Election's Department. And it sounded like many of those folks were reading from a script and a piece of paper. I'm curious if those folks are actually aware of the amount of money and the excess that is being spent in the Elections Department. The \$37 million that is proposed actually isn't fully representative of what it's likely to be in 2022. The full amount is closer to 48 million because in that 37 million does not include a Primary Runoff in May or June. So we're really talking about -- and we know that that's very likely to happen. So again, we're talking almost \$50 million, which is more than we spent in 2020, which includes federal funding for COVID and grant money, which is not needed in 2022. So again, if the dollar amount was a hundred million dollars, would those same folks come and ask for the Election's Department to be fully funded? It's time --"

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

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "It's time that we responsively look at these dollars and spend them wisely. And again, return them to other departments where it's needed or the taxpayer. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is in Ngina Sydney Jemmott. Ngina Sydney Jemmott. Okay. The next person to speak of will be Ben Howard."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings Commissioners and staff. And greetings to you citizens of Fulton County, Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. To the members of the Fulton County Commission on Elder Affairs, I take this opportunity to address you publicly so you will know, it is not my intent to frighten you as they have said, but enlighten you, as they should be doing. Instead of letting you believe you can operate outside of the Georgia Sunshine Laws, why hasn't senior services given each of you a copy of the Georgia Open Meetings Act, so you can read that state law

yourselves? Regarding my comment about the January agenda being posted on the County website during your Commission on Elder Affairs Meeting in February, here's what the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia says on page 19 of the Open Meetings Publication, the law requires notice to be posted on the County website. It goes on to say, if a website is not being maintained, it may be best to eliminate the website rather than provide erroneous information. That's ACCG talking, not Ben Howard, Senior Advocate."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Heather Fluker. Heather Fluker? I'm sorry. The next person to speak is Joseph Blount."

**JOSEPH BLOUNT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, I'm Joe Blount, resident of Fulton County, District 4. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I encourage our Commissioners to support the Board of Elections by giving them the resources they require. Recent elections have demonstrated a progress that the Board of Elections has made toward improving access to the ballot box. The Board of Elections must have the time and space needed to continue to make improvements. And they should focus on the search for a new Director. I thank the Commissioners for their attention to these matters. And thank you for your service to the citizens of Fulton County."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Kevin Muldowney."

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. Quite a few of the public comments given last meeting, especially over Zoom, sounded quite scripted. The commenting was, fully fund Fulton County's Elections Department. The fact is that since 2016 the BRE's funding has increased from ten to \$37 million, an increase of almost 300 percent. It seems to me, the BRE is more than adequately funded. What we need is efficient use of that bloated budget. The BRE's reliance on temp agencies is one example of that inefficiency. Temp agencies typically charge the client, in this case Fulton County citizens, another 50 percent on top of what they pay the employee. That doesn't really sound efficient to me. History has shown us that temp agency's employees are typically undertrained and less than motivated. I hate to sound like a broken record, but we need to staff our elections from early voting to the final Election Day, directly with citizens that have a vested interest in fair and accurate elections. Speaking of citizens, the BRE relies on a full-time employee to tabulate and adjudicate votes. This employee, Dominic Olama, the BRE's Information System Manager, is not even a US citizen. We don't need mercenaries in positions of power to run our elections. We need conscientious citizens that care about an accurate and fair election process. One other point I wanted to make, I've worked as a poll manager in the past. And most of the tasks we performed were necessary to fill the needs of this complex computerized election system. Going back to paper ballots would simplify this complex process --"

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

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- that we have created and restore a lot more confidence in the vote. Thank you, guys."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Lawrie Demorest. Lawrie Demorest? Okay. The next person to speak is Linda Downey. Linda Downey? Okay. The next person to speak is Ngina Sydney Jemmott."

**NGINA SYDNEY JEMMOTT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, can you hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**NGINA SYDNEY JEMMOTT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Wonderful. I'm happy my computer is working now. So good morning, my name is Dr. Jemmott. And I have been a resident of Fulton County for ten years. I'm going to echo some of the other public comments. I encourage the Fulton Board of Commissioners to support the Board of Elections by giving them the resources they need to sufficiently staff the 2022 cycle. Last year's Municipal Elections demonstrated the progress the Board of Elections has made toward improving access to the ballot box. We need to make sure that the Board of Elections has the time and space to continue to improve. The Board of Elections should focus on the search for a new Elections Director and not be distracted from its important work. In conclusion, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about the importance of the Board of Commissioners supporting the Board of Elections in their continued effort to improve access to voting for all Georgians."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Ms. Marika."

**MARIKA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, my name is Marika. And I'm a Fulton County resident of District 4. I encourage the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to support the Board of Elections by giving them the resources they need to sufficiently staff the 2022 cycle. Last year's Municipal Elections demonstrated the progress the Board of Elections has made toward improving access to the ballot box. We need to make sure that the Board of Elections has the time and space to continue to improve. The Board of Elections should focus on the search for a new Elections Director and not be distracted from its important work. Thank you for your time and giving me the opportunity to speak."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Michelle Ottersbach. Michelle Ottersbach? Okay. The next person to speak is Ms. Rohr. Ms. Rohr?"

**MS. ROHR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Yes, good morning. Interesting. I had actually submitted my comment in written form. And that went through, but since I've been given

the floor, I've just been attending these meetings and mystified that we've gone from one temp agency to three. So it seems like the comments that people have been given before are either ignored or don't matter. And it's hard to believe that. I see you all come dedicate your time to meet and consider what is best for Fulton County. And so it's a little mystifying, because I know you mean well. It seems to me that the message has been that there are Fulton County residents who'd be very excited and willing to work the elections and/or volunteer. People are asking for more money. But from what I've heard, there's millions in the coffers for elections. I really trust that Fulton County, for example, Human Resources can come up with solutions to hire these people. And I really trust that Fulton County has staff members who can solve this. So we want to be proud of Fulton County elections and that's why we're giving comments. Some people are even asking for more money. Well, if more money meant that we'd get better results and that we get more transparency, well maybe that's the solution. I don't know. It seems that we have plenty of knowledge, ideas, people. I'm not sure that there is will. Perhaps there's not the will to have a, you know, a solution to these elections. The eyes of the nation are on Fulton County. So it's not just Fulton County residents who are concerned about this. And I think Fulton County can take advantage of its size and of its mass, let's put it this way, to actually lead the nation. That's all I have to say. Thank you so much."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Heather Fluker."

**HEATHER FLUKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. Yes, I dropped my comment in the chat because earlier my audio wasn't working. Can you hear me now?"

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, we can."

**HEATHER FLUKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay. I really -- I ended up putting my comment in the chat. I encourage the Fulton Board of Commissioners to support the Board of Elections by giving them the resources they need to sufficiently staff the 2022 cycle. Last year's Municipal Elections demonstrate the progress the Board of Elections has made toward improving access to the ballot box. We need to make sure that the Board of Elections has the time and space to continue to improve. The Board of Elections should focus on the search for a new Elections Director and not be distracted from its important work. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Ramona Hasan. Ramona Hasan? Okay. The next person to speak is Sheila Hamilton. Sheila Hamilton?"

**SHEILA HAMILTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Good morning."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We can you hear you."

**SHEILA HAMILTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I just want to thank the Commissioners for the work they are doing. I applaud Commissioner Pitts for being on TV yesterday trying to secure affordable housing in Fulton County. It is something that really needs serious attention, as well as addressing the homelessness situation in Fulton County. It disturbs me when I drive into Fulton County and there are people living under bridges, on streets, and under tents. Please, in your budget, consider increasing funding for homelessness and finding ways that senior citizens and people of low income can have affordable housing. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The last one is Zach Hines. Zach Hines? Okay. I'm not hear anything from Zach Hines. That concludes our Zoom portion of the public comment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Anyone at the Annexes?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, we have three emailed-in comments."

**REGINA WALLER:** "The first comment is from Caressa Kao. There is something extremely sinister when victims of hate crime can't get the crimes classified as such and are given no updates in Fulton County. I can't even find the arrest warrant that was supposed to be issued on a man named Stephen Beldron Knight, a stranger who violated my protective order multiple times. He works for Knight Construction and yet, no one knows a thing about him. I am tired of reading about arguments escalating into gunfire when there would be no need for these arguments if degenerates were made to follow the law. I am not fighting anyone at my age. I am a concealed carrier holder and will do whatever I need to do to keep hands off of me. Just tell us the truth. No one gives a darn about the peace and safety and right of citizens to live free to interference. And we are basically on our own because that's what everyone issues to. Instead of calling these garbage people out, do I need to get in contact with to hold the people who attempted to harass and kill my husband because he's Asian, the information that I need. And to make sure they are held accountable because, yet again, no one knows anything. Not how to charge people, not how to get the GBI, not how to make property owners feel safe on their property. Fulton County is completely lawless and it will only get worse as more people get sick of their nonresponse. This county has shown me that the living God is in none of our hearts because your actions speak volumes."

**REGINA WALLER:** "The next two comments deal with the elections. My name is Candice Stockham and I'm a resident from District 5. I would like to know if the BOC has

made sure that we will have significant funding and staffing for the entire voting cycle of 2022. The next comment is by Susan Ortiz. I just saw a job posting for Election Systems Specialist. There is no mention that you must be a US citizen to apply. That is unacceptable for a job so important and one of the most cherished rights of our great Republic. Also in the last Board of Commissions meeting, it was clear to me that there were some organized Zoom callers reading comments almost verbatim from a script. These were not legitimate concerns from community experience with the elections. I heard things echoed, like, don't be distracted by people are politically motivated. And we need to fully fund the elections. I think it is fair to say that wanting transparent, fair elections is a universal desire, not a partisan one. As it is not wanting our taxpayer money wasted. I am seeing some positive changes happening, though, like a poll worker fair coming up in Alpharetta to have questions answered, much like the meet and greet, I have been talking about. Thank you. There is still a lot of questions, like, why are three personnel agencies better than one? Who dreamt up the goal to diversify the tempting staff. I would like to rather see the no tempting service agency. The county should do its job in hiring poll workers. And I hope there are more fairs in the major cities to aid with that and to bring the elections back to the hands of locals. But it doesn't stop here. Will these diverse staffing agencies result in diversity of people you hire for counting of mail-in ballots, the warehouse work, and all aspects of elections? That remains to be seen and all eyes will be on this. Finally, I watched the COVID portion of the last meeting online and thought I was watching an old rerun from March of 2020. Nothing has changed. Not one word of hope for your constituency about how helpful --"

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

**REGINA WALLER:** "-- vitamin D and C and Zinc are. To my fellow citizens, may I suggest you go to my free doctor.com."

**REGINA WALLER:** "That concludes the announcements."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's continue. One hour on proclamations and 30 minutes on public comment."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5, Presentations to the Board, **22-0146**: MARTA Quarterly Update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Good morning, sir."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Pitts and good morning Commissioners. My name is Collie Greenwood, I am the Interim General Manager and CEO for MARTA."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Who do you have with you?"

**COLLIE GREENWORD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "With me is, Board Member Freda Hardage. Also online, Board Member Al Pond and Board Member Stacy Blakely. Also, Colleen Kiernan and Manjeet Ranu are in the room from our Executive Staff."

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

**COLLIE GREENWORD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Next slide, please. So for the agenda, I'm just going to quickly go through a couple of operational updates and speak to the MARTA 2040 Capital Expansion. Next slide. As we go through operations updates, next slide, I will start with the, what we call the lifeblood of the transit agency, it's our ridership, workforce, and financials. In terms of ridership, you can see that through 2021, it was -- there was a slight incline in the numbers. By the time we got to near the end of the year, we saw a dip, which is a seasonal dip combined with the exasperation from the Omicron variant. However, if this were to extend throughout the month of February, you would see that all modes are now stable and starting to rise again. In terms of workforce, we, you know, we still have approximately 180 operator's shortage, in terms of bus operators. The good news is that the recruitment of operators has been going well and we are more than 250 operators now in the pipeline or applicants in the pipeline to be vetted. And in terms of our financials, the FY22 sales tax revenues are stronger than budgeted on through Georgia's propensity to spend its way through the pandemic. And our expenses are lower, again, primarily due to the vacancies that I aforementioned. We are drawing down on COVID relief funds as quickly as possible. And the surplus that will yield, will result in us helping -- in helping us fill the hole that we are projecting for FY24 and FY25. We will brief you on the proposed FY23 MARTA Budget in the next quarter. Next slide, please. I'm actually happy to talk about this MARTA Reach Pilot Program, we launched it yesterday. It's a six-month pilot study to help us understand how this service can address first and last mile connectivity to the system. We have three pilot zones in play including Westside of Atlanta, anchored by HE Holmes Rail Station. The success metrics here will be the level of service adoption, customer feedback and convenience, fiscal sustainability, and overall effect on ridership. I want to thank Commissioners Khadijah and Hall for their help in getting the word out to their constituents. Next slide, please. In terms of the Capital Expansion Program, next slide, I want to begin with the FY21 Bus Shelters and Amenities Update. And again, I'm pleased to report that our program to install 1000 new bus shelters and amenities over five years is on track. It's important for us, not only in improving the customer's experience on our system, but also in

demonstrating our ability to execute on an important program and the public promise inherent in that. Fulton County will receive 50 more amenities -- next slide, please -- in FY22. Fifty more amenities in FY22, for a total of 66 amenities that have been installed so far, mostly shelters. By the end of FY22, Fulton County will have received at least 113 amenities. Up on the screen as an example of one of our shelters, this is at Hammond and Concourse Parkway in the perimeter area, providing service to the nearby retail jobs listed on the side of the slide there. With 37 boarding's per day occurring there, this stop provides much-needed service on the Route 5 and Route 87. Next slide, please. In terms of the I-285, this is an important regional partnership that has been developed and memorialize. MARTA is pleased to play the role of the project manager in this effort. And our next steps will be pulling together a policy working group of representatives from each of the entities. We will also initiate the procurement of consulting services working with the partners and guided by the IGA. Next slide, please. So with South Fulton Parkway and Roosevelt Highway, some preliminary work, planning work is being done to advance a potential Roosevelt Highway transit corridor. Our planners recently completed an existing conditions technical memo, which documents information like, population demographics, environmental and traffic conditions, addressing existing safety and mobility needs. This memo will bring the projects to the same stage that South Fulton Parkway is at and the team will be identifying stakeholders and initiating engagement to advance these two projects. Next slide. So here we're talking about the GA 400 Bus Rapid Transit. The project -- the planning work has continued in this corridor and we'll be getting stations to a 30 percent design in order to be ready as GDOT prepares a new RFP for express lanes project. As there are a number of new Mayors and Council Members and city staff in North Fulton, we will be reaching -- briefing each city on the status of the project over the next several weeks. Next slide. This is exciting, Aerotropolis CID Partnership. We're building on the Aerotropolis CID's transit feasibility study. MARTA will do some early planning work to identify an alignment for personal rapid transit pilot. We'll start with feasibility study in FY23 to identify a promising pilot corridor and service model. Of course, we'll include public engagement, engineering, design, planning, and project development. And we'll refer to the AACID's work as being foundational in this effort. And we, of course, will stay abreast of the rapidly changing PRT technology, and therefore building relationships with innovators and vendors in this space. Next slide, please. Finally, I want to talk about the Smart Restroom Conversion. On this slide, you'll find that we have a number under construction, two of them already converted, and four additional in the coming year. So availability of the restrooms is important for a good customer experience. And we're working to convert all of our customer restrooms to smart facilities. These are automated, state-of-art facilities, clean, safe, and accessible, easier to clean and connected to our communication systems. East Point Station is under construction now. College Park will be included in the next wave.

North Springs is planned for delivery in 2025, Sandy Springs in 2028, and Medical Center is planned for delivery in 2030. We've actually improved our design-to-delivery model, which pairs that process down to a year from previously a two-year process. So we're quite pleased with that. And with that, next slide, I want to thank you for your time and attention and stand ready for any comments or questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Mr. Greenwood. Questions, Commissioner Arrington, followed by Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I certainly want to thank you for this information and your presentation. But I do want to ask about Light Rail for Campbellton Road and the additional \$200 million to make sure that there's a Light Rail in lieu of PRT there. So what's was going on with that?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "What's going on is, a public conversation. We have met with the interested representatives -- represent -- elected officials and community members. We've explained that there is no discrepancy; there is no missing \$200 million. We've also explained that, you know, I like to say, if everybody knew everything, then we'd be aligned on what the best solution is. But the fact is what we're proposing and the locally preferred alternative has been known and identified as bus rapid transit. But that doesn't mean that the \$300 million investment is going to suffer any worse for that. So a number of things are going into that corridor and into the community, such as green improvements to the environment, what infrastructure improvements, getting rid of the power lines that are overhead, bringing sidewalks and lighting. Just making sure that the avenue, the access to the transit corridor is actually safe, sound, and appreciated by the folks that are living there. Once you get on the transit corridor, every element, every objective that Light Rail was providing is being provided by BRT. And so, in terms of reliability through put capacity, all of those things. And in fact, given that it's an electric vehicle, BRT is offering a quieter ride, one that is void of noise pollution, vibration, and any other types of pollution. So there -- I mean, that's just a bit of the reasoning behind the locally preferred alternative. It is our job to inform folks that are, you know, wondering where that investment went, to inform them that it's very much there. And to inform them that once their -- you know, we'll continue the conversation. As we speak, some of my colleagues are down at City Hall having that conversation. But we stand behind the locally preferred alternative."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And so when you say, locally preferred alternative, I guess, I'm a little confused because you started out by saying, you have spoken to the people in that area."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I represent that area. No one has spoken to me."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "I -- you know, there are multiple opportunities to have engagement and you're more than welcome to reach out to us outside of this process and continue that conversation. But the locally preferred alternative is the term given to the result of a continuous engagement process. So -- you know, those are the -- that's the title. There are metrics behind it and we can have a fulsome discussion about that at any time you like."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Yeah, because from my understanding the local -- locally preferred alternative is Light Rail."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "That's -- okay. We can have that conversation, but that's not the statistics that we have. We'll share them with you."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis and Vice Chair Hausmann."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Hey, Mr. Greenwood. Thanks for the presentation -- but thanks for the presentation and certainly, you know, welcome and we appreciate you stepping in and into the leadership role in a very big way. I just had sort of two questions. I appreciate the ridership slide. I'm glad we have that in there. I'm just curious about any additional commentary on specific things or different things that MARTA is looking at doing to kind of increase ridership or move ridership up, particularly in, you know, maybe if there are pocketed areas, where it's still not really come back. So that's my first question. Maybe you can address that and then I've got one more --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- that's sort of entirely separate."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Thank you. When it comes to ridership, we have been taking a data-driven approach to look at where we are losing ridership and where the return has been more pronounced than others. Oddly enough, we find that, you know, the a.m. and p.m. peak periods are the ones that are slower to return, suggesting that, you know, traditional travel times and work obligations are not what there were pre-COVID. What we're doing about it, though, is a couple things. One is spreading the message that MARTA has never left. So whenever people are coming -- are comfortable coming back to public transit, we are here, we've never left. We've been very public about our cleaning efforts and our disinfection efforts, moving that function out into the public to improve their confidence in the process. We're also taking the opportunity, while ridership is lower, to double down on our efforts to make sure that our

stations are cleaner, that our vehicles are cleaner, and actually investing in things like, our TR4 track renovation program while the ridership was down. So TR4 just ended last week. Very successfully. We actually, a head of the time, are allowing our trains to travel faster through the designed area. So it's a lot of -- a lot of our efforts are really grass root customer-basing efforts to entice people to come on back."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "And we talked about some other things, such as the new rail cars and electric buses that are a nod to the future. But in the meantime, we fully recognize we need to do what we can now to get today's ridership back."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Thanks for that. And my second question, you may not have the answer to this or you may want to have the discussion outside of this. But on the first 100 bus rapid transit, you know, you noted that GDOT is expected to issue this new RFP in early fall. Is it set in stone, kind of, the scope of the RFP and whether it not it will be the same sort of scope? Or are there discussions or is there an opportunity to have discussion about expanding the scope of the RFP to pick up cost associated with, you know, capital construction related to BRT?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Yeah. I would say, we're not in a set-it-and-forget-it mode. We are preparing to initiate policy working group and technical working groups similar to the 285 approach. And in those conversations, specific issues can be addressed."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "In terms of the -- I mean, I realize that sort of getting this RFP out there and all that sort of stuff has been, you know, the state's had its challenges, where they'd obviously have pulled them back. In terms of the timeline to get a decision made around that, and including that within the scope, I mean, how -- when would that need to be done? I mean, do you have a sense of that?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "I would have to get back to you on that --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "I know we're still investigating our, you know, exploring our funding options and our commitments. So time frame is the other thing I can get a --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "-- good answer back to you."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Maybe when we can have some, you know, further --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- discussions around that. I guess, sooner rather than later, that would be great. Thanks."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Good to see you. Thanks for being here. And again, thanks for stepping up into the leadership role unexpectedly. And we appreciate all you're doing and welcome to Fulton County. I guess we'll be seeing a lot of you in the future. Commissioner Ellis did ask one of my questions. And I do know that, you know, as far as paying to the public for the construction phase, it would be great if we could condense the timeline to include construction simultaneously for both projects. And so, you know, I -- anything that we can do to emphasize that, I think would be a benefit to the community. And also, you know, with the IIJA funding that's out there now, I'm curious what sort of efforts y'all are making to make sure that we're maximizing our request for assistance through those programs. And if you could get us that information, perhaps we can partner with you on the ask to help move that along. I know our federal lobbying team is here. I hope y'all have connected today because I think it's really important that we coordinate that as much as possible to maximize, you know, our outcomes."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Thank you, Ms. Hausmann. We will be doing exactly that. And that is a goal of ours to maximize the outcomes and partnering with the lobby team and some of our MARTA folks have already been meeting with them including Ms. Hardage this morning. So we'll continue that conversation with that goal in mind."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Very good, I appreciate that. But again, I do think that it's important for us to be informed of what you're actually trying to accomplish when -- with regards to the IIJA funding. And the conversation earlier about BRT, Light Rail, I -- I mean, you weren't around when we went through the extensive planning process with our expansion plan. We looked at everything, you know, we did site visits throughout the country. We, you know, everybody only was familiar with Heavy Rail. We ruled it out because of the costs. We also chose BRT primarily for that same reason because it was more affordable and quicker and more flexible and all of the reasons that I'm sure your data supports. But I do know there is some conversation still ongoing in different pockets

of your service area that includes Light Rail. And so I think would be helpful for us to see the big picture."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Sure."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "What you're planning, where, where it connects. I mean, I know that it's unlikely for people to want to change modes multiple times to get to their destination. So I think the connectivity piece is important. But, you know, to take one little section alone without understanding what it connects to and all of the other pieces, really is not, I think, understandable. So I think it would be helpful all of us because you know, what we're talking about with Campbellton Road is in Atlanta. We don't really have any input, from a legislative perspective, on what happens in Atlanta. We have Board representation and we have overlap with the County Commission in the city of Atlanta obviously. So we do -- we do -- it is a concern, but anyway, I just think in your next update, perhaps you can just provide us with a broader look. You know, I hear Clayton County is getting some lines now under construction, which is great. Just the overall picture would be very helpful."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Understood. We will bring that back, in terms of a full sequence plan and the various modes in the various areas. I think sometimes the conversation, some conversations are happening now with a view on, you know, time lines associated with the federal fiscal year. But more importantly is, making sure that all of our service areas understand what the plan is for everyone going forward. So we'll do that."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Thank you. I mean, it matters to us that we have a system that takes people where they need to go --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Today and tomorrow."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "-- in the easiest way possible. So, you know, that's our goal. Thank you."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, MARTA INTERIM CEO:** "Thank you."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Commissioner Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Vice Chair Hausmann. First of all I want to say, I am a supporter of MARTA, a staunch supporter because we cannot be where we need to be or even move to where we need to be without the partnership of MARTA. So I want to first say that. Also want to say, I appreciate you standing up to the role that you're in. A lot of the previous conversations that were had, may not have included you. And so I just want individuals to know that when we're looking at Light

Rail and we're looking at the BRT and other things that all -- everyone needs to be at the table. I was so glad to meet with the federal lobbying team on yesterday. And I expressed to them some of the challenges in the community because the information doesn't always trickle down. Do you put the chicken before the egg? Do you bring the development first, then you bring the Light Rail, or does the Light Rail encourage the development? I also think that when we're looking at MARTA's participation, we need to look at the participation of what our Board members here do. You know, Alicia Ivey was a great voice at the MARTA Board and she was removed. And so I know a lot of our citizens in Southwest Atlanta and South Fulton County were concerned about that because of this very reason of not having all the voices at the table. I can only tell you with my community interaction, what are some of the concerns. But while I'm telling you the concerns, I am also going on record, I support MARTA. I think we need to work to make sure that all of the community has a voice at the table. But more importantly, we need to understand when we're talking about transportation, when we're talking about dollars, when we're talking about construction time, some things are quicker, some things are longer. And we have to be in the mindset of what the long vision is. So the only plea, if it is a plea at this point, is to make sure that our committee -- community partners -- I'm concerned that Commissioner Arrington says nobody talked to him. You know, he is a representative, he represents that area. I represents that -- I represent that area as well. And so I think it's very important that the communication gets filled down. And I know that you all are all trying very hard to do that. And I have a partnership with you all and with my constituency base to make sure that information gets out. But I think we need to understand that it is a two-way street. The voices that sit on that MARTA Board is just as important as the person that's standing here making the presentation. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for this presentation. It is outstanding. Welcome. And I hope that you're being acclimated into this huge environment. If you need anything from me, my -- you're welcome to contact me. I have known two of your closest employees Colleen Kiernan and Melissa Mullinax for many, many years, before I was even elected, before I was even Chief of Staff to the late Commissioner Joan Garner, back during the time when I worked for City Hall. And so I know that these are two extraordinary women. And they always keep me updated on what's going on with MARTA. I'm so proud to see that you have under construction at the Georgia World Congress Center, HE Holmes, and on the west side of Atlanta, Bankhead. But also, just throughout Fulton County because I believe in transportation and I believe that it spurs economic development. And that is something that we all want to see in Atlanta and in Fulton County. So thank you for all of your hard work. And thank you for stepping up to the plate."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Other comments or questions? Thank you so much. Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** **"22-0147:** Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority Quarterly Update."

**KATHRYN FLOWERS-GLASCO, CHAIRWOMAN, FDHA:** "Thank you, Chairman Pitts and Commissioners for the opportunity to come before you today. My name is Kathryn Flowers and I'm the Chair of the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority. And today with me I have, Bernie Tokarz, fellow Board Member, Rick Shackelford; and our CEO Jevon Gibson. Thank you, again. We have not been here in a while. We've had a lot of changes. Most of our Board Members are new. But I came back to report to you today that we have a great working relationship. We are working on our strategic plan, should have that completed shortly. And we will be able to come back with more progress. So right now, I'd like to go ahead and turn it over to Mr. Gibson."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. My name is Jevon Gibson, I am the CEO of the Fulton County -- DeKalb -- excuse me, I'm sorry -- Hospital Authority. Please, next slide. As our Chair Flowers shared, this has been a year of transition. We have five new trustees. I want to introduce you to our Board of Trustees. We have Kathryn Flowers-Glasco, who is our Chair; Bernie Tokarz, who is the Vice Chair; Pastor Eric Thomas, who is our Secretary; Shannon Georgecink, who is our Treasurer. A number of new appointees here. Alicia Ivey, is our Board; Mr. Rick Shackelford, who's here with me; Representative Karen Bennett; as well as Mr. Thomas W. Dorch, III. Next slide, please. A part of the transition that you see is our staff is significantly shorter than it has been in the past. Again, we have our Chief Operations Officer Mr. Josh Murfree; our Director of Community Engagement Mrs. Beverly Burks; Ashley Yates is our Program Associate; and Mr. Montrez Ruffin is the Executive Assistant. Next slide, please. A few things I want to take into consider -- would like for you to take into consideration before I go forward, part of the transition in the nascent stages of my role here, I was tasked with making sure that we sort of reflected and revisited, what is the role of the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority. What is that role with respect to the healthcare ecosystem here in Georgia with respect to Grady. And how does our mission and vision align with that role? Our trustees came together in the nascent stages of our strategic planning process and decided that we needed to revisit the mission. The mission that they came up with, Commissioners is that through collaboration with Grady and innovative strategies, we will improve health outcomes in Fulton and DeKalb. The vision that we've established that the FDHA will be a resource for creative solutions that support the delivery of quality and innovative healthcare and preventative services to ensure equity for all residents of Fulton and

DeKalb. I think we recognize the past year and the past two years have demonstrated the role that healthcare plays with respect to overall health and wellness for the residents of Fulton and DeKalb Counties. And so we've decided to make that center, first and paramount in the work that we do. I want to take a quick moment to give you a recap of what happened in 2021. Of course, I was appointed the new CEO. We had five new Trustees join the Board, which is tantamount to a entire shift in the landscape of our Board. Five staff transitioned within the first four to five months to new organizations, including our CFO and our Chief Health Policy Administration Officer. Myself, being new in the role that means a shift of probably 50 to 60 percent of our C-suite staff, as well as a move in the institutional knowledge associated the organization. We press forward. Our Trustees decided to level set the organization and begin the strategic planning process. The process was designed to celebrate the successes and the efforts of the Board up until that point. And also to build on those successes and identify opportunities to move forward. Our Trustees agreed that the organization's core values must be rooted in transparency, accountability, and professionalism. Next slide, please. So there are a few planning core assumptions that we made. These core assumptions are sort of the core drivers of the work that we're doing as an organization. It's the drivers of the role that the FDHA will play as we move forward in Georgia's healthcare ecosystem. Regarding healthcare, we recognize in our work, and I definitely recognize in my time as the CEO, the role that Grady Hospital plays in the healthcare ecosystem in Fulton and DeKalb and beyond. In my time I've had an opportunity to actually have to visit the Grady ER and see in the height of the Omicron pandemic, with one of our Trustees, and see the type of work that the staff there had to undergo. It is tantamount, Commissioners, to war footing in that ER during that time. It was amazing. The resilience of the doctors and nurses only gave me additional fortitude to make sure that we supported Grady in their efforts. Regarding healthcare, we said the FDHA and Grady are conjoined partners in the effort to ensure that all residents of Fulton and DeKalb have access to quality healthcare. Health and wellness are drivers and indicators of a host of interrelated social and economic outcomes. And because of that, we recognize that it's incumbent upon us to make sure that we have partnerships with a number of agencies and organizations in Fulton that drive healthcare outcomes across social determinants of health. Regarding our work, we believe as an organization that form follows of function. That the FDA structure, mission, and focus must be representative of the purpose of the organization. One could argue that in the past there may have been some departure from that purpose. Others may argue that it was from of innovation. What I believe is that it sits somewhere between the intersection of the two. That is as an organization, it is incumbent upon us to evolve as the needs of our community evolves. We also believe that it is incumbent upon us to remain true to the mandate that was given to us by law. Regarding our organizational culture, this is a space that I think is extremely important. We believe,

moving forward, that our organizational culture must be one of transparency, accountability, and professionalism. And these are the minimum standard for the agency. We believe that responsiveness -- a responsive organization must be willing to evolve as the needs of the stakeholders and constituents evolve. And lastly, we believe that we must be innovative; that par for the course or status quo is not the direction that we need to go. Lastly, I want to leave you with key initiatives that we're working on currently, as Chair Flowers-Glasco shared with you. We are in the -- in finishing up our strategic planning process. And part of that strategic planning process was, community listening sessions. We were very fortunate, in Fulton County; we had some 32 organizations on our community listening sessions and stakeholders. And it was incredible feedback. And some of the information we knew. Some of the information we didn't know. But we knew that it was extremely important, and our Trustees agreed to hear from our community partners. We're going to restructure the staffing model so that it more directly aligns with the function of the organization. We're going to retool our internal controls and operations so that there's standardization and accountability. We'll complete the strategic planning process and define what our organizational priorities will be for the next three years. We'll also standardize our grant making, our monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure continuity across long- and short-term grants. Externally, we will work closely with Grady to identify opportunities to collaborate around issues related to health equity, wellness, and emerging best practices. We'll also work very closely with and to engage our community partners, who we have historically worked with extremely well. We also, of course, count this Commission as one of our core partners and driver around the healthcare work that this organization does. We'll continue to engage our community partners in the evolution of our work through grant making and educational initiatives. And lastly, we'll continue to listen intentionally to our community partners and stakeholders to ensure that Grady and the FDHA is responsive to their needs. That it's, next slide, please. This is my email address. I've had the good fortune of meeting a number of you in passing and in various settings. I sincerely hope that those of you who I haven't had the opportunity to meet, I will in the near future. The purpose of this sort initial orientation is just to orient you to where the FDHA is. Please, I'm open to any questions you may have, Commissioners."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you very much. Commissioner Ellis, followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for the presentation, Mr. Gibson, and for the Board Members for -- Board of Trustees Members for being here with us as well. Since you're going through a strategic planning process and, you know, and maybe what I'm about apposite is not necessarily a question, but more just a statement of opinion that I hope is being considered in your strategic planning. You know,

we're -- we have different authorities, you know, kind of, that operate within the county. You know, there are folks that sit on this Board that also sit on, you know, other authority, you know, as Board Members. So we sit in the shoes of some of your Board of Trustees as well, in some in those roles. And in many of those, those are structures where the authority acts as the owner of something, right? And in the constructs of those Boards, really, our function becomes more of an administrative and a monitoring kind of role in the action of the authority, not and operator, right? Yeah, so we got a recreational authority, we lease it out to the Hawks. There's a contract, they run it, you know, there's stuff about, you know, facilities and that sort of stuff and all that. We don't get into basketball operations or, you know, trying to become a, you know, recreation provider, if you will, okay? So, you know, you're the owner of Grady, right? There's, you know -- and so my statement and maybe my question, in terms of your having the -- in terms of the strategic planning kind of process, I hope, is one of the questions on the table, are we an administrative and monitoring and sticking through to what, you know, kind of is required of us? Or is -- or are you evaluating whether or not there's sort have been mission creep over into other areas that really may not necessarily, while they may be worthwhile issues, they're maybe not necessarily relate the function and purview for which the authority was established. So that's -- that's really my, you know, question and commentary. And maybe that's something that y'all are still going through and wrestling with. And if that's the case, you know, we got to -- when you come back, or, you know, off cycle, you know, I -- I'd -- I want to hear some of the discussion around it."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Well, Commissioner Ellis, to your point, I think that a part of reason why our Trustees decided, early on, to really reflect on the legal and monitoring oversight responsibilities of the Hospital Authority was to ensure that we didn't do just that; to ensure that the work that we were doing was directly aligned with our legal and regulatory obligations. I think Grady -- and John is here now -- can attest to the fact that our approach, from my time in this role, has been to work collaboratively with Grady with the understanding that Grady, GMHC has oversight of the day-to-day functions of the organization. And then we, as the FDHA, have a responsibility to ensure that Grady is properly resourced, honoring their obligations, but as a partner in that effort and not necessarily cross pollinating work and in -- with clear delineation in our roles. So to your point, Commissioner Ellis, I think that particular piece has been cleared up early on in the strategic planning process. I think that we sort of went over our core assumptions. And it was the reason why we revisited our legal monitoring and oversight responsibilities."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. And, you know, kind of embedded within that too, you know, kind of the, you know, there's a notion that, you know, that, you know, authorities have been doing, you know, you've been doing some grants, right? And there's nothing wrong with that in terms of where it's been focused at, right? But there's a wrestle point

and a question that, you know, hopefully, they just sort of been discussed as a Board, or maybe it will be discussed as a Board that, is that the most appropriate use of that funding or should that funding be plowed back into the system somehow directly, right? You know, where, you know, it might be more impactful and really more, you know, in line with, you know, kind of the mission and the orientation of what the Hospital Authorities is about. You know, so because it's grant making, in and of itself, sounds great. But it's -- it -- we know it because we're very -- I mean, look, we're one point -- what are -- what's our overall budget, one and a half billion or something like that? It's hard oftentimes for us to administer grant programs. And, you know, the cost of those and the effectiveness of them and that sort of stuff. You know, it requires a lot of manpower and resources, right? So, you know, the smaller you are as an authority, does that necessarily make sense to continue to do? Is it cost-effective? You know, can it really be impactful? Can you really have the monitoring oversight and impact around it, or does it become, like, oh, we got a bunch of stuff here, we got to make decisions on it and, you know, maybe we put our money back into this or that and maybe it has some impact and maybe it doesn't. You know, so that's the kind of thing I, you know, as you come back the next time, I would be, you know, kind of interesting -- if y'all got comments on right now, I'm interested in them. Or is it kind of the results of your strategic process, I'd be interested in hearing as well."

**KATHRYN FLOWERS-GLASCO, CHAIRWOMAN, FDHA:** "Yeah. I think that was sort of the impetus for us revisiting what direction we were going in. One thing we knew is that we needed to develop a better relationship with Grady. We needed to be better partners with them and to work more closely with them. And so one of the things that we're going to do is revisit the grant. We didn't have the proper measurements in place. So I think most of the Board Members now, we all agreed that just to throw money out without any measurements and any direction that's targeted, was not the best use of those dollars. And so we have thought about it. We are going to be meeting with Grady because we want to align with what they want to do, with the understanding that healthcare is changing, the direction is changing. And how can we have an impact with the resources that we have. So we have not finalized that, but our job is not to overstep and overreach with Grady."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Commissioner Ellis, I also want to offer -- and you're well aware that the Hospital Authorities are a unique in their structure. The FDHA is unique in that, we touch multiple parts of the healthcare ecosystem. It creates a challenge, but it also creates an opportunity. And I think that the work that we do in community, when properly challenged, when properly -- when channeled, and properly focused, can also support and add value to the work that's happening at Grady. And so the thought and the hope is through this process, as Chair Flowers says, as this process

evolves, we can find ways to make sure that impact is measured, can be quantified and qualified, and it shows the value proposition of the resources that are being invested."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right. Thank you, both."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I want to -- a couple of things I want to say; but first and foremost, the Women's History Month. I want to thank Kathryn Flowers for her leadership. I know at the beginning, it was a little rocky with my relationship with the Board, you know? And of course, your back up, the Vice Chair Bernie. But I'm glad we worked through it. I appreciate what I consider to be strides for better communication. But I would be remiss if I didn't say that I appreciate your leadership, Kathryn, you weathered some storms. And so I wanted to openly say that I do appreciate that. I also wanted to say to the CEO, I appreciate you reaching out to me. Your continued support of the community and reaching out to me for what I would consider the pulse of the community in a lot of ways. I know the concern about the Grady building across from the Hamilton E. Holmes Station is an issue. But I also know that you all are taking that very seriously. And I wanted to openly let the constituents know today that you all are taking that seriously. You all are doing everything in your power to make sure you balance the decisions that you all are making. And so even though I would be the first one to say, at the beginning, it was a little rocky. I appreciate what you all have done in this very short amount of time in repairing, restoring, but making sure that the community knows that you all are not undertaking actions and leaving them out. And so I just wanted to make sure that I openly say I appreciate what you all are doing and I support the vision that you all have. Thank you."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Thank you, Commissioner."

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

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good to see all of y'all down here today. I'm really pleased to hear that you're moving in a great direction with your strategic plan and the purpose of your organization. I -- we've had a lot of conversations over the years about exactly what are you doing? What should you be doing? And how that's helping Grady, which obviously, is our -- all of our goal here is to work closely with Grady and make sure that they have what they need to serve our community. I'm glad to see so many folks from Grady here today. That's a good sign as well of that collaboration. And I know that you spoke of the emergency room issues and we all are really appreciative of the good work going on at Grady every day, whether there's a pandemic or not. If you're in trouble, you do want to end up at Grady Hospital. And I want to say

that for the record that there is excellent work going on at Grady and we appreciate it. And, you know, we've had some conversations in the last month or so about some of the challenges that are happening at Grady. And Mr. Chairman, I don't know if we're going to take the opportunity to discuss that since we do have representatives from the hospital here, especially in the area of nursing shortages."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes. As soon as they finish their presentation, I'm going to recognize Mr. Haupert and ask him to --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "-- very good. I think we needed to take advantage of that opportunity to have that additional conversation. So thanks again for being here."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to thank the entire Board of Trustees. There are many great people on this Board now. And from Thomas Dortch, III, otherwise known as Trey, and Alicia Ivey, and my appointee, Pastor Eric Thomas and so many others. Bernie, you know, I've known you for some years now. And Kathryn, I still have your thank you note that you sent to me, written by hand. And that was very nice of you. But Mr. Gibson, it was a pleasure to meet you some months ago at a Women's breakfast in honor of Xernona Clayton. We had an outstanding conversation at our table. As God would have it, you sat right next to me and it was an outstanding conversation. So I didn't expect anything less than what we're seeing today. I knew that you were going to be a great addition to the staff. And you have a great group of staff. So I'm looking forward to the continued work between yourself and your staff and the Board of Trustees. So thank you very much."

**JEVON GIBSON, CEO, FDHA:** "Thank you. It's an honor."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any other comments? Just one. Ms. Flowers, Ms. Alicia Ivey and I've spent quite a bit of time talking about the need for a forensic audit. Have y'all taken that up yet?"

**KATHRYN FLOWERS-GLASCO, CHAIRWOMAN, FDHA:** "We will be bringing that to the Board in our meeting this month."

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

**KATHRYN FLOWERS-GLASCO, CHAIRWOMAN, FDHA:** "And one of the things that I know that I shared with Ms. Ivey is that this Board has been transparent in everything that it is doing. And that means that every single Board Member will know what is going on

and will have a voice in that decision. So thank you. And thank you again for the opportunity to present today."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank y'all for being here. And as was mentioned earlier, Mr. John Haupert is here from -- CEO of Grady. Come on down, please sir. It's great that you are here. We need to take advantage of your presence because we want to bring up later on in our meeting, but we may as well do it now, the situation at Grady in particular regarding the nursing shortage."

**JOHN HAUPERT, GRADY CEO:** "Sure."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But you might want to address the relationship between Grady and the Authority, and then transition to the nursing shortage."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "Thank you, Chairman. Chairman Pitts and Members of the Board of Commissioners, it really is an honor to be here today in the flesh, not through little boxes. Grady and our leadership team have such an established relationship with all of you; and we managed to actually do an orientation for Commissioner Abdur-Rahman via WebEx, and had a great interchange there, and look forward to hosting you at Grady to further that orientation. Quick comment about what you just heard from the FDHA: I have been serving as the President and CEO of Grady and Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation for a little over ten years -- hard to believe -- and by far, this Board -- this Board of Trustees and Jevon is an absolute godsend. All of the questions you have asked today have been right on the money, and that Board, and Jevon are definitely streamed that organization in the direction that you all have set forth. It is by far the best working relationship I've had with the FDHA since being here, and I appreciate Jevon and Kathryn's leadership in that and the Full Board. Joining me today, of course you know, Kim Jefferson, our General Counsel; Matt Hicks, our Chief Policy Officer, and Anthony Saul, you may not know, but Anthony became Grady's Chief Financial Officer in October. He was working internally, had come to us from [Phonetic.] OSHNER in Louisiana; and was working as our senior VP of Finance and when the CFO position came open, there was no doubt who needed to fill that role. So, Anthony has been in that role. Just want to share with you a few comments -- I think we do have a presentation -- do we Dick? May or may not be in there?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yeah, I'm not sure the Clerk has that since we received it last night."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "No problem at all. So needless to say in the last two plus years have been for me in healthcare administration the most challenging of my career and clearly the most challenging for people who work in the healthcare field.

December of 2019, Grady was faced with a massive internal disaster. A flood that knocked out 220 of our adult inpatient beds. Right on the heels of that was the beginning of the pandemic. The other area hospitals stepped up. During that period of time to help take part of that volume that we could no longer accommodate, but in record time, Grady was able to get those beds back online and to restore all the services that had been lost. Healthcare workers have left the healthcare field in significant number since the beginning of this pandemic. It's estimated that nationwide 20 percent of healthcare workers have left the hospital environment because of the workload, the stress, and the fear. In particular, nurses have left that environment to seek environments that are less stressful such as in physician offices or ambulatory surgery centers. As a result of that, Grady is facing a short-term and long-term issue. Now, the short-term issue is the high cost of recruiting and then retaining enough nurses and staff which is leading to a - the first time in ten years, a budget shortfall for us. Our Board, years ago, established a net income target for the organization of 3 percent. That's what is required to fund the capital needs and the repair costs for that, for the institution. During the pandemic that has been revised down to one and a half percent; and so, coming into 2022, we had budgeted one and a half percent margin, but the significant increase and costs for nursing labor is now putting us in a position where we will be in a loss position of 5 percent to 6 percent negative margin in 2022. The state of Georgia throughout the pandemic has helped in numerous ways. Part of the nursing labor issue we're experiencing is the result of many states in the country stepping up to supplement nurse staffing in hospitals within their state. Truly, not knowing what the ramifications that would be, they were purely – they were of pure intent in trying to help the situation, but in doing so, they hired nursing agencies to bring nursing labor in to their states to help fill the gap. But those rates climbed continuously throughout the pandemic and so we have found ourselves with nursing agencies now charging \$200 to \$220 per hour for an agency nurse of which approximately a hundred dollars an hour goes to the nurse. The state for a long period of time supplied and covered that cost to the tune of \$54 million. They, at the end of November, discontinued that support and at that time there were approximately a hundred and one nurses at Grady being funded by the state that then had to convert to Grady's costs from the state. And so, that has been a big hit. The state stepped back in at the beginning of the Omicron surge, but in a limited way and those resources will be discontinued in April. So, the short-term issue is we have this funding gap and we've been in discussions with Dick Anderson, and with Chairman Pitts as well as the leader of DeKalb County about how we collaboratively can approach bridging that gap. On a longer-term basis, we are taking very proactive steps and partnering with Georgia State University school of nursing. We are partnering with Georgia State and a local foundation who is going to put up over \$20 million to work with both of us to significantly

increase the number of nursing graduates coming out of the Georgia State nursing program and Grady will be the primary training site for those nurses for their in-hospital training and that is to come. So, just a few points to make: Federal funding through the CARES Act expired in June of this past year. The funding that came to us through the CARES Act was approximately \$154 million for that time period. But there has been no additional federal funding flowing to hospitals in the US since then. So, none of the excess costs or lost revenue during the Delta surge or Omicron surge have been covered through federal funds. So we're left with a high and growing rate of pay for nurses. The market for nursing wages is far from settled. In my conversations with Dick, I've shared with him, well actually, we spent a lot of time together over the last two plus years in addressing the COVID pandemic, but the crystal ball goes very dark about where this is going to settle down – where these labor rates are going to settle. The national labor market shortage of nurses continues to increase. Just a few key points the week of February 14th, 46% of Georgia hospitals reported critical staffing shortages of nurses. As of January 24<sup>th</sup>, there were 35,000 open travel RN job postings in Georgia, and at that same time there were 83,000 job postings for nurses in Georgia. Eighty-three vacant – 83,000 vacant nursing positions in Georgia. Georgia has the 5th lowest per capita supply of nurses in the country, and rates 44th in the number of nurses within the state with active licenses. So, Georgia is not in great shape going into this. Over this period of time of the pandemic, the average cost for a nurse has gone from \$89,000 all in costs, employment cost-benefits and all; up to now \$143,000 on average. Grady employs fewer FTEs overall at this point than we did last year, but in our budget -- our budget reflected a \$60 million increase in labor costs because of this issue. So, let me just briefly share with you what we have done internally to address these runaway nursing agency costs. I shared with you a minute ago that a nursing agency will charge us 200 -- 220 an hour for a traveler agency nurse, but only about a hundred dollars of that actually gets to the nurse. In the Omicron surge because it was the highest volume surge we have experienced to date. At the peak, Grady had 280 COVID patients in the hospital. Of the prior four surges, the highest number was 140. So, 280 ended up occupying almost 45 percent of all of our inpatient beds. So, it became truly overwhelming. That happened nationwide and nurses began to travel in even greater numbers. So, towards -- in January, we made the decision that we would rather pay Grady nurses the agency rate or the dollars they would get from the agency rather than paying the agency \$120 more than that for that person. And so that, that position has been adopted by many different hospitals nationwide, but where we may have had nurses starting rates in certain areas at \$35 an hour, that's now \$80 an hour. In critical care areas where that may have been \$60 an hour, that's now \$100-220 an hour. The agreement we've come to is that we are writing 12-week contracts with our nurses to be paid at that rate, but at that rate they have to volunteer to work one extra

shift and one weekend per month. Once we launched that program, there was a huge uptick, by our nurses in that program. And so, we have had over right at 50 percent or a little over 50 percent of the bedside nurses take us up on that offer. Here again, it's in 12-week segments. We are in the middle of the first 12-weeks. We've already committed to another 12. As I've shared with the Chairman and with Dick, the lack of predictability to where this job market is going to settle now that Omicron has become less of an issue, is still to be determined. There is significant cost during this first quarter to Grady of both staffing the agency that remains and is contracted with us through the end of March and ramping up our own program, the projected loss due to that one issue is a little over \$22 million. And so, we have gone to the leadership of both counties to discuss how the counties can support us in helping offset that loss in the first quarter understanding that both counties are already locked into their budgets and moving forward with what was planned, but this is a dire situation. This is the first time I've ever come to the counties other than the generous capital fund you provided for the Correll Pavilion. This is the first time I've come to you asking for operational support above and beyond what you normally provide. And so, I shared with Sharon -- we based that split between or actually we're in an agreement about how we split that amount between the two counties and that's based on the charity care provided to each county and so Fulton County is about 56 percent of that, Dekalb County around 44 percent of that. This is really for information today, understanding that we still need to work through the leadership in both counties to determine is there a way to help offset this cost. It is an urgent issue. Grady maintains, at any given time, 60 to 70 days cash on hand which is significantly lower than what you would see at other hospitals, but it is indicative of a public safety-net type of hospital. Per policy we can't go below 60 days because of our arrangements with our banks, and per Board policy, we cannot go below 60 days. And so, there's very little cash available to address this issue. And so, with that, without rambling on and on, I'll open it up to any questions you may have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Mr. Haupert. Excuse me. Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Hall. No, Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Alright Commissioner Ellis, then Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'll just a few things and maybe this is – probably more falls in a category of things that you can kind of follow back up with when you get the information on. But, sort of, one comment, I mean and kind of – I don't want to put words in your mouth, but kind of a little bit of what I heard that you know while you know we've known there's going to be a nursing shortage for, you can go back you know five to ten years that was sort of predicted right; so, we've been kind of heading in that direction. Certainly, different aspects of COVID have helped accelerate that. People wanting to leave the profession early, didn't want to, you know, deal with the mandate

whatever kind of stuff, shift whatever kind of work they were doing, but I also seem to hear you say a little bit that you know kind of the countrywide that states push to drop in you know via federal funding, you know a lot of money into this is basically artificially led to a lot of wage inflation."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "I would agree with that. I think that the advent of this large demand for travelers came through that--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "—came through that—"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "--I think you would have seen without -- if the state's hadn't gone there, you would have all – you would have seen health system take some type of action—"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "—right—"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "--I can't predict whether that would have been expensive. My speculation is that it would not have—"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "—right—"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "--but here again, the states felt that they were doing a great thing; and at the time, we all thought that too. But as we begin to see where that was headed, it with driving wage inflation, and it became a big concern."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So, there may be some level of artificial stuff; I mean wages probably definitely going up; but we'll, you know, kind of remain at that level. But there's probably some level of artificial inflation within that given kind of what transpired - got a bunch of money thrown at it and it was like, 'let's all go chase it'. Okay, okay, so that's part of it."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "I agree with that."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "One thing that it would be helpful for me to see would be you know kind of the sort of the overall - whether it came through the states whether it came directly from the Feds, sort of the totality of money that the funding that came into the system sort of and you know how that was used and all that sort of stuff so you know something along those lines you know. I realized it was 154 CARES, but it was also the other money through the state like you're referencing; sort of, we could get a better picture of that and a better understanding of that sort of schematically --"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “--it's pretty much just those two numbers \$154 million in CARES Act from the Feds to offset increased expenses or lost revenue and then the 54 million in labor support from the state.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “I guess over what that time and how you used it and that sort of stuff and what the requirements were. I guess if the state stopped doing it, I'm kind of curious why did they stop doing it? I mean, what was sort of the --you said they stepped back in for a little bit during the Omicron piece, they now dialed it back -- sort of what's the rationale that the states put forward with that?”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “What we were told was that they had realized how that mechanism was driving up wages --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--okay --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “--and didn't want to be a part of that problem.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. But they may -- but they stepped back in during -- they gave that position, but then they stepped back in during when you had the uptick.”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “So, you know, I believe, and Matt can correct me, but that first round of funding came through CARES Act funding and then they were using some of their ARP funding for the second wave. But, it was a much smaller amount for a much more limited time whereas before there had been over a hundred positions funded during this period from probably mid-January end of April it's 50. So, those will -- that will again go away at the end of April.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay, I guess municipalities and so forth were, and counties were eligible to make application for to the state for funding for ARPA money. Were hospital systems in that same position as well?”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “Very much so and we did.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay.”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “As you know, the Governor has announced two huge tranches of funding --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- right --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “--around broadband and then around water improvement in the states. So, those two huge buckets out of ARP funds have gone forward --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- right --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “--there's a third bucket that's also related to infrastructure that hospitals were able to participate in, and that has not yet worked its way through --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- okay--”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “-- the mechanism nor an announcement that may. We have been – we're in continuous discussions with the state with the Governor's office and they're looking at various options, but none of those options would come close to rectifying this, this cost.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “What's the amount of funding that Grady applied for?”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “Well actually, Grady's Board made a determination that we've known and you've known for a long time that Grady needs additional inpatient beds to meet the demand. And so, we came up with a facility plan that would allow us to use some of the existing facility to do that expansion and we applied to the state for those expansion dollars. So, it's capital dollars, not operating funds --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--right --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “--for that expansion and it was around a hundred and seventy -- \$159 million.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. All right. On the your financial situation, I thought that maybe I've got the number wrong in my head, you know I thought the surplus and I realize that is not exactly the right terminology, reserves – I thought I last saw around 250 million in maybe the way it was recorded in the financials, is that --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “-- days cash on hand. So, today's cash on hand is now 258.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “So, 258 million cash on hand.”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “Yeah, but just, but floating above 60 days, and we can't go under 60 days.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “And that's a state statute or is that just your general bylaws or --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “--that's Board imposed as well as our banking partners.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Okay. Longer-term this sort of issue of cost, you know while you're all are under a slightly, slightly different situation than other hospital systems everybody's got this and their revenue streams are different. So, what I'm getting at with this question is: When does this conversation move towards or maybe it's already towards what conversations you're having with health insurers? I mean, because at the end of the day and I mean, that's how it's going to have to be collaboratively funded you know across the country if this thing is permanent, right?"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "Yes, so those discussions even on a national level are being had and so when you look at the commercial insurers, there hasn't been much receptivity to that. There has been discussion at the federal level with the Medicare program within that program those dollars that flow have a labor component to it and there is active discussion with the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington about adjusting that labor factor upward to accommodate that. But the discussion with commercial insurers won't be effective health system by health system. It has to be handled in a larger format such as the Georgia Hospital Association or even the American Hospital Association among the Board of the American Hospitalization, and we are already formulating what those discussions need to look like, sound like."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "How -- and I don't know if there have been times where -- on the federal reimbursement stuff, I mean is it like revisit once a year? Are there components that get you know periodically adjusted with this sort of real-time, and then move back down --"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "-- it's not ever been consistent --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- okay --"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "--consistent in what that time period is. But that labor component is based, it's market. It's for an entire market --"

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

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "--so, it would be Atlanta, you know --"

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

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "-- or Fulton County and it is regularly reviewed and adjusted based on the actual cost of labor."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So, I guess we have federal lobbyists in here that – is that a conversation that we should be having with our federal lobbyists?"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “-- yes --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- okay, all right. I'll stop. That's helpful. So, I appreciate that background and I may follow up with you on some other stuff. So, I'll stop talking.”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “Okay. I'll be glad to.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you, Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Thank you, Chairman. I know whenever we have conversations about money, it gets a little sticky. But what I wanted to do and I wanted, maybe you or your staff to speak to as I got a text message here. The nurses shortage when it comes to money being paid for the nurses, is very competitive. But what I would like for you to do for my constituents base especially when we met, I told you I had a lot of members in my family that were nurses and have retired from Grady. What is Grady offering in support? You hear the nurses saying they feel burned out, under appreciated. And so, I just want -- in this conversation, especially for you to speak to what Grady is doing to make sure that the nurses are cared for emotionally. Because, a lot of times when it comes down to dollars, yeah, they may have a choice, but some like to be where they have additional support especially in this environment. So, if you could just hit on that for me; I'd really appreciate it.”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “And I'm glad you asked that question, because that whole area has been fundamental toward maintaining the mental and emotional health of the workforce including and nurses. And so, we have taken a multipronged approach to making sure we can support our staff as they have worked through the obstacles that appeared in their lives, during the pandemic. I'll just speak to a few of them. But from the beginning of the pandemic, I had put in place probably seven years ago a thing called an employee hardship fund, and its employees donating to a fund to help other employees. To be honest, a lot of employees participate, but the senior executive team are the major funders of that plan. In a given year, we may get 50 requests, and maybe you know a fund, an emergency situation's \$150,000 in the first year the pandemic we met 1200 requests to the tune of \$1.5 million in hardship funding for our staff. Also, on the dollars-cent side of that because we had so many employees that whose spouses either lost jobs, and then you've got kids who are being schooled at home, and you can't provide healthcare services from home; you've got to be on-site to do it. So, there were some massive complications in people's personal lives on numerous fronts. We partnered with a local foundation -- private foundation, and they provided the funds for us to provide what I called combat pay bonuses but really retention bonuses for all Grady staff. And then, in addition, a separate pot for nurses and so that all came out of the private sector, that funding. We didn't have the funding to do that, but they were

very much interested in that. Then on the mental and emotional side, we have developed three different resiliency and mental health programs for our staff and we go to where they are and to their workgroup and/or we may -- because we are a teaching hospital, we have a psychology program, and the psychologist are making themselves available for one-on-one discussions and/or small group discussions. And then we also have a pastoral care program that we have focused heavily on the needs of employees. So, we've approached it from many different routes including establishing a special nutrition program for employees too."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Well, the reason I wanted you to speak to that, I knew everything that you just told me, but I wanted the listening audience to know because I actually know constituents who left because of the money, and came back because they felt the trade-off for what their emotion was and what the other circumstances around just was not worth it. So, I appreciate you letting the audience know that it's truly a partnership. I consider Grady family, so thank you for that."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "Thank you. Thank you so much."

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

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yes, so thanks again for that detailed explanation of the situation. You know I hope you understand we're sympathetic --"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "-- absolutely --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--but we have our constraints as well on what we can do, and I'm not sure if we heard a clear number you know and maybe you don't know it yet of what you actually think you need. And obviously projecting long-term is difficult because we don't know what the future holds, but if, you know we're going to be partners in this, I think it's reasonable to not over expect what we might could possibly do to help with the situation. So, I think we're looking for some definite ask."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "So, we in discussions with the Chairman and with Dick Anderson. The total size of the first quarter problem is 22.3 million based on how those funds get split between the two counties that would be 12.5 million from Fulton County, so--"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "-- well, you indicated you were still going to get state assistance through April 1<sup>st</sup>, so --"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "--that's already calculated into what the net number is; and we provided Dick with the more in-depth numbers."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Well that's a decision for his entire Body to make as you know. So, you know, I guess we need to see something in writing and we need to analyze it and see what we can do to help. And then we also need to of course get you know our federal partners involved to see what --"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "--sure --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--you know other resources there might be and continue the conversations with the state. I mean, I don't think we can solve it today, obviously. But it is concerning that you know these numbers are really, really escalating. I know you use the term false inflation or whatever that was, but I mean, what is the doctors cost? You know, if the nurses are making 150 to 200,000 a year, what, what's the cost of the doctors and all the other support staff? Is that also factored in here?"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "No. So, the, you know, the physician cost is -- we're contracted with Emory School of Medicine and Morehouse School of Medicine and we pay that employment costs through, through a contract with them. But you hit the nail on the head in that there is a lot of interesting conversations particularly in academic medicine where physicians usually make less than their peers working in the community because so much of their time is spent in research and teaching instead of generating you know clinical practice dollars. But we have internal medicine physicians, for example, who are making \$135,000 an hour and we have nurses now making near \$250,000 an hour. Now--"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "--per year, not hours --"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "-- oh, did I say hours? Boy wouldn't that be a deal--"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--we wouldn't have a shortage of nurses much longer --"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "-- that wouldn't have been a problem. But the physicians have a very defined number of hours worked, and they didn't -- they didn't leave. They didn't go to travelling positions. The physician workforce stayed intact and where there were needs to increase physician staffing through the medical schools, that happened as well. So that, at least from an academic environment and you know, there's only two of us really in Fulton and DeKalb and that's Emory and Grady. So that looks very different as far as that's concerned. So that has not been -- there has not been an issue with those rates; however, there are a lot of physicians sitting there going 'wow, I'm making \$150,000 a year, maybe I need to go be a nurse. Here again, we really do feel and let's all cross fingers twice that we won't see a surge like we just experienced which was the worst of the pandemic. And if COVID becomes like the flu virus and is just part of us in our world at a manageable level, then that premium

demand will diminish significantly. What we can't predict is if that scenario plays out, where will these base nursing rates land? We know they're not going to go back to \$35 to \$55 an hour. We also know that they are not going to be \$100 an hour. But that is yet the big unknown."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Well, that leads me to my final question. I know y'all have got other things to do. Where are we right now with the availability of the therapeutic center now authorized for treatment? You say we're going to have to learn to live with this. I think we are all of that mindset, but how are we going to be able to access those treatments."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "Sure. So, as you know, when the new monoclonal therapies were announced that worked on Omicron because the ones we had didn't. Those were slow to get into the market. We are now receiving some of that as well as the oral medication. Much like Tamiflu exist for the flu, the oral medication -- we have some of that. Those numbers will increase significantly and it will become more broadly available, but we have been able to provide both of those to our patients over the last several months. Just not in the numbers we had before, but we're fairly assured that that will increase."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "All right. Well again, we're sympathetic, but we have you know definite constraints --"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "-- sure --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--with what we are able to do; so, whatever you are actually -- make the ask of, just bear that in mind, please."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "-- absolutely --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "-- all right. Thank you."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "Today, I really wanted just to make everyone aware and answer questions."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Hall followed by Commissioner Morris."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gentleman, that was an awesome presentation even though I don't have it physically in front of me, you know, you always had a vision. I remember when you first arrived in Atlanta, you had just moved, selected your home, and you told Commissioner Garner and I that you were just starting

to move in to your home, but you still, you had a vision then. And, you just, upon your arrival, you embraced the Grady patients, and the Grady staff, and the community; and this is just, you know, outstanding work. I want to commend you for that. And I want to speak to the heart work. All right. The heart work. You know, people always tell my Team and I, we work so hard. And we tell them, no; it's heart work—"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "—that's right—"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--It's from our heart and we want to serve and we want to support the people, but I have to tell you that you know as a leader, you have a staff that also do heart work. And I want to acknowledge and commend two of your staff because there was a Facebook post posted by a very well-known constituent named Daphne Jordan and her husband Walter Jordan about their son. Unfortunately, he suffered some horrific injuries from a car accident. If you saw the car, you would think that he was not alive. But he survived by the grace of God. And he is in Grady hospital. And, she's actually been texting me this whole time when she saw that Grady was here and she has given me permission to read you the text message that she sent me just last night because my team member, Demetrius Myatt, saw the post and tagged me on it and said, Commissioner Hall, we have to do something about this to assist. And so, I immediately text my friend Matt Hicks who has always been that person that kind, caring and considerate person who – he just responds immediately. So, Ms. Jordan wanted me to read the text that she sent me last night. It says Austin just had a visit from the senior Vice President, Chief Experience Officer -- which she sent me a picture of the card and that person is Lindsey Caulfield, Senior VP Chief Experience Officer and she said the Senior Vice President Chief Policy Officer which is Matt Hicks, who is present with you today. And I know that your Chief Experience Officer would not have been there if it wasn't for Matt because he is the person that I actually text immediately when I saw that post. But she goes onto say, they are trying to get him into rehabilitation center. We now have a team that's working on a family plan that will involve us. Thank you for your help. And she has the smiley face with the heart eyes. So, she was very, very happy at the response. And I want to commend and acknowledge your Team because that is the kind of service that we need to show our constituents, our residents, and you and your patients. So, please continue to work on that because what she experienced, she felt was the discharge procedures just need a little bit of tweaking. And I know from Matt's response that that's going to happen. I have no – there's - I believe and know that it will happen. Thank you so much."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Morris and then back to Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “A couple of things. It’s good to see you all. Even with this bad news. You know, it’s, it’s interesting to me -- I have friends who are actually traveling nurses, they’re traveling all around the country and doing very, very well financially. And I don’t begrudge them that at all. It’s a tough job and we saw the shortage coming and somebody said earlier, it’s a little analogous to me with the police situation where, you know, everybody’s trying to outbid each other for police officers and we’re offering higher salaries and signing bonuses and everybody else is and it’s just spiraling upward. And here, it’s like on steroid here with the nurses. And we don’t know where it’s going to end. As you suggested I have a hard time imagining that the money is going to attract so many more people to the field that that’s going to drive down the cost, but may be there’s a little bit of that - I don’t know. And I guess following up on Commissioner Hausmann’s -- Vice Chair Hausmann’s comment, you mentioned what you understood the states reason for dropping out of this – it’s sort of like fueling the fire, you know, the more money we pour into it, the more money other people are going to pour into it. And does the same thing apply and affect to the county’s money that you’re suggesting here that we may be fueling that fire a little bit on a much smaller scale, obviously. But that occurred to me here as you made the comment about the state and you don’t really need to respond to it, but because I have the feeling, we are going to do whatever we can do to help. Just a couple of questions really. One is, have you looked – has there been any effort to draw retired nurses out of retirement.”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “Absolutely, yeah, we’ve been --”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “--has that been successful at all --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “--in some cases, yeah, there have been a few that have come back into the workforce. Well are more than a few. Several that were like, yeah, I’m needed. I’m up for that for a limited period of time. So, that has – it’s not been hundreds of nurses, but it has been effective.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Yeah. And I’m sure knowing so many nurses some of them sing in the choir with me in church that someone would do it because of that feeling that they’re needed and not the hundred and some dollars an hour, but that would be attractive I would think --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “-- yes --”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “--to some folks as well --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “-- it is --”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “-- well, that’s good that some of that’s happening. And I guess the last question is, I understood you to say this 22.3 million would deal with the first quarter through March 31st. Does that mean there’s going to be a second-quarter ask, and a third-quarter ask, and a fourth-quarter ask, and a 2023 ask. Do we have some, some idea about that?”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “So, I. So, what we’re dealing with in the first-quarter is the ramping up of our pay program and the overlap that that has with the traveling agency nurses. Anthony has projected that going forward per quarter what is now a \$20 million problem in this quarter will be about a seven and a half million-dollar problem.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Because of doing the pay directly to the nurse, instead of to the agencies --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “--instead of the agencies, right --”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “-- okay--”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “--so, that significantly reduces that extra hundred dollar an hour premium costs, but still projecting a quarterly issue about seven and a half million versus 20 million.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Okay, thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah, just two quick things. I mean just, number 1: I did want to go back on that whole kind of like on the reserve thing. If you could give me that data --”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “-- okay --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--and I’d be interested in sort of seeing your math on how you’re using that -- how you calculate your two month and all that sort of stuff; because as you’re doing that stagger, kind of what I’m curious -- what, my underlying question what I’m curious about is you know how can you apply some portion of your reserve to deal with this and argue, so that’s the kind – but my, the last question -- really go to jump back in on the que was, are you all eligible to apply for FEMA reimbursement; and if so, have you and/or do you plan to?”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** “Yes, and, yes.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay.”

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "In a much more limited fashion. You know, you all have a humongous expense with the vaccine center at the Mercedes Benz. I'm going to ask Anthony to comment about where we are with FEMA, and what that funding is to reimburse."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**ANTHONY SAUL, CFO, GRADY:** "Sure. We are in the process. We have applied to FEMA for approximately 15 million of reimbursable expense. And so, we're working through that process now. But, the contingent of expense that wasn't covered by CARES Act is left to that final 15 million. [Inaudible.] thinks FEMA will cover that; CARES Act would not, so --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** INAUDIBLE

**ANTHONY SAUL, CFO, GRADY:** "-- it's other supply that we were [Inaudible]"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--right, so, I guess it's that – you've already expended that money so you get reimbursed --"

**ANTHONY SAUL, CFO, GRADY:** "-- correct --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--so whatever you get back would, I know back into your, you know, reserves if you will."

**ANTHONY SAUL, CFO, GRADY:** "-- that's correct, and we can continue paying for supplies --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--okay, all right. Thanks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Further questions? All right. Mr. Haupert, thank you so much--"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "--thank you, Chairman--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--and I'm glad that you are here today, too, so the Board can hear firsthand what the situation is. Thank you--"

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "--absolutely. I appreciate your time. Thanks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And I am, I am following up on, Mr. Haupert; I'm following up on my directions from my group with CEO Thurman and the mayor of Atlanta should have that conversation that's waiting for a time with from the mayor."

**JOHN HAUPERT, CEO, GRADY:** "Okay. Thank you. Appreciate that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Colleagues it's almost 1:00. Can we get through the COVID presentation and then recess for lunch? Any objections to that? All right. Mr. Manager."

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**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. Good afternoon. All the - I think this will be short because the news is good. All the trends continue to show significant improvement with the one outlier being the daily death rate at 6.9 which is up 20 percent that is equivalent of 159 deaths in February; so, still certainly highly impactful. But the daily cases are now below 100, the positivity rate is at 3.5 percent. Hospitalization is at 250, and this new CDC guidance that's been released puts us in a low-risk category. There's still ample concern though however with the death rate and 96 percent of the time that is occurring among the unvaccinated. So, with only 59 percent fully vaccinated in Fulton County, our focus should remain with incentives, communication, and site availability and we can talk about our plans as it relates to that. As well we've taken delivery now of 160,000 of the home test kits so virtually all the ones that we have ordered and have begun distribution through clinics and libraries and now senior centers. So, as well as to our employees. So, we're making full use of that. The big news today is the additional approval or the approval of an additional 25 million in rental assistance. Let me say that again since I got no polite applause; an additional 25 million in rental assistance. That'll bring us to almost a hundred million – ninety-something million in rental assistance that will be available to our residents. So, I want to give Dr. Roshell, again, a huge amount of credit as well as DCA Commissioner Nunn for being helpful with that. As it relates to reopening: we're at a low in terms of six new cases in the most recent report. And 87 percent vaccinated -- vaccination rate for our employees; so, with the new CDC guidance that I mentioned earlier, we're going to recommend a new posture in terms of mask and vaccination requirements. We recommend that masks be encouraged in our facilities as opposed to require. The exceptions will be in the Board of Health offices, the courts, the jail, and tax Commissioner offices where we have a significant amount of contact with the public. In all of those, with the exception of the tax offices, we would expect the public to still wear a mask. And the tax office, it will be optional for the public; required for the employees. New signage is already pre-deployed and security protocol can be changed as early as this week. And so, I know there was concerns when we've changed back and forth previously given a change in policy, but we are prepared to do this quickly. Second piece of our new posture will be on Vax and Tests. We would move to encouraging vaccination with the use of the wellness credit in other words if you are vaccinated, and you continue to receive your wellness credit which is a \$250 benefit per year, but we would no longer require a weekly test. New employees; however, would be required to

provide proof of vaccination. So, this obviously is moving us more toward normalized operations. Our financial outlook is not changed. We still maintain a 26.9 million-dollar reserve, and we'll include the additional 25 million in ERAP funding in the next review; however, with that reserve, just keep in mind all of the potential calls against that reserve from ramping-up the crisis center intervention center as we've already proposed permanent supportive housing that may be discussed today. Additional CSP investments and safety net providers and then of course Grady support in the conversation just concluded. So, that all being said, we remain optimistic at this point, but still cautious. We may have some inconsistencies in masks. We've managed through that before so I think that's expected in this return to normal operations. And the primary challenge that we have right now, in addition to moving forward on all these other things is managing this changing labor environment which Grady just described from their perspective. And we are moving to finalize additional compensation enhancements for our employees for your consideration in the very near future. So with that Mr. Chairman, we're ready to take any questions from the material that's been provided or Matt, if you want to highlight, you know, any of the items."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFECMA:** "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Just page 3 in your packet. You will see major take away. Just wanted to make sure we highlight the fact that boosters are the way to go ahead and defend individuals from severe health impacts as well as death and you'll see up there the unvaccinated population is still 49 percent of our new cases; 91 percent of our new hospitalizations; and 96 percent of our new deaths. So those are things that we're concerned that we want to make sure we get your help in amplifying that message. On page 6 in your packet, you'll see the new information of the CDC has for determining guidance when it comes to masking. That's what led the County Manager and others in the C-suite to make the recommendation that you heard today. We can further discuss this at a later time. We know that the hour is late at this moment, but I just want to give that to you for reference. And the final piece is on page 12 in your packet, you'll see that we are offering incentives at all of our vaccination sites; mobile as well as fixed sites. You'll see the total amount of vaccinations that we've accomplished thus far as well as boosters and mobile doses. Want to highlight our continued partnership with Atlanta public schools as well as Fulton County public schools. And finally, the Hawks, which we're been able to go ahead and offer vaccination events at their different activities at the arena. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, just a couple of quick things on page 26 with the new stuff that you recommended or I guess it's just going to go under force, is that kind of the way you're positing this?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "We have done it by a Board vote previously, Commissioner Ellis; so, if there's a necessity to take a vote, we could do that or we can simply obviously implement these changes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. I guess my only comment would really be on bullet points two and three. The, and on really new employees still providing proof of vaccination, to me I feel like we ought to just go ahead and do away with that at this stage of the game, as well given the labor challenges we're facing also you know given the way some of these roles are and their level of interaction. And I just think it's just an extra administrative step that's probably not necessary at this stage. So, I would recommend that we remove that requirement. And then on the, on bullet point two, you know, I understand that the courts can generally dictate whatever they want to do, I guess on the mask mandate; so, but I don't necessarily understand the -- is that the same for the tax office and the Sheriff? Or is this something that's under our purview?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "We believe that both of those elected officials have the ability to set their own guidelines in their offices."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. But on the Tax Office, not when it relates to people coming in and accessing services, that's our purview?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, his expressed desire is to have his employees masked and the public, optional."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Thanks."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let me see on page -- I can't find it -- I think this is page 6, yes. It says people with symptoms of positive tests and exposure to someone with COVID-19, should wear a mask. And it just made me think about -- I just got a message the other day that one of our seniors at a senior center tested positive for COVID and was hospitalized. And there were other seniors that were in close proximity to her and so they have to be tested and quarantined and everything. And I know because I'm always going places where there are large crowds of people; everybody wants to hug, and I want to hug them. I'll be wearing my masks just to keep everyone safe, but what - I want to know how much of -- how much should people do as far as wearing their masks because everybody is out more, and we're congregating

together in small spaces. I was in a meeting the other day in a very tiny room with the NAACP, and we were just all crowded in there, some wearing masks, some not. And, so what would you recommend as far as wearing the masks?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFECMA:** "I believe our district health director, Dr. Paxton, is on the line. I think she should probably be on the line."

**DR. PAXTON, FC HEALTH DIRECTOR:** "-- yes, I'm here--"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- thank you --"

**DR. PAXTON, FC HEALTH DIRECTOR:** "-- so, what's basically new about the recommendations is that they're trying to incorporate so many different things like hospitalizations and personal risks. And so, what is recommended is that everyone should be making this decision based on their personal risks. If you are in a County that has low transmission, and low rates of hospitalization, then really you have that leeway of deciding what you want to do. If you are, obviously if you have some level of immune compromise, you should absolutely be wearing a mask when you are indoors in a public place. If you are otherwise healthy, you have more of a discretion with that. So, for example, you have to deal with what is your level of risk tolerance. For example, I don't -- I will wear -- if you see me in Kroger, you're going to see me with my mask on because I feel that that's important. But what this is trying to get people to do is to think about their own personal risks in conjunction with what the County levels of transmission are. So, that's why, you can go to the CDC's website, and they really try to break it down but keep it simple by whether or not low, medium, or high transmissions [Inaudible.] and what your own personal risks are."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Dr. Paxton. And my last question is about what I keep reading in the media new studies bring BA.2 variant into sharper focus, and I would like for you to speak on that because I keep seeing things like this particular statement right here it says on the heels of concerning new lab and animal experience suggesting that BA.2 maybe capable of causing more severe disease than the original Omicron strain. Two new studies are helping to show how well human immunity is defending against this strain in the real world, but BA.2 is about 30 percent more transmissible than the original Omicron variant. So can you speak to any information that you have about that particular variant?"

**DR. PAXTON, FC HEALTH DIRECTOR:** "Sure, what I know about that variant, you know, sort of lines up with a couple of things. I think it's pretty clear that is a bit more as you said about 30 percent more transmissible than the original Omicron variant; however, looking at other countries for example in South Africa where the original

Omicron really first made itself known, they have not been seeing more increases with the, again hospitalizations. And so, I think that we can look upon this as you know we're kind of treating it at both the local and the DPH level as something to keep our eyes on, but we're not actually seeing -- first of all we're not seeing many cases of the B2 variant, but we are keeping an eye on all of these. I think that what's important to keep in mind about, all about this variant and any future variants is that we've now kind of have an on-off mask pathway that the CDC has provided to us. And so, we'll be continuing to monitor these very important variables and you know to have us prepared if another surge should happen, or if there should be another variant. And, what's particularly important which made me really happy to see this CDC recommendation; was this inclusive of hospitalizations because what we do know and have known for a number of months now is that when you're in a situation when 75 percent of your ICU beds are filled, in the next two weeks, you should expect to see that you're going to have about 12,000 extra deaths that were because as a direct result of not having access to ICU care. And when you're in a situation which has occurred during the Delta surge and the Omicron surge in which some areas have a hundred percent of their ICU beds filled, what they see is into the two weeks following 80,000 extras, extra deaths. So, I'm just saying though I'm really happy that we have these new recommendations that take all of that into account. So, I firmly believe that we are in a much better position than we were at this time last year and particularly with the number of people that have some level of immunity, hopefully you know because they were vaccinated and boosted and also there's a certain number of – a certain bit of immunity that comes from having had COVID. So, I think we're in a better position than we were in the future, but we still want to keep hammering on the same things that we know is that you need to get vaccinated, get boosted, and examine your personal risk and when you wear make decisions about when you need to mask up.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you, Dr. Paxton. And I’m looking forward to hopefully seeing that we don’t have this BA.2 increase in Atlanta and Fulton County because it’s being said that even as COVID-19 cases have been dropping around the world, the relative proportion of cases caused by BA.2 has been increasing. And it is out-competing the original Omicron strain in at least 43 countries prompting fears of another devastating pandemic wave. So, I’m hoping that it does not come into the United States like that and we are counting on you to keep us updated. Thank you so much.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Vice Chair Hausmann.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Yes, the good to see you. First of all, I want to thank you for getting the test kits out to the senior centers, and then thank you for providing them

to our commission offices too. And as I was distributing them out, I found out that senior centers weren't getting them. And so, y'all jumped right on that and I really appreciate that quick response. Because they were very appreciative of the kits. I do have a question about the rental assistance program through or just housing assistance. We're starting to get some calls from seniors especially in the community that have been given pretty high rent increases as their rents are renewed, and unaffordable increases. And so, I'm just curious. Are we seeing a lot of that in the community? Is that common? What are folks on fixed incomes to do when they're you know faced with a huge increase in their living expense that they probably don't have the resources to cover that increase?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Vice Chair, we are seeing across the County the impact of increased rents for all age groups. And we are providing any type of resource that we can. There are no specific programs to address the increased rent. Unfortunately, many of the programs for seniors that provide housing are currently at capacity, but yet still, we do connect seniors to any sort of program that we know of through our senior services department. But there is no specific solution for the amount of rent that we have seen across the County as it relates to increases that landlords are proposing."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Well, and I can appreciate that in some respects, but then I think this is a problem that we're going to see more of. And I'm really concerned. I mean if you are not a senior citizen, you're probably able to handle it better than if you know moving would be a real hardship for example if you're in your 70s or 80s. So, I guess my ask here is to really focus on this issue. See what sort of problem there might be brewing because that could be a huge problem if, in fact, landlords are demanding higher rents that folks can't afford and they have nowhere to go. We already have homeless problems; we already have host problems that, you know, I'm just hopeful that this is isolated and not something that's going to be more and more common, but I do think it's something that we need to pay attention to."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Ma'am. I'll look into it."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner, excuse me, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. I just want to follow-up with Alton. We spoke earlier. I know we've been -- we've had our courts working with people that were getting evicted, and I've asked now for the last two meetings to have our courts work with people who are being foreclosed. We have \$354 million. I'm a little frustrated

because the first time I asked, it was told that he would have an answer in two weeks; and then when two weeks came, the last meeting, he told me he'd have an answer this meeting. Then I asked this morning, and he said he'd have an answer this weekend. Then later he told my Chief of Staff that he didn't understand what I was asking for, Mr. Manager. And so, I'm asking for the same relief for homeowners that we gave to renters. We had our courts work with the people who were being evicted to stop those evictions so that they could stay in their homes. There's \$354 million available for people to stay in their homes. There are thousands of cases across the street where people's homes are being foreclosed on every day. I have at least ten of them myself in my role as an attorney. I'm frustrated that we're now six weeks later and if people have already been foreclosed on, and if we didn't understand the instruction six weeks ago, I don't understand why we didn't ask then instead of putting me off for six weeks and then now coming back and saying, 'oh'; so, we had a talk earlier and I think perhaps we're on the same page now, Mr. Manager, but I might need you to make sure because when we come back in two weeks, I need an answer. I need to know what our courts are doing to help people not have their houses foreclosed on. There's \$354 million available right now, and I can't understand why we would work with our courts to stop people from getting evicted, but not do the same for people whose homes are being foreclosed on. And so, if someone can help me understand why we would differentiate those two types of people, why we would help renters and not homeowners, then maybe I could be quiet and move on. But unless someone – and so, is there a reason why we would help renters and not homeowners?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "I'll take it. So, thank you, Commissioner Arrington. I will most certainly contact DCA as well as the courts to determine how we might be able to assist with foreclosure mitigation is what you're describing. It's the same process that we intervene with staff at the courthouse. So, I will research that and before the next meeting, I'll provide a memo to you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. But that doesn't help the people the people that got foreclosed on for the last six weeks."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That I've been putting off. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Mr. Manager, continue."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "If there are any questions about the – it doesn't sound like there is - ERAP program. So, that'll continue as is and again we'll sense this up around mortgage assistance as well. Are there any further questions

relative to the reopening status? If not, I think it would probably be most preferred by Staff if the Board would take a vote on the recommendations on page 25 and 26 relative to mask as well as vaccination changes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. You want to be heard, Commissioner Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yeah, I was going to make a motion that we accept those recommendations and that we also drop the requirement for vaccinations for new employees in addition."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, is a motion to --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- I thought --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--the page is not on the screen anymore, I believe it was 19, but I can't remember the number --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- I'll second --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- that's page 26 --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--thank you, Mr. Manager --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- that's 25 and 26. So, 25 - 26 where are you? You want to - on 26, what do you want to do?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Accept the recommendations and change that vaccinations are no longer required for new employees."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, everything as is except for 1, 2, the third bullet point on page 26."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yes, sir --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- all right --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--and change that to not require --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- or just strike it – okay, we just strike it. Is that okay, to just strike it?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "As long as it is not required; yes, that's fine."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Your second is, okay, with that? All right. Motion on the floor properly moved and seconded to accept the recommendations on pages 25 and 26 with the exception of the third bullet point on, excuse me, on page 26 that addresses the question of new employees being required to provide proof of vaccination or seek a medical religious exemption via DCRC. That will no longer be. All right. Let's vote, please."

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** All right, it's 1:24. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch. Executive Session items of real estate, litigation, and personnel. Madam Clerk."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a long Executive Session Agenda from the County Attorney's Office. It's 1:24, and my goal is to have us back by 2:30. Thank you."

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(Executive Session at 1:24 p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Items from executive session. Where's the County attorney? While we're waiting for her, continue Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5, **22-0149**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance. Request ratification of emergency countywide procurements."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Any questions or comments? Please vote -- cast your vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0150**, Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide cleaning services for selected Fulton County facilities."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **22-0151**, Senior services. Request approval to increase spending authority to provide home delivered meals, nutritional screenings, and nutrition counseling for Fulton County residents."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion passes unanimously."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 6, **22-0152**, Community Development. Request approval of the 2022 community services program evaluation committee recommendation."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- wait, wait, wait --"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I got them."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. I'm Pamela Roshell, Chief Operating Officer for Health, Human Services, and Public Works. I'm joined today by Carlos Thomas. He is the Division Manager who has done an outstanding job over the years managing this program. He will provide some highlights regarding impact of the CSP program for 2021 as well as presenting the overview of the recommendations. I would like to state that since 2018, this program has served over 400,000 Fulton County residents who are the most vulnerable in the County. And we have provided funding to over 300 organizations over the years. So, Carlos."

**CARLOS THOMAS, DIVISION MANAGER, CSP:** "Good afternoon, Chairman Pitts, Fulton County Board of Commissioners. I am Carlos Thomas, again, Division Manager of Youth and Community Services. There are two PowerPoint slides that I would like to share that covers the 2021 CSP highlights and the 2022 CSP recommendations. As the slide is coming up, and it was also provided to the BOC members. In 2021, next

slide please. In 2021, the Board of Commissioners awarded \$5.3 million in County general fund dollars to support 146 community-based agencies. These community partners levered CSP funding and provided services to 70,951 Fulton County citizens. On the slide are a few program highlights of the five service categories. In the category of disabilities: Friends of disabilities and seniors served 305 individuals with disabilities which supported their ability to live independently. In the category of homelessness: Nicholas House served 139 individuals, surpassing their goal of 87 individuals served by assisting them with rapid re-housing. Next slide. The 2022 CSP evaluation committee is recommending 5.3 million in CSP funding for 157 agencies across the now six service categories which is inclusive of health and wellness. This slide is a break out of the recommendations by service category. We recommend your approval of the 157 agencies. This concludes my presentation. I'm happy to answer any questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair Hausmann."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay. This is outstanding. But I see something taking place that we saw the last time we had the community service program grants come before us. But I -- I want to commend you guys because you know what I love is this one particular document right here called eligible unfunded applicants; and Dr. Roshell, why do I have a feeling that from past experience of me asking all my questions, you compiled this spreadsheet because I was like, 'oh my Gosh', every single question except for one is answered through this spreadsheet. It's a beautiful thing. So I'm glad to see that. But the one question that is not on this spreadsheet is: How much would it cost to fund the nonprofit organizations who qualified for funding, but we ran out of money? Because that is something that we see happen every year, and we were so blessed to be able to actually fund those nonprofits the last time we went through this process. And I'm hoping that we'll be able to do that again. But I do want to say this though: We are not going to always have ARPA funding, so you know the last time we were able to do that because we had ARPA funding. And I know we have ARPA funding now; but, it's not going to be something that we have forever. And so, I think we need to look at a way to increase that funding - grant funding for our nonprofits and not use ARPA funding. So, I don't know if you have the answer to that question right now, but, I don't know --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--thank you, I'm sorry --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--that would be helpful; thank you."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Commissioner Hall, yes, we do have the answer to that question. For the 31 organizations that were not funded, one key thing to

note here is that most of them scored below the 70th percentile. And so, our recommendation would be to fund each of them at set \$25,000 for a total of \$775,000."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So, you said most of -- it was about 31 organizations scored below 75, but they scored – but that's a high enough score where they would literally qualify for funding if it had not been for the fact that we ran out of funding."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And your tally of what it would cost is 775,000 to fund them at 25,000 each. Now, let me ask you this because I remember last time and I'm looking at these recommended award amounts and a lot of them are low. What I loved about the information you gave was the fact that you showed how much they requested, you showed how much based on their scoring they should receive, and then you showed how much they actually did receive or should I say will be receiving. But in looking at that, if you look at what they should have received based on their score, do you have a total for how much it would cost to actually fund them for what they should have received based on their score?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "The score based additional resources required would be 8.3 million."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "8.3 to give them what they should have received -- I mean, the additional funding—"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--based on the score --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- to give them; okay. 8.3, got you. Okay. Let me see. And then, I'm so glad to see that a lot of – well, not a lot, there were a number of health and wellness nonprofit organizations that applied for that category that I asked for, and my colleagues were so good to support and I'm glad to see that. But it looks like it's not so many that it's overwhelming; am I correct in, I think it was maybe 14 --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Ma'am. 8.9 percent of the applicants are from health and wellness and over all we saw an 18 percent increase in applications from last year."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's a beautiful thing. So out of the 14 health and wellness there were like maybe -- how many three or four that did not get funded, but they actually qualified to be funded; is that correct."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "In the 31 that were unfunded, or not funded."

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**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Only the ones that qualified under health and wellness --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--yes. We'll get that to you in just a moment. We're looking that up for you, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. I think it's just a significant area because I recall almost every single year Commissioner Hausmann coming stating that you know about the autism -- the organization you always support; I can't remember the name of it, but specifically addressing autism and it was the only one that I recalled that did specifically address autism. And I want to make sure that health and wellness category being new and us needing a lot of health and wellness with the mental and behavioral health and developmental disability area that we're trying to address and you know so much depression, and suicide, and everything during this COVID pandemic, and the need also for people to be financially well which we know when they're not it creates those stressors in the body that create the physical health issues and emotional mental health issues. So, I want to make sure that if we don't have a [Inaudible.]"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** " -- there are three. I'm sorry, Commissioner --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** " -- there are three --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- three are in the 31 that we did not recommend for funding, but are eligible."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--they are eligible --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- yes, ma'am --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--but they were not recommended; but they were not able to be funded—"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- correct --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- basically. How much was that total for those three?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "We'll calculate that for you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. Thank you and you don't have to rush and do that right now. I know these are new questions, but I just want to make sure I ask them."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And this great job. I have to say great job on adding that sixth category and really making it workable for not only the community. I was glad to see that people got the information and responded."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And I think that's it. Thank you so much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis followed by Vice Chair Hausmann."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, thank you for the presentation. Just a couple points in this. I think one thing that I guess I would sort of just to may be slightly different philosophy on if we were to have more funding available, I think priority of funding should go to additional funding you know to the people that we've got in this recommendation versus dropping below the line of the 75 folks that didn't score as well in funding those and sort of spreading things out. I think you know think it waters down the competitive process to go that route versus you know put more funding back into the ones that did you know did meet you know above that line that we trim back, right? From what we may have historically been doing because we opened up additional -- we decided to fund some additional organizations. So you know that I think we need to ensure that what I'm getting at is I think we need to really ensure that this is a competitive process, right? We're not going to fund anybody just because they put something in and you know they got a seventy. That should never be our goal, or that you know you hit a score and you ask for a certain amount, and we're going to fund you at that amount, right? I don't think we're going to ever realistically be able to kind of meet that kind of need you know and structure our program in that particular way. I do think there are three other parts that I'm supportive of what's before us and so I second that motion, but there are three pieces that I do think that we need to look at in terms of potential sort of supplement around the work that we are doing. Number 1, I think last year we made the decision to put a certain amount of funding associated with ARPA money into sort of a supplementary CSP fund. It really wasn't CSP funding, per se, but it was working with those organizations that qualified. And if they wanted to have access to these funds, would they meet the requirements that were set forth by ARPA, could be use, et cetera. So, I see that you know we did a pretty good uptick rate on that, but we've got a million one left that we had previously sort of allocated towards that. I think we should go ahead and apply that 1.1 in you know this year, in whatever fashion made sense you know to go ahead and get those funds out you know through that network, through these particular providers. I'd like to see us do that; and I don't know if there's anything in particular that's preventing us from doing that."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Commissioner Ellis, may I answer that question or recommendation. We did run a second competitive process for health and wellness only and we will be bringing to the Board at the April recess meeting recommendations for that additional money from ARPA that was not -- that was declined."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So it would be -- okay, so it's going to be -- so it's outside of the CSP --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--yes, sir --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- okay. All right. So this is -- so that, so we will have another amount traunch of funding --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--yes, sir --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- we'll be funding -- okay through that. So, we'll meet that obligation. You said that will be coming forth soon --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--in April --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- in April --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--we have the applications; they came in --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- okay --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--the latter part of fourth-quarter --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- okay --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--the Team is completing that review and we will bring the recommendations forward in the same manner --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- okay --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--that we brought these forward today."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So that, you know, and that will potentially allow us to create a framework for going forward. I guess too, you know, we get to make the decision next, you know, when we're going through our next budgetary cycle to transfer that -- those - that 1.1 and maybe we decide to, you know, add to our general fund obligation in the CSP and run the all simultaneously, correct?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, sir --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- okay --”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “--because that is just -- that is ARPA money, separate and apart--”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- right, right --”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “-- yes, Sir--”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- but we can decide within the next, you know, next budgetary cycle to, you know, put it through this, add to this particular amount, and then similarly, you know, I think we got an item that's overall - what I'm getting at is I think ultimately we need to sort of increase the level of our general fund commitment to the CSP program, right? And we've got sort of two -- we've got this piece and we're talking about running or already running an active thing for, for the, for the health and wellness. So, you know, can we should let that run its course and then have that bring that stuff back and I think we've got something that's coming back before us. It's coming before us later on in the meeting with Commissioner Arrington's brought forth that's kind of a similar type of CSP type structure and process the way it would be done, right?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “Yes, Sir.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “And the ask for that is a million; is that right Commissioner Arrington? So, that could create the framework, you know, with those two things tranches being run, that we could come back, you know in this point in time when we're setting our budget next year and our CSP general fund you know kind of piece we could move that from five point to whatever it is -- what's the recommendation 5.3 to 7.3 and sort of keep true to, you know, kind of the process, that we've already got laid out and that we've already sort of agreed to and then folks have submitted and have been scored upon and all that. So, I think that that's a good, good approach for us to think about considering to allow this to get to a point you know next year when we run through and hopefully it would be a number more like, you know, seven and a half million or so, or more if we chose to allocate to it, so. I'll just throw that out for consideration.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “Thank you, Commissioner.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you, Commissioner. Vice Chair Hausmann.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for the in-depth report that you provided to us. It paints a picture of a lot of need in our County, and the fact that you know if we funded everything that was scored above the threshold is 13 million, that is more than double what the allocated amount that we have here at

five-point three. And so, I'm going to say it again; we are not putting enough money into this category. And I know that right now the need might be greater than it was five years ago, but the need is there and if we are a safety net provider, then we should be working a little harder I think to address that need. So, you've got five basic categories in this PowerPoint that we're looking at, and I want to note that the economic stability and poverty item you highlight North Fulton community charities, which we all know does extensive work. They're not totally reliant on the public sector for their support. They do a host of fundraising. They're the only food bank in North Fulton and they provide workforce development, training, and the list is endless of what they do to support families in need. They're one of our partners that if we go back to when we first had the pandemic, and we had our CARE money allotment, we immediately selected a handful of providers to immediately start working on our behalf to help with COVID and they were number 1 on the list, okay? So here we've got this great organization that's serving so many people, the only agency in North Fulton doing anything like this. They request \$100,000 and their award is 55,000. Does that make any sense? Tell me that makes sense."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, Commissioner, I certainly understand your point. The scoring and the funds that were available is how that figure was derived."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Well, their scoring said that they should get 93,000 which I find kind of questionable, you know, they're only asking for a hundred. In the big scheme of things based on what they do and the hundreds of thousands – not hundreds of thousands, but thousands of people that they serve. That seems like a minuscule amount to begin with that they were - but that's our cap. So, I understand all that. I'm just pointing out that we can do better than this. We need to do better than this. You know, we talked earlier today about folks being priced out of their homes. I think we're going to see more and more of that, and I mean the money that we've been given from the Feds, I think should be used to supplement this program. That's a no-brainer. And that's - I'm pretty sure was the intended purpose of those funds. So, I know we're talking about you know approving this today. I think its step one. I think we are also talking about perhaps adding a little bit now and a little bit later, but I think we can do better than this. And you know it saddens me to look at this particular example when you know some parts of our County - there are multiple agencies that provide these services -- similar services; there's only one north of the river. Just one. I would think that that would rise a little bit higher on the list of funding than barely half -- a little over half of what they asked for."

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

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Well, I, I mean, you know, I want to do something about it. I don’t want to just sit here and complain about it, so, I mean we’re talking about potentially adding a little bit of money; at this point, how is that going to be allocated if we did add a million dollars.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “So, in the case of North Fulton charities that you just described, it would take them to that 93 thousand --”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--for a million dollars more, or if we added - went up to the 13 million --”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “--if we add the 8.3 million, we can provide per our recommendation is that we fund all of the organizations at their highest award level—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “-- today--”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “--based on their score --”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--today --”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “--yes, Ma’am.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Okay. Well, I missed that part of your presentation; so, my apologies.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “I’m sorry?”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “I missed you saying that we were - you were proposing that we do that today --”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “-- oh, no --”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “-- because what I saw was we were doing five-point 3 million --”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “--yes, yes that is. What I’m saying is if we have additional -- if the Board approves \$8.3 million, how we would expend that is based on their score and what the highest recommendation is for funding for that agency. In this case, that would be the 93,000.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Well, I’m not necessarily saying that I think every group on this list rises to the level of some of our established partners that we know deliver and

deliver well; such as this one that I, the one I'm pointing out; there's many, many more --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- yes, Ma'am --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--that we all know are very, very, solid organizations; so, I'm not necessarily saying that you know I think every - some of them are new. We haven't tested them yet. We don't know if they're going to do what we hoping they're going to do. But the ones that have consistently delivered for us, and served our community, I think deserve to be fully funded. So, do you have a list of those type of providers."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "We do. We do have the historical data showing which providers we funded over the years and how they have -- the impact that they have provided to the community such as what you just described. So, we can clearly --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--do you have a number of what that would take to fully fund that that particular group at least initially and then you can come back to us after you know we have some history with these others?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "We could. The 8.3 million is - does not segment the organizations based on history and past performance. So, we could go back and look at the performance data -- look at how they have performed in the community and provide a recommendation for long-standing partners that have performed well."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "So, this 8.3 million that you just mentioned, where would that funding come from?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, the American Rescue Plan is one potential source. Today, we were not recommending anything, but the five-point 3 million because that is what is in the general fund budget. We simply wanted to answer the question, what would it take to fund fully the organizations based on their scores and that number is 8.3 million."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Commissioners, I don't know how y'all feel about this. You know we don't have any numbers in front of us as far as the ARP funds, you know, what categories that would come from or anything like that, but and I'm not suggesting that every single agency should be fully funded, but I think we know the ones that do perform and I would just ask that either you can help guide us now or you bring that back to us in two weeks --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “-- yes, Ma’am --”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “-- you know, if we approve partially today, but I mean seriously, I just think that we are way underperforming in this area, and some real key areas, that we know they need this assistance that they’ve asked for and then some.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “Well, Commissioner Hausmann, if you’re requesting a view other than funding all 150 -- 157 organizations with the 8.3 million, we would need an opportunity to gather that data and bring it back to you if it - the intent is not to fund all 157.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Well again, we haven’t been shown any - where that money would come from. So I, you know, I want to listen to the other comments --”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “-- okay --”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--before I, you know, make a motion of any sort, but I’m just saying to you that I feel like that there is some tried and true partners that we have that are not being funded adequately in this recommendation and I understand why, okay --”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “-- yes, Ma’am --”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “--but it’s just not good enough. And so, I want to hear what my colleagues have to say, but I think, I think we need to make some adjustments here.”

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Alright Commissioner Abdur-Rahman followed by Commissioner Hall, and then Commissioner Arrington.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Dr. Roshell, thank you, because I think it's a hard job but somebody's got to do it, right? Seriously though, the need is great and I want to echo the sentiments of Vice Chair Hausmann because this is an area where the need has increased, but the money hasn't. When we – it's almost like we're robbing Peter to pay Paul. And so, I want to echo her sentiments, but I want to add a little bit more to it. In my District, in the District 6, we've had nonprofits that we've brought in people to train them, we brought in people to give them information so they can start doing what they need to do to help the District. And so, I would like to make sure that in getting funded across the board, that we look at federal money, we look at all lobbying that we could possibly do because here again the need is not going to go down. It's only going to go up. And so, how do you -- and I agree with her North Fulton charities,

they do a great job. In fact, they are blueprint in my eyes as to what other organizations could do. But how do you go in and say this need is great this need is not great? We've got this amount of money -- you know, I personally wouldn't want that job because that would seem to be so hard to do. And so, I guess my point is what do we need to do as a County to allocate more funds? What do we need to do? Do we need to work more with our state and federal? Do we need to do more lobbying? I know sometimes individuals take the position of where is there truly a need, or if we have a nonprofit, are they truly doing the job? From my perspective alone, the ones that are not really living up to par, pale in comparison to the ones that are really working out here in the community. And so, I would, I would only say I will support any increase, but what I want to say is, let's be fair. Let's do more lobbying. Let's try to even maybe -- and I don't know if we collectively can do this as a County -- but I know as a sitting Commissioner, I offer the nonprofits an opportunity to speak to Grant writers, to make sure that they look aboveboard when they're applying for that money. It's not just enough to give them money, but to show them how to go about and get more money. And I don't know if that's a role that we can play or not. It's just a suggestion. Thank you."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to thank Commissioner Ellis from what he said because he really sparked a concern for me when he said we would be funding nonprofit organizations that scored too low because it was my understanding when you said there were 31 organizations that scored below 75, that you were responding to my question about those organizations that scored and were eligible to receive funding, but could not receive funding because we ran out of money. And so, if you could clarify that for me."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, yes, Ma'am. The 31 organizations that primarily scored below 70 also are the organizations that because they scored 70 and below, we had exhausted funding before we were able to -- if we wanted, if we could recommend funding, their score was so low that we did not recommend funding."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So then that leads me to my next question, what is the lowest score that a nonprofit organization can receive before they are ineligible for funding?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, in the policy, there is no specific score that says you are ineligible if you receive a score of 30. What has historically happened

is that those organizations have not been funded because we have exhausted funding before we were able to fund them. But in the policy, it does not state that you are ineligible."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You said, if they score a 30?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So is 30 the lowest score that they can receive before they become ineligible?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "There is no -- the score does not make you ineligible—"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- the score does not make you ineligible? So, you can score zero and still be eligible for funding?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "How is that?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- it's definitely based on some questions that came up during this process; something that we do need to address, but historically there was no correlation with eligibility and the score."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Then, why is the score there? Because when I think of the score and I think about trying to identify whose eligible and ineligible, I think about how we score when we're doing RFPs, request for proposals. We have a scoring process, so that we can deem people eligible or ineligible to receive that bid. So, what's the point of the scoring process then?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, the scoring does still translate to those that score the highest are funded first."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, let's stop right there. So, what does it mean to be the highest? What score is that?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "90, a hundred or 92, 93. I believe we exhausted funding in most categories by the mid-80s."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Mid 80s? Okay."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "And that has historically been the process that has been run with the scores."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Is the process in writing where you can send it to me - -"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- yes, Ma'am --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--it sounds like we need to have you look at that scoring process, and make a decision on what qualifies an organization to receive funding. Because it just doesn't sound right for an organization to be able to score zero and still be eligible for funding. There needs to be some - some idea about what the scoring levels are because I agree with Commissioner Ellis that we shouldn't be scoring -- we shouldn't be giving funding to those nonprofits that score so low. I would think that if a nonprofit scores really low, they may need some technical assistance of some kind. And I know this has been an issue in the past. I remember back when Stan was the head of some -- you know what County Manager wasn't even here back then, but when I was Chief of Staff to Commissioner Garner, the previous housing and community development director -- we talked to him and Mike Rowicki was actually in a totally different department at that time, but we asked that money be set aside so that we can provide technical assistance to those nonprofit organizations that needed the help; that need the grant writing help. They could not, you know put together their financials properly, they couldn't complete the application process properly. And I recall that one of the things that they did institute is it the three workshops to help nonprofits through that process. So, I think we need to re-look at that. I never knew there was no score chart you know."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "There is a score chart, but I hear you, Commissioner Hall --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- yes --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- and we will look at that in the policy to clearly state if you score below this number even though you may have met all other eligibility criteria, you will not be considered for funding."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, because do you have any data that shows you what may be taking place as the score gets lower, as it relates to that nonprofit? I saw you both shaking your heads when I said I would assume technical assistance is a problem --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- it is --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- it is --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “-- so, yes; there’s scoring criteria in their points for categories and so we can share with an agency that you scored 20 because you only – you received no points in this area, you received two points in this area; so, we do have a clear matrix with points assigned to every category. And we can share where an organization needs to strengthen their, their work.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Outstanding. All right. And I do agree with that \$8.3 million that we do need to fund the recommended nonprofit organizations up to the level that they should have received, if we had gone with their scored funding.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “Yes, Ma’am.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Alright. Commissioner Arrington, and back to Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don’t want to beat a dead horse, but I think the recurring theme that we hear, that I’ve heard is that we need to allocate more money towards this program. It’s really laughable to see that there’s \$350,000 donated to senior services. I should have said cryable, not laughable. I mean, \$350,000 all throughout Fulton County for disabilities. Somebody should go to jail for that. That’s criminal. That’s all we’re allocating? \$350,000? In a County with a million people? That’s a crime, a pity, and a shame. So, I mean 350,000 – we might as well not give them noting. \$350,000 -- that’s not even a Band-Aid. So, hopefully, we can do more. I mean, at a very minimum, it would seem that each area would need at least a million dollars. Each area would need at least a million. We’ve got six of them, so that, I mean that would be six; but we’re already at 5.3. So hopefully we can get there and hopefully we can really put our money where our mouth is. We say we want to address disabilities -- throwing \$350,000 towards it really doesn’t do anything. Throwing \$350,000 towards seniors -- I don’t think it really does anything. It certainly doesn’t mean make it a priority for us, and certainly if there are other organizations that need technical assistance, we ought to be trying to do what we can to help them. Maybe there’s a portion of the fund reserved for those organizations that need help doing technical assistance. But certainly, there should be a number as well, and I think Commissioner Hall said that. It should be a number where someone is ineligible. And so, you know, otherwise they’re all eligible. So, I won’t beat it to death. I think, you know, everyone has said it now and we’ll see where the rubber meets the road when it comes down to millage time and all these different things that we have to address. All of these areas where we’re low, we’ll see if the rubber meets the road, and how much -- if we’ll hear the same echo that we heard up here today, when we get to that time.”

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, so I definitely think we need a minimum cutoff score. Seventy-five might actually even be too high, but that's kind of – that's the – sounds like that's the threshold right now but with this particular recommendation. You know we've got, whatever we had this one reserve or whatever kind of thing; I did know before we are going to be having or applying -- we're discussing adding another million in later in to you know the description is Veterans but you know quite honestly Veterans will probably hit you know most all of those categories are up there anyway. So, there's some overlap and there's some specific organizations that we're funding with this that that is a service they provide directly to Veterans. So, we're you know if we approve that, we're going to be adding to the pie today. Right? We have this other category that Commissioner Hall brought forth earlier last year. So, we're going to have another million one, you know we're going to be adding in. So, you know potentially another million in general fund money if we approve it for Veterans and then another million one that's going to be applied with ARPA through this other tranche. What I'd like to recommend is that we add another million and a half of general fund money in for the folks that we have made recommendations for already, right? Not expand this below the 75 threshold, and then we come back with a recommendation about how that million and a half will be reallocated amongst these folks with a priority given to you know the groups which we feel like you know kind of are going to get us kind of you know the largest impact for that, right? Some of our proven partners and so forth. You know, that's, I guess you know, I don't know if I am modifying you know or am I asking to a friendly amendment to you know the motion that's on the floor. I guess that's what I'm asking for [Inaudible.] time -- "

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--I'll second that --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Morris you want to be heard and Madam CFO would you tell us where that money is going to come from, if this passes?"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Yeah, I guess I share some of the questions about how this scoring works and if you're going to provide that information to Commissioner Hall, if you could provide it to all of us, that's great. I want to know about an organization that scores 100 that gets \$60,000 is the most anybody got it looks like. And how you get down to the ones who score 85 and above -- anyway. I just don't understand how all those dollars work and how that scoring works; that will be terrific and I agree with

everybody who says that somebody scores zero – I don't know how you -- if we had ten million dollars in it, that I would hope that somebody scores zero wouldn't get any of the taxpayers money, but they just need some more work to do. And you know before I vote, yes, on this amendment to add a million and a half dollars, I guess the question if this passes, I was going to ask the question, when do these folks get their money? And if we amend this and come back next time, do you hold up this 5.3 million or do you send those checks out; and the question is when would they go out and send them a second check, if we do the million and a half later on; or do we hold this until we send them one check later on? Cause I know it's March and they're probably – probably, doing great work and need some dollars. So, if you could answer that that would be great. And then my only final comment is I was going to address when we got to the veteran's organization item, the question that Commissioner Ellis already sort of alluded to that these organizations doing senior services and homelessness and health and wellness and economic stability and disabilities maybe not children and youth services, but all the other categories are impacting Veterans; and a lot of the Veterans are folks who fall in those needs particularly. I've got lots of relatives who served and, boy, they deserve the help, I mean, I've got relatives who were affected by Agent Orange and have health issues and sure we need to make sure that they get all the help that they need. So, I applaud that; but I sure don't, I mean one of the things I really can't -- I'm very tolerant except I'm intolerant about waste and duplication, and I'd love to figure out how we deal with that question. So anyway on the question of timing --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** " -- yes, Sir --"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** " -- that would be great --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** " -- thank you, Commissioner Morris. The first payment will be June to July. What we do after the Board approves the recommendation, we go back to each of the organizations and complete their contract and their scope of work based on the amount of funding that was approved; and that process takes us to a first payment in the months of June and July."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "And if, well, maybe there will be some clarification if Mr. Ellis' amendment passes as to whether you roll all of that into one contract in June or July whether that amendment would slow that first check process down or the single check down --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "It would be, operationally – it would be preferable for us to communicate with the organizations, their total funding because that will impact their scope of work. And so we, the best practice would be to communicate

to them in this first contract that your -- that your recommended and approved funding is X. dollars and we negotiate their contract scope of work based on the larger amount otherwise it would be difficult to negotiate their scope of work in the first contract pending potential money which could change the number served, how they serve."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Right, and change the contract [Inaudible.] "

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--yes, Sir--"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "-- so would, with this again assuming this might be approved today, the extra dollars, would that slow down a June or July check, to them?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "It would not --"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "-- okay."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Because what we would do based on Vice Chairs' request --"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "-- great --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- we would bring back the recommendations for how that additional funding is applied as we're working through the process."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Gotcha. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We've been talking about this for some time now."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "I did have one more question; I'm in the queue."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Hausmann followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Following up on Commissioner Morris' and first of all, thank you, Colleagues. I knew I could count on y'all for reasonableness here. If they made an application and already stated their scope of work and what they plan to serve; if we fully funded their requests, assay the handful of agencies that we utilized during the CARES time period or if we picked a score number of 95 and above or something you know along those lines to be the criteria, wouldn't that already be established and there wouldn't be an additional amendment to the contract that would be necessary?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, Vice Chair, we certainly don't want an amendment to the contract and so if the Board approves the additional funding today, that will be a part of their one and only contract."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Okay. So, what I just outlined does that sound like a reasonable approach that you would take if this extra million and a half was approved today --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- yes, Ma'am. We will/would consider their score and --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "-- their history --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- and their history. Yes, Ma'am."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Okay. All right. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chair. And I'll make it quick. County Manager, the amendment of the additional funding that Commissioner Ellis is putting forward, if any, how would that impact us if it were to pass today? Would there be a problem in other areas? I just want you to weigh-in because I want to listen to your expertise in this matter."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANANGER:** "Yes, Ma'am, and I can ask Sharon to give more details. But I think the most logical way of doing this is you had seven and a half million that the Board set aside, of which I think it's down to 6.8. Now, so any of these incremental items, million and a half here, a million for Veterans, a million for anything else, would go against that seven and a half; so, it's available for you to allocate with no impact."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else? Well, we go through this every year, and I would - each of you will have a program that you really like and it's not funded to the extent that you would like for it to be funded. And so maybe it would make sense for the Board, six of you to get together and come up with a criteria, and just tell the Department this is how we want to do it so that we at least agree upon that. Because, to me, they do the best that they can with the resources that they have. But every year, we go through the same -- the same exercise with this CSP money. Maybe we need to have a conversation about that now. We do have the 6.8 if we want to use that up today, let's do it and get it over with. So, we won't have any more discussions about that 6.8 unless we want to go to what Commissioner Arrington would say; let's raise the millage rate. So, the 6.8 is there. This is another - let's make this 2 million instead of 1 million. Let's use it all up. Arrington has a request for 1 million -- 2 million one for the arts, one's for Vets; that would take it down to 4.8; right, is that right? I mean, yeah. Use it up so we

won't have to continue doing this. I mean, piece milling it. Nobody's programs are going to be funded. They're all good programs. Don't misunderstand. Everyone who is a good program. Every Executive Director of each of these programs are good at what they do, but there's a finite amount of money. The need is great; we can't fund it all. I think the Department, they do a great job. And Dr. Roshell does a great job, and we need to give them the liberty, the freedom to run their departments as they see fit. The alternative is for us to develop the criteria and direct them to follow that criteria going forward. To me, that would be the solution going forward. I also hear today that you say that if -- cause right now, we don't know what we are doing; to be honest with you. You're saying that -- you're saying that if it were, this was not approved today, give you time to make the adjustments. And so, at least you'll have something in front of us so that we can look at it and understand what we're doing. That will not impact these organizations did you say that."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "It would be beneficial if we had an approval today. We have time between the first payment and today to bring back how the additional 1.5 million would be allocated --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- assuming the 5.2 today and come back at the next meeting with the additional requests --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- it would be beneficial, Mr. Chairman, if we had some direction on both pots of money today so that we could have one contract."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's your pleasure?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "What was the motion that's on the floor?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--increase it by one million and a half --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- we have a motion on the floor, I thought --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- what is it one million --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "-- it's one and a half --"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "-- a million and a half --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- one and a half million. The motion is to approve it by one and a half million; and where is it coming from, Madam --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, it'll come from the 6.8 million remaining in the appropriated reserve."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. That's the motion. Cast your votes, please."

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Did you want to do executive session now."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Are you ready, Madam County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes, Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation as set forth in items one through four of the executive session agenda."

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

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Is that it? Back on page 6, under Justice and Safety, **22-0153**, Sheriff. Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide national prisoner transportation services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion is to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Cast your vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion passes unanimously."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0154**, Sheriff. Request approval of the 2022 equitable sharing agreement and certification with the US Department of Justice."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioners' action items, **22-0097**. Request approval of a Resolution to provide initial fiscal resources to fund the Fulton technology and energy enhancement authority sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Alright Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, please."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, I'm going to pull this. Some of my colleagues have not gotten all of the information in order to make an informed decision today. And so, I'm going to pull this item. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You want to file it? All right. Without – yes, without objection, 0097 is filed without objection. Continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0129**. Request approval of a Resolution to approve salary supplements for state paid staff in the office of the district attorney and chief Superior Court Judge sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the -- first let me ask, Commissioner Morris, did you get the information you requested from the last BOC meeting from the County Attorney?"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, Madam County Attorney?"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Well, there were two things, one is I asked about the judges, and that's different from this as I understand it --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--yes --"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "-- my questions on this one were the amounts. I know it's an up-to not to exceed amount, but I wondered about the costs and what it meant for each of these folks in the way of raises. I think that was the questions I had on this."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. I guess that's Mr. Hermon. The up-to I know is 50,000 is the highest that they can go on the supplements."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "And the related question is who decides whether it's 50,000."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The state --"

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**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “-- or five thousand --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “--as far as I know, the state puts the cap on it and Mr. Hermon and Madam County attorney can respond to that.”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** “Yes, good afternoon, Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Morris; and all Commissioners. So, yes, so the cap that the state has set on supplements for individuals within the DAs office is \$50,000. As to who makes the decision as to whether it's 5000 or 50,000 that's at the sole discretion of the district attorney working within the confines of her budget. So if we gave her a budget of a million dollars, she will never be able to exceed that million dollars but can. Say, if Commissioner Morris you'll get 5,000, then Commissioner Hall if you were a district attorney or one of those state supplemented, you would get \$50,000. She would have that sole discretion to make the variations, but capped at the 50,000-dollar mark.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “All right. Did that answer your question?”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “I think so. And again, the question really wouldn't be where does the money coming from, the money would come from her budget that's already -- we've already approved.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Yeah, that's correct. And this is also something that I'm bringing forward because we had a problem with some previous approvals that took place that shouldn't have, and this will resolve that issue to make sure that we are only providing this supplement within those positions that fall under this state guideline. So, it helps correct an issue.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Arrington.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “I'm trying to understand the reason why we would do this for only the Chief Superior Court Judge and not any of the other Superior Court Judges.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you. I asked that question as well. Madam County Attorney has the answer to that.”

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “That is a provision that is specifically provided for in state statute, and that statute doesn't provide for the other judges; just the Chief Judge.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Wait, wait a minute. This is for --”

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "--this is for a law clerk or state paid law assistant or court administrator, at the discretion of the Chief Judge. It's not for the judges, themselves."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, I understand that. My, my question is why would we do it for one, and not do it for all?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Because the state statute provides just for the, just for the Chief Judge, and presumably, that is for the service to provide service to the entire court."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, and so what is the supplement that's being proposed?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The amount? I'm not aware of the actual amount that's being proposed --"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "-- up to --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- up to 50,000 --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- up to 50 --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- up to \$50,000 and it would be up to I think the proposal currently being considered is at the discretion of the department head, the elected official."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. I need more information. I can't, I can't vote for something when someone says they don't know the answer to the question."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So, this particular Agenda item doesn't remove or modify the supplement that's currently in place in Superior Court for their state paid court administrator which is currently I believe \$21,203. It just permits the County to supplement the salary of the state paid court administrator upon the request of the chief judge at the Superior Court."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah I'm -- I just have trouble approving something that is unidentified. I mean, if you're saying its 50, then let's put in there that it's 50. But it sounds like it can't go more than 50, but there's already 21 in there. I mean it just -- if we're approving a certain amount, let's approve a certain amount because I guess it goes back to Commissioner Morris' question, who's approving it? In my mind, Commissioner Morris, we're approving it; because we're setting the amount of the supplement."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "If she chooses to do 10,000, up to 50 --"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** "-- hey Commissioner --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- all right, y'all can vote for it. If y'all -- if anybody wants my vote, I need to know what the supplement amount is going to be. I'm not doing that."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I want to do want to clarify Commissioner Arrington that the employees in the DAs office are capped specifically by statute at 50,000 for their supplement; but the one employee in the Superior Court is not. There's no cap applicable to that position."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, so, so, what amount is going to be approved then? What - if we vote yes, right now, what amount -- we're approving for that employee."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The employment of that employee is already provided for by statute. This proposal -- this item as I understand it is simply to permit the County to supplement the salary upon the request of the Fulton County Superior Court Judge, Chief Judge."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, it could be a \$1 million supplement, right?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I mean, in theory --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- two million --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- in theory, if their budget permitted; but that would be unlikely."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I think, if anybody wants my -- I'm happy to support these, but if anybody wants my vote, I need to know exactly what we're talking about."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** "Right, Commissioner, I'll try to better clarify what occurred back in 2021 I believe when the first resolution was adopted by the Board of Commissioners. It was brought to our attention; then through the due diligence of Legal that the former district attorney was adjusting supplements without the authority to adjust the supplements. I think how the statute reads as I remember the conversation with the County Attorney at the time, it says 'the governing Body, which is the Board of Commissioners is required to approve the

supplements. So, that would mean, Commissioner Arrington, that if, if the district attorney wants to issue a 5-dollar increase to an employee currently receiving a supplement, she would have to come in front of the Board of Commissioners for that authorization to do that \$5000 adjustment. So what, I think, what was attempted to be addressed in the 2021 Resolution was to grant the district attorney with the authority to adjust a supplement up to the 50,000-dollar cap so that she didn't have to present each and every time there was an adjustment to the supplement whether up or down. But in 2021, the Resolution only specifically spoke to assistant district attorneys. It didn't include Investigators that was referenced, that is now included, and some other positions. So again, what this Resolution is doing is now to clarify that she has the authority to do it for all these other positions that fall in her purview. Again, still limited to the Georgia State maximum cap of the \$50,000, and the limitations of the resources within her budget. So, it's kind of like an administrative cleanup from what was happening underneath the former district attorney environment and now doing it in accordance with how the rules say you should be doing with authority. Whether the Board, the Board granting her the authority is to do those supplements. That's how I recall the conversation when it first came up in 2021."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, but the County Attorney just said that there was no limit for the judge's staff."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** "I wasn't heavily involved in the conversation about the judge's staff. There's only one individual over there. I'm more so versed in the district attorney conversation. Sorry."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "But, it is correct that the states statutory cap does not apply to the Superior Court employee."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Again, I'm happy to support this. Perhaps it might need to be separated, but I can't support it right now with no limit. That just doesn't make sense to me. I'm done."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So, I understand that Commissioner Arrington but if you look at history like Mr. Hermon said, this Board of Commissioner has actually approved a lot more than that because the previous district attorney was coming before you and he was coming before you to get your approval and he was coming before you getting approval on extra supplements that did not even have any -- falling under anything. Did not have any restrictions, did not have a Resolution that covered them so there were a lot of positions that this Board of Commissioners approved from the

previous district attorney that should not have been approved. So, this is to try to stop that from happening in the future. If you'd like, I have a long e-mail thread --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- that's why I was saying maybe they need to be separated. I mean there's a limit on that I can approve that. But in order for me to approve something else that has no limit, I can't do that, so."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah. So, I see Madam County Attorney, and Mr. Chief Human Resources Officer conferring. So, which one of these does not have a limit on it?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The one that's not subject to the \$50,000 statutory cap for state paid employees is the one position in the Superior Court."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The one position in the Superior Court is the one. Can you amend this to remove that, and we address that separately because that is – that was never discussed in any of these e-mails and as you can see, this page is front and back. We've been going back and forth on this, because when I caught that error, we were going back and forth. I could not believe that this Board of Commissioners didn't know that they were approving these before that didn't fall under the statute."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So, if I understand the instruction correctly, we will work with your office to separate out these two issues or just to remove that one portion about the lack of statutory cap."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Just remove the one that doesn't have a cap on it because Commissioner Arrington is right. There is an issue with that that we need to address because it does not have a cap, and we do need to know how much is being asked for. This is true, yes, yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Commissioner Hall --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- yes --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--we might just be able to do a motion to sever them and vote on one separately and --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- the other --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- the other, and then that way, you know, we can still move it forward without having to bring it back. I'm happy to support it --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- that's okay. That works. I just want to stop the issue that we found out that was going on. So that absolutely works and it addresses the issue of not having a cap on that one position.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “And, what's the total number of state employees eligible in the District Attorney's Office for this money.”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** “Give me one minute, Commissioner, let me pull that information for you.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Lord, have mercy.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “What he say?”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “It's just amazing to me that no one knows that. Seems like that would be - we want extra money for the state eligible employees? Okay, how many of them are there --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- no, they don't want any extra money; they only want to be able to use the money that's currently in their budget; so, let's be clear on that. They don't want any extra money--”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- well, all I'm saying is they don't know how many people is -- how many people are in the DAs office? Is this going to be for all of them? Is it going to be for five of them? Is it going to be for ten of them? How many people does this apply to? What's the total impact on the budget?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Let's --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- do you need more time to do this?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Let me make a suggestion, please --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- yes, please --”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “there's no motion on the floor yet, but there seems to be, Madam County Attorney, you need to do some additional work. Mr. Hermon needs to do some additional work. Let's hold it and have it separated with the necessary background information at our next meeting, and we'll vote it up or vote it down.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you, Mr. Chair.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “So, we'll hold without any objections. Madam Clerk, continue.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 6, **22-0155**. This is a presentation regarding a Resolution authorizing the County Manager to convert County owned property located at 4430 Frederick Drive, Southwest, into supportive housing for persons afflicted with behavioral health or substance abuse issues; and for other purposes sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. This is the one I talked about earlier in the meeting. I'm waiting for some additional formation; but the presentation -- I'm going to hold the Resolution -- but I think it's appropriate to have the presentation so everybody will know what we're doing -- thinking about doing."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you could bring up the presentation, please. So, what I'm presenting today is really a vision and a concept for an affordable housing initiative in and around the Fulton Industrial Boulevard corridor. The policy framework that supports this affordable housing initiative is based on HUDs statutory goals of decent, suitable, and affordable housing, and the \$2.4 million that the County received through the American Rescue Plan Act through HUD. I want to point out that this type of concept envisioning as an affordable housing initiative would focus on constituents that are at risk of homelessness, experiencing homelessness, primarily due to long-standing issues that they have had with substance abuse disorders and behavioral health issues. In addition, this model would allow us to include mixed-use so not only would this provide affordable housing for at risk populations, but low-income populations at 60 percent of the AMI. The mixed-use and mixed-tenant concept could also lend itself to including a small business component that would be housed within this facility as well providing economic opportunity through job sharing and job training programs. So again, it's threefold affordable housing initiative, tackling affordable housing for individuals at 60 percent of AMI permanent supportive housing and mixed-use with small business partners. This model has been tried and tested across the country using resources that counties have acquired by buying hotels that have been abandoned and are no longer in operation for various reasons. There are properties and models and programs of this sort in North Carolina, in Texas, Colorado, and Washington State. And all of these program models use an existing hotel structure like a Quality Inn, Extended-stay hotel, Holiday Inn, and so forth. You should have a copy of the presentation in your packet. I don't see that it has come up on the screen, but again this would be an affordable housing initiative that would include permanent supportive housing that has wraparound services such as behavioral health services, intensive case management, and other basic needs and services. It would include a 24-hour security and property management. The third page please. Okay. The next page. This is the page that I'm addressing now which are the wraparound services. Again, mixed-tenants - those constituents that are experiencing

housing stability issues because they simply can't afford a place to stay. They're spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing as well as constituents experiencing other issues like behavior health issues, mixed with a small business initiative. The next page you will see examples and what the hotels actually look like in other communities -- next page, please. This is the Charlotte model, and the cost here is laid out – it's an 88 room Quality Inn property that has been renovated and acquired and is currently in use for permanent supportive housing. The next page, please, gives you insight into a drawing how these hotel rooms are converted in to individual living space. Next page. The next is Washington state. They have been in the business of providing this type of affordable housing initiative for several years and actually have four properties in operation. All of the properties actually partner with an external group that manages the property and also provides the supportive services on site. And they also work with development organizations to bring in the economic development arm and partner with businesses that are all housed in the same complex. Next page. This is the financial model for the King County property. You see here there's a site acquisition cost, building operations service costs, and site rehab. In this visioning and conceptual stage, the recommendation is to look at a mix of funding that can be acquired through many sources at the state, federal, and private level for operations and service delivery. Next page. The permanent supportive housing here in -- that you see is in Fort Worth, Texas. And it's the page up at the right-hand side, you see what the room looks like as a converted room. Again, these are individual living spaces for individuals in the community. Next page. The next is a former Hometown Suites, 122 units in Texas. And the next page will show you the inside of this hotel after it has been renovated for individual use. So again, what you can see here is that there are several communities across the country that are looking at this type of single site programming to provide affordable housing to individuals at 60 percent of their area median income. It's mixed-tenants with individuals who also need wraparound and supportive services to maintain stable housing, intertwined with a small business solution. Next page. In the visioning and conceptual phase, one option that can be considered for Fulton County is use of acquired property that we own at Frederick Drive. It is a former Red Roof Inn. You see some of the statistics here regarding the number of floors, and the number of rooms, where it's located, and the year it was built. This is similar to the other properties in the communities that I've just shared with you, and based on numerous factors, could be a possible site for this affordable housing initiative. Next page. So, the next steps are to continue looking at options across the County for an affordable housing initiative again because the County does own this Red Roof Inn property. It really does align with how other communities have successfully taken on an affordable housing initiative, again with a mixed-use mixed tenant model. Mr. Chairman, that concludes the update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and Commissioner Hausmann, and Commissioner Arrington. It's by way of introductions here, you will - should recall at least, that we, we spent approximately \$68 million acquiring seven properties in South Fulton County. Five hotels and two other properties, a gas station, and a McDonald's. Additionally, we're going to have an RFP, master developer RFP on the street later on probably next quarter. Now, that would give us some ideas. But affordable housing is the issue here and the second component of this -- and I would ask that you keep an open mind if you don't already have an open mind -- on tiny homes. Tiny homes are going to be a way of life and I would ask that you take the time to view examples of tiny homes in our area that are working very well and quite suitable for seniors and Veterans in particular. And we're talking in conversations with certain religious organizations, churches in particular, who own quite a bit of property and they're actually their physical plant which is vacant land that's used for parking primarily and a couple of them are interested in this pilot program that I'm talking about for tiny homes. So, I'll be providing more information to the Board with respect to tiny homes in particular. So, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair Hausmann, Commissioner Arrington, and then Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. Dr. Roshell, this looks like a good idea. Was there -- I mean -- this is in my District, correct? This is in District 6?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Currently, I believe it's in District 5."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "It's in District 5?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. I just wanted to make sure. Is this the one that is open or closed?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "It's closed."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "It's closed."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--the reason I asked that and, there is a trafficking problem on Fulton Industrial, which gets me to the point of the question I'm asking you. If we're going in there, there's something that's affordable and we're looking for affordable housing, and I'm not sure if we're looking at affordable housing, mixed-use or are we looking at affordable housing for seniors or Veterans; or if we're looking at

affordable housing with families. My concern -- I can support this. Don't get me wrong, because I think it's a good idea. My concern is because it's in an area that is a known haven for trafficking, that we allow our actual law enforcement maybe to have a little input, because let me tell you, all these other places that you've shown me they are good choices, but I can give you ten other places where this idea started out good, and it went bad. And part of the reason it went bad is because the law enforcement wasn't at the table at the beginning and it was certain things that may have should have been in place that weren't. And so, my only concern is that because we are putting -- which is a great idea don't get me wrong and I don't want my actual words to be ones that are looking at saying you know that I'm against it. I'm not against it. It's just the work that I have done with Marty Kemp with Grace, we know all of the high trafficking places and Fulton Industrial is a haven for it. So, I think it will be very good if we have law enforcement to at least be at the table with that concern."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** Thank you Commissioner. That's an outstanding suggestion. I've written it down. And again, today was just a vision and concept sharing."

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

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

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

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yes. First of all, I mean, I'm glad that we're finally starting to talk about what we might do with the seven properties that we have purchased to try and clean up the situation that you just described on Fulton Industrial Boulevard as we all know that is a really active business district that had a lot of blight that we've done a lot to overcome just by purchasing those properties. So, this is really great progress. I know we've also done a ULI study, so I would like to make sure that it fits in with the study that we did, so that would be one question that I have. And then secondarily, the units look great, the concept looks great, I didn't hear you mentioned Veterans having preference. I would hope that they would be part of the mix, but I think it's important for us to also discuss the funding piece of making this happen. And so, when we come back next time, if you could have some information on that part, that would be very helpful --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- what was the second part of what you said --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "-- the funding --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- the what --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--the ULI study and the funding, and then adding Veterans to the preferred list of folks to be included for preference there. But I, again, I'm sincerely glad that we're moving forward with doing some things with these properties."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you, Commissioner -- Vice Chair."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I'll start out by echoing Commissioner Hausmann's concerns. You know, I guess it's good to have something in writing because otherwise everyone could have different views. My thoughts were part of the reason that we did this is that we were looking at Veterans housing, affordable housing, workforce housing, and homeless housing and I think we were trying to address all four of those. Certainly, if I had to put a priority on those, I think our Veterans deserve housing first and foremost. Certainly, all of these people deserve some type of housing, but if I had to put a priority scale to it, I would have to give priority to our Veterans who have served our country. So, I certainly would put that there. I guess I'm glad to see this, but a little confused because what I heard -- the last time we talked about this was that we would be doing what you said earlier putting out an RFP for a master-plan for this. And so, I'm a little confused as to maybe why we took this step before doing that; but may be this was a necessary prerequisite to doing that."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "I can answer that for you --"

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

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- Mr. Commissioner. Because the County received the \$2.4 million from HUD for home programs which require us to start a conversation about how we're going to use that money, this is just an idea and a concept, and so that's why it's a bit out of sync."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And when did we receive those --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--we just received those funds the end of 2021, and we, therefore this type of programming."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, and who is CSH?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "That's just a network of organizations that provide this type of checklists. They're not an organization. No organizations have been contacted. No one has been engaged with this. This is just an opportunity to share this concept and vision with the Board."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So it's not the corporation for supportive housing?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "It is and this is just their model for what any organization that is considering permanent supportive housing should look at when they're considering readiness."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And so, are they a vendor?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "No, Sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "What contact have we -- who have you spoken with at CSH?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "I have not - no one."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Who have we spoken – who has anyone spoken to at CSH?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "The only engagement is pulling this information off the Internet, off of pages that show us what models are and best practices. But we haven't engaged any vendors. We haven't, we being me of the Department of Community Development, has not done any work related to this project."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner, I've been involved and I've never heard of CSH; so, it's a concept that I think is a workable concept that's something, I hope, that we will consider. But this is a part from where that - when we talked about that master -- master developer plan, that will include the other properties. It could include this one; but, specifically, the other properties that we own."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. I'm certainly supportive of doing this you know. I'm glad that we got the hotels and we have the opportunity to even think about doing this, but I think we got to give priority to our Veterans when we do this and you know to me, if we, we would have to include this in the master-plan because otherwise we'd just be doing everything haphazardly, or we do each building as a one-off. I mean so it wouldn't make any sense to pull one building out of seven out of the master-plan. Now, did we -- is this -- this is in the city of South Fulton, right?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And so, are -- do we plan on talking to them or including them in these conversations --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- absolutely --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--yes, Sir --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “--all right, thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Hall.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to say that this is an absolutely great presentation. It has been a long time coming. I recall, Mr. County Manager, when we had our standing meetings and I had numerous conversations about how can we use County property to ensure that we have a diversified offering of housing and buildings that provide wraparound services. And so, I’m very pleased to see that you have come up with a solution. One thing that I didn’t see in here and I know we discussed this at one point about how ACCG has a loan program that assists counties with properties that they may be purchasing. And the loans specifically states that it has to be a property that the County is going to use and have services and programs in that, in that particular building. And I’d like to know if that is something that you looked into since discussing – I think it’s been about a year ago when I asked about it.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Commissioner Hall, we’ve used the ACCG program already. That’s what we used to purchase 4700 North Point Parkway. So, we would be limited. If I remember correctly, there is a maximum limit that you can borrow against that program --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- yes --”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “--and so, we would be limited to the difference between what we’ve already borrowed against it and the limit which I think it’s going to be somewhere in the neighborhood of maybe \$4 million, but I have to go back and --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- and check it --”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “--verify that, yes, Ma’am.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Okay. Thank you. And I, you know, tiny houses has been something that is going on for quite some time. The very first legislation that was passed here was by the city of Atlanta and it was legislation introduced by Kwanza Hall. And they called them accessory dwellings and now you see that in the ordinances and code enforcement for the city of Atlanta that they are literally going back and looking at the lots and allowing accessory dwellings and other homes to be added to properties. And yes, it’s a very good idea. It’s working very well. So, very good work, Mr. Chair, and Mr. County Manager, and Dr. Roshell, and the Executive Team. This is very good

work. I look forward to seeing more information on this; but, this a very good beginning. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I'll be brief. I think the concepts we're talking about are good. I think we got a long way to go in terms of getting something that's actionable. So there are -- I think it's nice that we showed some places elsewhere in the country where they're doing some stuff, I've got two places here in the Metro area; one, not far from here, probably about 8 that's more of a temporary to perm, right -- that is all sort of three elements of you know kind of housing within it, you know, and it's structured in a high crime area, but it's been a very successful model the way it's set up I'll be glad -- I've been serving on the Board for a while -- I'll be glad to go over and --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--where is that --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- have you tour that. It's just west of Mercedes-Benz. And then another model that I believe that they've broken ground in doing some units nonprofits based here; but the units they are doing but I believe are in Cherokee County that are a little bit more kind of a you know permanent housing smaller housing kind of units. So, I think it might be useful to kind of take a look at you know some things that are going on here in the Metro area that may sort of fit our geography and also work around some of the different dynamics that we face in our community may be different from some of these others - transportation to/or from work, crime elements et cetera, I think, as well as the wraparound pieces of it. So, and I see this is permanent you know and I think housing's a continuum, right? And particularly when you get into stuff like Veterans, you know, there is temporary displacement; you know people temporarily displaced and then they get back with their families and you know we definitely have a lack of units in that space and lack of -- certainly a lack of productive units in that space, right? Where there's really wraparound services and so; I will be happy to kind of sit down and talk with you a little bit further and show you those other two models perhaps go toward them. I think it might help sort of inform you know and kind of, and also give us some access to some potential partners that can do some work with us, so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Other comments? Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Continue Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 6, **22-0156**. Request approval of a Resolution approving the cleanup of certain Fulton County owned property located in the city of

South Fulton due to tornadoes, storm damage, and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I just want to make this statement and County Manager if you don't mind; it's been brought to my attention that we've already started clean-up on that property. I just wanted you to confirm that for me.”

**DICK ANDSERON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Yes, Ma'am. I'm not sure why that's not working.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Thank you, County Manager. So Chairman, I'm going to make a motion to file this because it is a mute point that cleanup has already started and we've got that confirmed information from the County Manager; so, I will move to file.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Without objection, it's filed.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Page 7, **22-0157**. Request approval of a Resolution approving emergency maintenance on certain strong storm water detention ponds located within the boundaries of the city of South Fulton pursuant to certain Fulton County easement rights; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Chairman, in reference to this, additional information was brought to me today that requires us to take a further look at this. So, I'm going to respectfully ask to move to file this, until we can get some information that we need from the County Attorney's office. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion before us is to file without objection; it's filed. Continue Madam Clerk.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0158**. Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the County Manager to allocate 1 million dollars to Arts and Culture, sponsored by Commissioner Arrington.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Thank you, colleagues. This was part of I guess the \$2 million that I asked for during the budget process and I think there was -- I guess at least some confusion on my part or maybe on everyone's part, but about midyear review. If we wait until the middle of the year to review it, the funds won't be available. And so, I'm asking that those funds be made available now. By the time someone puts

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out an -- if we wait for midyear review and then put out an RFP and then wait for someone to respond, the year will be gone. And so, I hope that you all will support this. I think that our Arts and Culture community needs it. And they, I think, they are also a part of the healing process from what we've been going through with COVID for the last two years. So, I ask for your support. Thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yes, just a question. The million dollars would that go into the contract for services bucket or what is your thoughts?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No, this will go to the Department. I believe we already allocated -- I thought we had already allocated 2 million extra for contracts for services--"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--yes [Inaudible.]"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- now this is for the -- you're talking about the Arts --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--what is the purpose of the funding? What's it going to go towards?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "This is for the Arts department -- I thought that we had already allocated 2.1 for --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- contracting --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- an additional 2.1 for contracts for services --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- we did --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "--no, Sir, it's on the list to be considered against what's now the remaining 5.3 million of the appropriated reserve."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "So, then, if you're considering adding to contracts for services, then that would go through the normal process, correct."

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

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "-- I mean, just blanket --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- I'm completely confused now, because I thought we had allocated that 2.1 -- I was told that it was in the budget. And so, if that is not there, then I guess I need to go pull the tape because I know someone told me that it's in the budget when we were here --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “-- yeah --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- and it's a specific line item in the budget. And so, you know I don't think I'm making that up.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- no, you're not --”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “-- no, you're not --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- I don't think I'm making that up. I think someone responded that it was specifically allocated as a line item and so to hear today that it is not, is troubling.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Commissioner Arrington, it was on the list of enhancements, but when the Board took action to adopt the budget, the items that were approved from that list totaled 715 or 750 something thousand, if I remember correctly. So, it was one of the items on the list, but the Board did not take action to approve that amount. We reduced the seven and a half million down to 6.8 million through the actions that you took during the budget discussion in January.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Well, I'm just going to chalk it up to confusion on someone's part. I don't know. I'm hearing chatter up here that I was not the only one that thought that that 2.1 million was approved.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Well, let me go on record saying that I also thought 2.1 million was allocated to Arts and Culture to the contract for services grant program specifically, specifically.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Yes, and my point, that day was I had 2 million in there for Veterans and then I said, okay, well let's split that up. Let's do a million for Veterans and a million for Arts, knowing that the 2.1 million was in there for contracts for services, and that's why I said another million for the Department itself. And so, I don't know what we need to do to try to fix this. I think, maybe, Mr. Chair, as you were saying, maybe we just allocate whatever is left or allocate these funds. I think we definitely need the additional 2.1 million for Arts. I thought that that was already done. All right, I'm going to pull the tape and the transcript on that because something is not adding up with that. But certainly, I believe that we also need an additional million just for the Arts Department which is what I again allocated that day when I split the other two million up that was in the budget from Veterans and Arts. So, I don't know what the -- what the will of the Board is or the pleasure of the Board is. I guess I'll be quiet now and hear from everybody else.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But what I remember is exactly the way Commissioner Hall described it. So, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and this would simply be an additional million for Arts and Culture for rents. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, I thought that the Vice Chair was in front of me; were you?"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yeah, I was just going to ask, what is the amount that's in contracts for services?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "She was in there. I just didn't want you to overlook her; but she was in there."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Thank you, very much."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "No problem."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hausmann, Hakeem is verifying; but I believe the amount that's in the budget for contracts for services is 1.5 million."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "So, was that the same we had last year?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It may be like 200,000 - \$20,000 less than what was there last year."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "200 or 20?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That's what I thought - sorry. I think it's about \$200,000 less than what we had in the budget last year."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "And then we added ARP money or CARES money or something to Arts at some point during the pandemic?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We -- in 2020 we had funding specifically for Arts. Last year -- what we did last year for Arts was we increased what we called the Legacy entities -- we increased their funding and made them all equal I believed to what the Chattahoochee Nature Center was. So, that's the action that I recall that we took on Arts last year. We did not take an action to increase the contracts for services balance."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Okay. I'd ask for you to go back and verify; but it seems like we did put some supplemental funding into the Arts category to help keep some of

our agencies afloat during the pandemic when there was no public presentations that were going on.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Yes, I do, I do believe we did that in 2020, but we'll go back and tell you exactly how much we put into the Arts program. I want to say it was like a million dollars; but we'll go back and verify that.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “Okay. Again, to me, this is one of those quality-of-life issue areas that is underfunded in our budget in general. I'm supportive of you know making sure that we have a vibrant Arts community in Fulton County, but if we only have 1.5 in contracts for services to me, the money would be most useful going in that area versus just unknown -- whatever they would do with it in the Department. So that's my take on this idea.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner, now what, Commissioner Hall? Is that right?”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Yeah, you know what --”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--yeah, that's right--”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “--it switched around--”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “-- it switched around but go ahead, Commissioner Hall--”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- I already spoke, but that's all right. Go ahead Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Commissioner Arrington, I really do want to support this. Only thing I would ask because of the confusion because I'm trying to remember. I can't remember if it was going to be held for review at midyear because that's -- to be honest with you, that's my recollection. That doesn't mean I won't support it. So, I want to support it, but I want to make sure that I'm not haphazardly making a decision right now not knowing fully if that was the conversation or exactly what the conversation was. So, I just want to go on record letting you know I will support this, but I just want to see, if you don't mind, if we take a vote on this later just to make sure that I have all of the information and I'm not, not moving on something that I don't have the complete information based on my recollection.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Commissioner Morris.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Yeah, my recollection about the budget is a little different from yours. I recalled that we were doing the million and a half. And I considered

pushing to increase that because I felt like for years, if we leave it at a million and a half, with costs going up, the Arts organization aren't getting as much in effect and value and we needed to be goosing it up each year. But I resisted adding anything to the budget, and so I passed on that, but my recollection is that we did put the million and a half – we talked about increasing it, but my recollection is we didn't do that. And I guess my concern here is again perhaps like Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, putting it in the Department's budget without some direction, I'm not sure that that Department's large enough to need the million unless they start making up programs. I would much rather see it being added -- if we're going to do something -- to the contracts for services. And again, as I've said many times, it's not feel good stuff to me, it's economic development that Mercedes-Benz and NCR's and others simply won't go to a city that doesn't have a vibrant cultural and arts community. And so, a million and a half dollars when, you know, when we were doing tax abatements for 5, 6, \$7 million to create a handful of apartment maintenance jobs and a little tax base, you know a million and a half dollars' worth of Arts grants go a whole lot further than that to me. So, but I'm reluctant to do this right now because if we do this and the next one, that 6.8 has already been reduced to five-point three and this would bring it down to 3.3 with ten more months to go in the year with an awful lot of items in that wish list of that original seven and a half-million dollars. So, I guess I'm torn a little bit here Commissioner Arrington. I would love to see some more Arts grants. I'm not ready to just turn it over to the Department without some better direction."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, I think that you know in the interests of compromise, I'm happy to, I guess -- I guess what I will probably do then is make a motion for another 1.5 million to be distributed through the Arts Council, and an additional 500 for the Arts department. And so, that will be my motion for a total of 2 million."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So, Commissioner Arrington, would you accept a friendly amendment so that we can go ahead and address the \$2.1 million for contract for services since our CFO has said that it's on a list for midyear, we can go ahead and dispose of that and vote for the 2.1 million for contract for services to make sure that our Arts and Culture nonprofit organizations can get the grant funding that they need?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm - yes. I'm happy to do that. I'm happy to do that. Those organizations need it. I just wanted to make sure that the Department is also taken care of as I'm willing to accept that friendly amendment. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I think your question about the Department side of it is what would the money be spent for in the Department? Is that the --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- well, I accept your friendly amendment, so --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- okay, thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Let's -- so now, now – what it reads --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “So, with the friendly amendment, I think it is --”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “-- you're dropping the 500,000 for the Department --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- no, no. The friendly amendment was only to the contract for services because I proposed 1.5 and 500; and so, the friendly amendment was to amend the 1.5 to the 2.1, and so, that is what I accepted. That did, that did not - there was no, there was no amendment, friendly or otherwise, as to the money allocated proposed for the Department.”

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Commissioners, perhaps, just to clarify the money that is made through the charitable contributions' statutes have to be expended through contracts for services. That's the vehicle for expending the monies.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “For, for what?”

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “If the money is being given through the statute that allows us to give charitable contributions, then the vehicle for expending that contribution is through contract for services.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Yes, and that's why I said 1.5 for contract services, and Commissioner Hall did a friendly amendment to raise that to 2.1 --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “--for contract for services --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- for contract for services.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “So, Commissioner Arrington, would that be a total then of 2.6?”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Yes.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “-- 2.1 for contracts for services and 500,000 for the Department's use for other purposes --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “--yes, Ma'am --”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** OFF MIC “-- in addition to the money that's already there for contracts for services --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- there was, there was 1.5 she said for contracts for services. I attempted to double that by adding another 1.5 and allocating 500 for the Department. Commissioner Hall made a friendly amendment to the 1.5 that I suggested for contracts for services to 2.1 and I accepted that friendly amendment.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- and let me be clear that's because we already have the 2.1 million for contracts for services on our lists. We approved that with the budget.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Commissioner Hall -- I mean Commissioner Hausmann, you asked what the Arts total budget is; their 2022 budget is 4.6. We have confirmed the contracts for services number is actually 1.3 million, not 1.5.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Out of the 4.6, not in addition to, correct --”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “-- yes, Sir, out of the 4.6 contracts for services is 1.3.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “So, again I'm sorry, but I'm very unclear about how much money we are now attempting to reallocate to the Department what the total contracts for services would be and the total Arts Department would be if we did this. But I'm not sure what the amount is.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “So, I'll let Sharon -- I'll be quiet and let Sharon talk.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Based on what I think I've heard, currently contracts for services is 1.3 million. Commissioner Arrington's motion would add 2.1 million bringing the total for contracts for services to 3.4 million. In addition to that, he's adding 500,000 to the Arts Departmental budget which would increase it by a total of 2.6 million making the total budget now if my envelope math is correct; 7.2 million.”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “So, this 1 million -- this Agenda item 158 that was for a million dollars to the Arts and Culture's budget now is adding 2.6 million?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Yes, Ma'am, that's the --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- so let's be real clear. And I got the transcript here that they just gave me. The - of the 2 million I originally -- of the 7 million that was left over, I had proposed 2 million originally for Veteran services, but because we were just starting out, I was willing to take that down to a million and also do another million for the Arts Department; and both of those were included as specific line items as part

of our budget in that 7.2, I guess, that was reserved for midyear, okay? Additionally, there was another 2.1 million apparently that was also in that same list which I thought was not in that reserve list, but in the actual budget. And so, now we're finding out -- at least, I'm finding out today, that that additional 2.1 million was not actually in the budget which is why I proposed originally just saying okay, the 2 million do another 1.5 for contracts for services and another half a million which would have capped it at 2 million total. However, Commissioner Hall did a friendly amendment to 2.1 in addition to the 500, so that takes it to 2.6. I'm happy to do either, whichever is the will of the Board."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Well, I mean, I know there's a printing press around here somewhere that's making all this money that we keep talking about. You know are you still going to offer up the Veterans million dollars too, because that's going to pretty much deplete the reserves."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I don't think it's going to deplete it. I think what Sharon said was it will be about 3 million left."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 3.3 -"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- yeah, so --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "yeah, it's only March 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>, so --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--absolutely I'm asking for the money for our Veterans. They deserve it."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "I agree. That's why I'm not comfortable adding any more than a million that was on the table. So, you know, I can't support more than adding a million to contracts for services. That, that would be --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- for the Arts --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "-- for the Arts, that would be my maximum that I'd be willing to do for contracts for services --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- I'm sorry, what's the maximum for contracts for services --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "--the million dollars that's on this line item --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- what he's asking --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--but he's asking for money for the Department itself, not contract for services --"

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “-- yeah, I can’t support this --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “--those are two different things --”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “-- yes --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- so, you want to support the million just for the Department or do you want to support a million for --”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “-- without any detail about what the million would go for in the Department, I don’t see how I can’t support that. I understand what would happen with the contracts for services that’s always historically underfunded as well --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—right—”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “-- so, I could support that because it would go through a vetting process --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- yes, and that’s what I’m asking for the money for contract for services for the grants for our Arts and Culture nonprofits --”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** “-- right, not another 2 million; I can’t support that. I do think that’s excessive at this point in time. I could go for a million, that’s all I’m saying--”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “--is that not the amount that you already have on your midyear list – isn’t that what you said, Madam CFO? That’s the amount that we approved with our budget for the midyear cycle, Madam CFO?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Commissioner Hall, as I recall there was a request for 2.1 million for an increase to contracts for services --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- right --”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “--and a request for an additional 1 million for Arts. And as I recall in that discussion, it was centered around the likelihood that we may have to continue operations of Wolf Creek Amphitheater. That’s what I recall from the conversation. That’s was on the list -- the enhancement list from the final budget discussion that would come back at midyear.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “So, I’ll just amend my motion. It sounds like we have maybe the support for a million dollars extra for CSP and not to Arts and Culture --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- yes --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- and so --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “--for contracts for services --”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** OFF MIC “ --he said CSP --“

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- oh, for contracts for services --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- I’m sorry, contracts for services. I apologize --”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “-- for the Arts --”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “-- for the Arts --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- so, I’ll amend the current motion to that but not remove the other item from whatever line item from whatever where ever it was in reserves already for the Department.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “I’ll second for the million dollars for contract for services for Arts and Culture grants.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “So, the only thing before us now then is properly moved and seconded that you would be increasing the contracts for services Arts budget by 1 million.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Yes.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Yes.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Contract for services, yes.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “For one million. Okay. I can support that. All right. Commissioner Morris, you want to be heard again before you [Inaudible.]?”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Just real quickly. I just want some confirmation that those items in that list comprising the 6.8 million were not things we were approving. Those were things we might approve during the year. And also, that they added up to a lot more than 6.8 million. So, when we use up this stuff, that’s going to leave a whole lot less for a big long list of things that we thought some of us at least thought individually here or there, were important items; is that correct, Mr. Manager, Ms. CFO?”

**DICK ANDSERON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Yes, Sir, I think that’s the confusion --”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “-- yeah --“

**DICK ANDSERON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “--as you recall, the Chairman was kind of keeping the list and as it decremented off of 7.5 million, I think it got down to six point --“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “-- nine --“

**DICK ANDSERON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “-- 6.8, so clearly these things that we’re thinking about were included, were not approved, per se, but were still on the table for allocations from that 6.8 --“

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “-- right. And I think the tally was 11 million, and so --“

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “-- I believe --“

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “-- 6 million, give-or-take which leaves again an awful lot of things to come out of what’s now a very small reserve.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “We have 40 million under runs every year --“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “-- yeah, that’s where that midyear --“

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “--I thought it was 80 this year --“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “-- the midyear --“

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- it probably was --“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--let’s dispose of this now. The midyear is going to take care -- the midyear review is going to take care of a lot of y’all’s wish lists. But, let’s get through this today, if we can. Commissioner Ellis, you still want to be heard?”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah, I think, Commissioner Morris did a very nice job of bringing us all back to kind of that point, okay, so I’ll – you know, we’re at a point where I can support you know kind of the addition for contracts for services. I wouldn’t be supportive for adding in just for operational funds, so.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “All right.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Hall.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “With the recognition that we are, you know, we are making trade-offs as we are making decisions today, but that’s what we’re -- that’s what we do.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Hausmann, you still want to heard?”

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. What's before us now is a \$1 million addition to contracts for services in Arts. Let's vote, please. Cast your favorable vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Thank you. All right. Continue -- next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Next item **22-0159**. Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the County Manager to establish a program for the County to give \$1 million for Veterans organizations currently serving Veterans in Fulton County sponsored by Commissioner Arrington also to be heard with **22-0162**, Discussion, Veterans CSP framework and staffing needs."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, let's take the 0162 first, then before we get to the money. How would this work?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, apparently our Veterans Empowerment Committee has asked for some staffing assistance. And I think Dr. Roshell has made recommending a veteran services coordinator housed under community development to work with them and to coordinate their meetings, you know, so I mean that staffing, I don't know what the manager is, or what the will of the Board is in regards to that, but my main thing is the million dollars for the organizations serving the Veterans. And certainly, to the extent that we have staff that can help the Veterans Empowerment Commission with their services and being able to disperse that money you know if we have the resources to do that, then I'm certainly supportive of that as well. I think frankly we would need someone to manage the process so that it doesn't just get left hanging in the wind like a lot of our other Commissions and task force if you will. And Dr. Roshell, I don't know if you have anything that you would like to add for that."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. From the staffing perspective it would be impactful to have one staff person coordinating not only this framework and implementation, but coordination of Veteran services across the County. When we look at research regarding how other counties do address Veteran services, many counties across the country are already implementing an array of services on a continuum for Veterans. And so, this particular position would not only support the Empowerment Commission, but a broader perspective and portfolio on supporting Veterans in Fulton County."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** Yeah, on the -- I don't necessarily have an opinion, per se, on the staffing. I do -- that's only as impactful as good as a person you're getting, and kind of what the focus of the role is; otherwise, it does run the risk of becoming something that's sort of in name only, you know; so, I do – I do think really given you know some thought to what that person if you were going to hire; hire someone, what they would actually be doing, what the scope of the role would be, et cetera. I mean, that's one way to look at it. I think the other way to look at it is thinking about you know Veterans in the context of all the services that we deliver today because you know Veterans are our citizens that you know are accessing services just like everybody else. There are some unique needs that I don't think we've necessarily would have thought about as we're doing other things like transportation services for seniors; but specifically, right? You know, there are places where I think we could look at adding on to what we are already doing that would be beneficial, right? I mean, there's so - that's my comment on the staffing. On the CS - if we're okay with getting into discussion on the CSP framework, I did --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- and I can share that --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- yeah, okay. I had some questions; I had some more comments --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--next slide, please. So, Commissioner Arrington charged us with developing a framework similar to the CSP model. And so, what you have by way of a memo was the full draft of that framework. It models the CSP structure by way of specific categories of service, a criteria, and a model for scoring a competitive process. And really drilling down into issues that may be beneficial to support Veterans in our community. By the way there are over 45,000 Veterans in Fulton County. So briefly this framework has three basic components, economic security and poverty, health and wellness, homelessness and housing. It would be modeled again after the CSP process. An RFP would be released. There would be technical assistance workshops and then next page, please. And then there would be an opportunity for individual – for organizations in the community to apply for these dollars. The maximum award would be \$100,000 for a constituent to or an organization to receive services. And because of the time frame, we would look to make our first award in June. It would include an evaluation committee. There would also be reporting and monitoring of all of the organizations. The next page. The RFP, if the Board does approve this framework, could be released as early as April and then you see here the timetable for how we would work through this process. Again, you do have a full packet of the draft framework drilling down into specific issues that impact Veterans in the community. Some of the slight differences are some focused on post-

traumatic stress disorder services, long-term-care, services for caregivers, transportation, financial and legal planning. So again, this is building off of a very successful model, the CSP framework and uses many or all of the components from that framework. What has changed is the areas of focus, subsets of service to be of benefit in service to our Veterans. Commissioner Arrington that concludes the overview."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Now, I guess I have one little question and may be the Board can help with this. I guess I was originally envisioning that the Veteran Empowerment Commission would act like the Arts Council --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- yes, Sir --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- and they would be the evaluation or the recommendation committee, but I see in this you have a different evaluation committee other than the Veterans Empowerment Commission--"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- so, because this is modeled specifically like the CSP model, Commissioner Arrington, we can change that and have a more prominent role for that Empowerment Commission --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- or at least have them make recommendations --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- yes, Sir --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--even if there is another internal staff you know evaluation committee; I think that the very least --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- okay --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--they should be involved in making recommendations --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- absolutely, yes, Sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Thank you. Commissioner Ellis followed by Vice Chair Hausmann."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I mean in concept, I'm fully in support of what's before us. I guess sort of I just want to throw a few things out for consideration. Number 1 in terms of the evaluation of these you know I don't know the makeup of you know all the folks that are on the Commission, but I do think we've got folks that are sort of actively engaged in potentially organizations that are providing such services. So, we've got a,

you know, ensure that we don't have a conflict there. You know, that those folks are also engaged in evaluations. So, you know we need to think through that, right."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** Number 1. I think one of the things we just learned in going through this CSP piece, we've got to have a threshold score so maybe starting out at the 75. We just learned through the other one it might be good. I noticed you got this sort of a minimum figure of 50 grand whereas who we've got minimum; I believe 25 on what we just went through on the CSP, so maybe that should be lowered --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- okay --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--and you know the other, the other thing I do think that -- I'm glad we have it in here and sort of just alluded to this just a minute ago, one of the components that's in here that's noted is transportation. I'm not so sure -- and I -- and I think it's a real, a real need, right? I mean, you've got to get people to the VA, they've got you know - there's a number of different things there with Veterans that may sound like its recurring, right? I'm not sure that this is the best vehicle for us to get at addressing that need you know or would it be you know -- what we might want to consider some kind of carve out of that funding and us doing some direct contracting potentially with some of the providers we're already using and it can be specific for Veterans. So, I just, there may be some things like that, there may be some sort or -- our intention's right maybe there's some unintended consequences of just doing it this way versus maybe doing some direct contracting and some of these things and that might be something that might be worth the you know the Commission sort of vetting a little bit and giving us some feedback on. I mean, that one in particular just knowing that we're doing a lot of this transportation already and this in the category in here is something that sort of just struck me as we were going through it. And then the other thing is we noticed that this when we're talking about the regular CSP, there is overlap, right? And we've got some organizations on here, I mean, there's one organization, that's all they do, you know, they need housing for Veterans. Are those organizations going to be eligible to participate in this you know as well? Right, you know, I mean, and it might be that some of them might be almost the exact same submission they made, right? And others it might be the same submission, but it's just focused around you know services for Veterans and that would only be what we would payout based on that. So that question would -- is that what we envision this as if you're a recipient under the CSP you could also apply under this program as well."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “So, the way we envisioned it is that if you are already receiving CSP funding, that this would not be a program that you would be eligible for.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. So that --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- going forward -- going forward though, if there is a group on there that only does -- only service Veterans, then they could apply under the Veterans one and that would free up more money under CSP for other people that are not providing Veterans services --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--it's kind of what I'm getting at. I think as a vehicle, this particular model may or may not be the best way to go about providing services. It might be a little bit more -- we might want to think about -- and maybe we'll run it for a year; whatever, we might want to think about more of a direct contracting model with some of this stuff, right; I mean, like Legal services and stuff maybe there are - we know there is some specific groups and that's stuff we are already doing and like our accountability court or stuff like that that. We may want to you know layer onto that same with you know kind of transportation layer on what we're doing on the senior side and developmental disabilities side, so, those sorts of things. That's the only thing just to think about as we're considering it you know, and is this exactly the right model for us to go about or we might, might we want to pick you know eight, commit a million; pick two or three particular categories that we want to fund you know whether it's – you know whatever they may be and then look at you know potentially direct contracting off some of this stuff we're doing. I don't know if you got any thoughts on that --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- I'm open to allowing the Manager and his Staff to come up with the best plan. Maybe that 700,000 going out in grants and 300,000 in you know direct services. I think we allow the Manager and his Staff to come up with that plan. We have the million allocated and let them come back and tell us you know; and like you say, maybe it's a pilot program. We tried this this way and may be there's 2 - 300,000 allocated for Transportation, or a hundred thousand allocated for Legal or whatever. But you know frankly I would, I would rather add money on top of the million for those but, in the spirit of compromise and getting it through, I'm you know particularly so that they can have access to this stuff this year, right?”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “That would be some of the benefit of a direct contract --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- right --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- if they've got it in place, you can just add on --”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- I'm open to allowing our County Manager to allocate those funds how he sees fit and to come back with, you know, the more detailed plan whether it's all going out or some part going out or some part being used for direct services. It's a million dollars for Veteran services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. Vice Chair Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIR HAUSMANN:** "Yeah. Interesting discussion. I mean, to me, we are serving Veterans but it is not coordinated. It's an all - and we've got a Veterans court; we just talked about some potential housing; we've got a lot of CSP programs that serve Veterans; our homeless efforts serves Veterans. So, to me, this is a great start to finally establishing a Department. I would say that this is and it would be an ongoing department. This isn't a one-off, right? I don't think we really can sit here today and decide what the department's going to look like. We've got a Commission of Veterans from throughout Fulton County that I think will be invaluable to help us determine exactly what is needed out there and how we can best coordinate it. So, I think the most important thing we could do is, you know, find the right staff person to lead the department and then work with our commission over the next few months to try and determine exactly what areas aren't being filled, what we are already doing, how we coordinate all that, and have it all in a central location because if you're a Veteran out there, and need services, you don't really know where to go in Fulton County. So, I think that's the most important piece of this is having something visible that you know we can point to when someone calls us for assistance or we come across someone that needs help. I think the timeline is pretty aggressive to put an RFP out in April there's no way we would have a staff member in place by then. So, I mean I think this is a great step forward in this area; but again, I agree that the County Manager should look at this and try and figure out a -- and you, Dr. Rosshell, a real plan to go forward. But you now have the seed money and you have the support that this Commission is providing that we think this is an important area that we haven't served."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** All right. The motion on the floor is to -- there is no motion yet. Mr. --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- the motion is to fund a million dollars for Veteran services and to empower the County Manager to come back and present a plan as to how that million will be spent this year."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Properly moved and seconded. Let's vote, please."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The motion was made by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by me."

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

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next item, please, Ms. Corbitt."

**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0160**, External Affairs, presentation of the 2022 legislative agenda."

**JESSICA CORBITT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Slides, please. I'm going to run through the states update pretty quickly, Commissioners. If you have questions about any specific items, and then I will just ask our Team to please be prepared to transition to the federal slides. We will -- the most significant update we have today is that since our last meeting, Senate Bill 437, your redistricting bill, did pass. We are awaiting the Governor's signature, but that legislation will affect qualifying next week. And your commission district boundaries will change as of January first. Next slide, please. Next. So, we've gone over this before. I won't spend much more time on it, but I did want to make you aware of that for the public -- next slide. A couple of bills have been -- they have not crossed over -- crossover day is next week on, excuse me, week after next on March 15th. So there is some legislation that we have been working on with several of you as well as judge Kirk related to tenant's and relief for tenants in the case of eviction. Next slide, please. Two Bills we wanted to call your attention to that have both been adopted by the House on the Health and Human Services front. One is House Bill 1092. This is a bill that allows women who are pregnant at the time of conviction, to defer their sentence until six weeks after childbirth. The second Bill, House Bill 1192 would require the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver regarding -- and this is specifically to address individuals living with HIV. Both of these received bipartisan support and have been adopted by the House and have gone on -- are now being heard in the Senate. Next slide. Wanted to give an update that the House Bill 1013 which is the Omnibus mental health Bill received a favorable report out of Committee today. We do expect that Bill to move forward. That Bill is sponsored by Speaker Ralston and really addresses mental health parity as well as the behavioral health workforce in Georgia among some other things. There are some edits that we're expecting that were made in Committee; so, we will provide an update once we have those. The other Bills, Senate Bill 342 which is a different parity Bill on insurance has already been adopted by the Senate and is now in the House. Next slide. Still a number of different elections

Bills that have -- some of them have been passed out of Committee, but have not passed out of their respective chambers. We are continuing to monitor these. House Bill 86 is one that we worked with ACCG to provide some feedback. It does have some cost implications for the County. And just a couple of various issues related to election legislation. Next, please. House Bill 1134 which is related to gang activity. This is one I believe Madam DA has spoken to -- has been, has passed out of the House last week there is some other -- some of the other Bills you see listed here related to firearms and similar issues have also been -- there's been some activity there. Next. I wanted to also highlight Senate Resolution 477. This is sponsored by Senator Mullis and would create a Georgia Music Heritage study committee. Because of Fulton County's involvement in the creative industries, we wanted to highlight this. It would also create some opportunities around other creative industries. We know the Grammy Museum and some of the other initiatives the Board has considered are relevant here. I am going to -- actually, I'm going to skip ahead. Next please. I think this one -- we're not seeing a lot of movement here but we'll keep you informed if we see anything. Next. Wanted to quickly mention House Bill 923 which is Representative Oliver's Bill. This has a number of different provisions about development authorities and specifically addresses some of the ethics issues that were discussed last year about per diems, removal of directors, and issues of that nature. So, just wanted to call your attention to that one because it has been you know discussed in recent months. I think I will stop there on the state agenda. You have a copy of this in front of you. So, if there are any questions, we can take those; otherwise, we will transition to the federal update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Are there questions for Ms. Corbitt? Any questions at all? No questions. Ms. Corbitt, continue."

**JESSICA CORBITT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Excellent. Thank you very much. Team; please pull up the federal PowerPoint. We are very pleased to have with us today two gentleman who have been working with us from our new federal team. Last year, the Board worked with us to separate our state and federal engagements. We felt like we had some unique opportunities given just what's happening in the world to make some progress with federal funding and policy priorities. They have been here since yesterday and have had an opportunity to talk with most of you about some of your priorities and we have heard a lot of common themes and I'll let them talk about those. We also last night in the President's State of the Union Address, he talked about his so-called unity agenda and several - three of those areas actually we've heard a lot of discussion with you on opioid prevention and treatment, on mental health issues, as well as support for Veterans, which you just talked about a few moments ago. Cancer support, while it's out of our hand is obviously a priority for all of us. So, I think there is a lot of bipartisan opportunity. A lot of opportunity for the County

to really make an impact and I'll go ahead and turn it over to them and we'll be here for any questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Gentlemen, welcome."

**SCOTT BINKLEY, MCGUIRE WOODS CONSULTING:** "Thank you, Jessica. Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Hausmann, and Commissioners, it's really nice to be with y'all today. My name is Scott Binkley. I'm the Vice President of Federal Affairs at McGuire Woods Consulting. McGuire Woods is a firm of about 1100 attorneys and several hundred consultants. We work out of our Washington DC office where we have about ten consultants who also pitch-in. But myself and Clayton Cox are your Federal Affairs representatives as of the beginning of this year. So, as a native of Fulton County it's an honor to be here and work with you guys. Next slide, please. Again, my name is Scott Binkley. I've worked in a number of capacities in Georgia politics initially with Congressman Tom Price on Capitol Hill and had the honor of serving him in a number of capacities in his legislative office. I've worked on a number of campaigns here in Georgia and a number of campaign committees on the Republican side and that's a great segue to my colleague, Clayton Cox."

**CLAYTON COX, MCGUIRE WOODS CONSULTING:** "Thank you, Scott, and thank you Chairman, and Commissioners. It's great to be here. My name is Clayton Cox. I'm the Vice President of Federal Affairs with McGuire Woods. Don't hold it against me, I am from Cobb County, but just over the river. I spent a lot of time and played youth soccer, did a lot of fun stuff in Fulton County. So, I'm really excited to be a part of the Team and to get to work here. I joined McGuire Woods about eight months ago. My background is in democratic politics. I was on the last three democratic presidential campaigns. Worked for President Obama, Secretary Clinton and then now, President Biden. I was the co-director of the Biden Victory Fund, and then I was the national finance director for the democratic national committee for the last four years in addition to being the senior advisor to the Chair of the National party. So, I go to do a lot of great things there and transitioned to McGuire Woods about seven months ago and really enjoyed I think making Fulton County our sort of marquis client in making it the thing that Scott and I are most proud to work on making sure that there's bipartisan coverage 'cause no matter what happens in Georgia over the next, over the next few months, we want to make sure that Fulton County is in the best position possible. Next slide. Our sort of approach, I think, rather than kind of waiting around and getting directions and go call this person or call that person; than seeing what - this issue's caught on fire. We're really taking a proactive stance. Our sort of, you know, we started here in January so our – what we've done in the last two months is really hit the ground running. We're kind of operating off of two parallel tracks if you will. Number 1: we've gotten out there;

we have met with both of our Senators, their Staff. We've met with all members of Congress that are representing Fulton County. We have sat down with the key federal agencies that Fulton County works with including Department of Transportation, HUD, HHS, Treasury and others. And then we've really engaged the White House and brought them in. I think it's a key point to be made that Fulton County is not just the largest County, not just over a million people in the state of Georgia, it is a regional, it's a national leader; it's a hub, and it's important that in Fulton County, be well supported and gets the things that it needs. Fulton County's also doing some really, I think, groundbreaking stuff. I want to make sure that we tell that story, and that just like Pure County is a Fulton County aspirational county that is slightly bigger that have federal representation sort of all over the place. We're making sure that we're out there and that we're being proactive. It's like I said, we met with key federal agencies; we've sat down with intergovernmental affairs folks at the White House. The infrastructures are, the supply chains are those offices to see what the opportunities are and we've also attended the NACCO conference. So, our goal really in this first month is to figure out what the needs of Fulton County are to be in listening mode as we sat down with a lot of the Commissioners and the Chairman and the Staff and leadership, and Fran, and Jessica, and Jazmine have been great in getting us acclimated here. So understanding the needs of Fulton County, while also identifying the opportunities with the bipartisan infrastructure law with other federal grants in sort of this new administration's focus on getting money directly to localities. The second thing we're executing on are the immediate needs of the County. So, we're not just sort of, okay, we're going to apply for some grants; we're going to put in earmarks request what are the things that immediately need to get done, that we need to assist with, so, ERAP funding we've reached out to the Department of Treasury folks. We have notified our Senators and our congressional staff that we need to get that money into the County as soon as possible. And Fulton County got recognized by the Department of the Treasury for the programs that we are operating. We've also worked to leverage the relationships we have on the Hill to get support letters for grants and other things we've applied for and then finally, one of the immediate things we've hopped on is the some of the last mile funding for broadband in South Fulton. We've made sure that the County applied for that. We're going to make sure that our congressional delegation is aware of that; the White House is aware of that, and that we're all pushing on this together. And I think the final piece that we really want to engage, Fulton County has so many great nonprofit and private-sector partners, so, let's bring them all to the table and let's all put our shoulder to the wheel and make sure that Fulton County gets what it needs. Next slide. With that, I'll give it back to Scott to talk about some of the major buckets that we're working on."

**SCOTT BINKLEY, MCQUIRE WOODS CONSULTING:** "As Jessica mentioned, we've been here for a couple of days and had the opportunity to meet with a number of y'all and for those that we haven't, we look forward to talking with you about your priorities as well. But we've identified a number of common priorities that are at the top of the list for all of the Commissioners, and I'd like to run through those and then of course at the end of this presentation, get your feedback; and if there are others that we need to add to this list as well. But as we discuss with you guys the top of the list it seems for everybody is the Fulton County airport. The great thing here is that the County obviously has a plan to not only revitalize the airport, but as we've heard today, create an economic development engine for the community there and this fits with what the federal government is putting resources towards right now. And so I think that the immediate action plan here will be going to DC with you all to sit down with the Build America Bureau which is a new loan program through the Department of Transportation, officials at the department of transportation, and show them the plan as it exists now. Talk to them about Build America Bureau funds towards that project. Talk about relevant programs through the new bipartisan infrastructure law that we can leverage to complete that project not only in a quicker time frame, but also pull some burden financially back from the County. And so, I think that after that's completed and then will put those funding mechanisms into your master plan and that way when that plan is done in the third quarter of this year, we can take that back to Washington, DC, and these federal stakeholders with the inclusion of those programs that they've highlighted and identified with us and really hold their feet to the fire to say we've developed this Master Plan, and you told us about these programs that we could include in that to fund this program and here we are ready to go. Let's get the check in the mail. So that's our immediate action plan as it relates to the airport. The next program that we've heard from all of you guys about is the justice program and facility modernization. Of course, we've heard about the diversion center and partnership with the city of Atlanta; and that sounds like a great program that would provide wraparound services. We've also discussed the court backlog and your use of ARPA funds to alleviate that problem. And then we've also discussed the ongoing conversation around the overcrowding in the Fulton County jail and modernizing that facility as well; Clayton, for the next two."

**CLAYTON COX, MCGUIRE WOODS CONSULTING:** "Yeah, our other sort of priorities again and we're in listening mode and I think we've heard some great things for the past few days and we'll certainly add to this list. This is not an exhaustive list; but, one of the major buckets we're going to focus on with the infrastructure Bill, you've got \$660 billion available for infrastructure, for roads, bridges, all kinds of maintenance and updates. So, we're going to look at transit. We're going to look at what are the dollars we can bring in for BRT, what our conversations are around having light rail and other things.

See what the County can do to maximize our dollars but also make sure we're maximizing our voice and that we're working with MARTA, working with the other stakeholders here in the County and within the state and the region to give the administration and give Congress sort of a full holistic plan. In addition to transit and transportation, we're also going to identify funding sources in behavioral health, mental health. I think one thing that across the country, we have heard that when we were at NACCO is that COVID-19, the pandemic has really brought to bear our sort of lack of resources for behavioral and mental health. So, what can we do with the existing dollars that have been allocated? What can we do in advocating for new grants? What can we do in getting creative? We met with the grants Team this morning. That was fantastic, and what can we do to with all the support that we've get with our nonprofit partners, with our private partners to sort of synthesize that - bring that together and leverage that support to the administration and with the Hill. So that when we go to Senator Warnock, and Senator Ossoff and others that we are sort of saying we've got the whole community behind this. Let's make this a win-win for Fulton County. And the final thing that we're compiling and putting together is just kind of all-in-one place a document. Really, you've got all kinds of websites. Every agency's got their own list. You've got grants.gov. Let's put everything in one place for the County as far as when earmarks are due when appropriations are requested and when we need to have grant requests in to the various agencies. And then on the final slide is just sort of our next steps from here. And I'll let Scott talk about that."

**SCOTT BINKLEY, MCQUIRE WOODS CONSULTING:** "I wanted to just give everybody an overview of kind of our, our constant communication. We've already arranged and have done a couple months of bi-weekly calls with your External Affairs Team. We've also held a call and we'll continue to hold calls with your Executive leadership team and then, I'd also like to commit to being back here once a quarter to provide direct updates to you all so that you know what we're up to and what priorities we're working on and what we've accomplished. In the meantime, we're always available should you ever have a question or if there's a priority you'd like us to focus on. That said, thanks again for having us here. It's an honor to work for y'all and happy to answer any questions or comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you very much. Any questions at this time? I think you all have had an opportunity to meet with everyone 1-on-1, I believe. Any questions? Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I don't, I really didn't have a question. Chairman, I didn't really have a question. I just wanted to say thank you again for the very engaging conversation yesterday and I appreciate it. Not only being included, but I

appreciate the thoughts that I shared with you with the issues in my District. So, I look forward to a great relationship.”

**SCOTT BINKLEY, MCQUIRE WOODS CONSULTING:** “Thank you, Commissioner.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Other questions or comments? If not, thank you guys very much; look forward to working with you.”

**SCOTT BINKLEY, MCQUIRE WOODS CONSULTING:** “Thank you, Sir.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Is there anything else, Ms. Corbitt?”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “No, Mr. Chairman.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right, next item, Madam Clerk.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “It’s the item that was removed from the consent Agenda.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. That item Commissioner Morris, has had to sing tonight, so he’s not here; I can recommend that we hold that until our next meeting.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Okay.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Sorry, okay.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “No further items.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “No further items. He’s a tad too late in the words of Mr. Commissioner Ellis. No further business to come before us, we are adjourned. Thank you very much.”

(Whereupon the meeting concluded at 5:40 p.m.)