

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RECESS MEETING

September 20, 2023

10:00 AM



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



MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: October 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:01 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)	PRESENT
Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)	PRESENT
Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)	PRESENT
Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)	PRESENT
Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)	PRESENT
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	PRESENT
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, 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**23-0601 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

Absent: Arrington

23-0602 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Dewayne Crowder Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**
September 6, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Deacon Alvin Miles, Sr. Remembrance Day." **(Pitts)**
September 9, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Deaconess Sarah M. Baccus Miles Remembrance Day." **(Pitts)**
September 9, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Minister Alvin Miles, Jr. Remembrance Day." **(Pitts)**
September 9, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Deacon Gerald W. Ware Remembrance Day." **(Pitts)**
September 9, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Margaret Virginia Greene Butler Remembrance Day." **(Hall)**
September 9, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Frances Carolyn Coverson Remembrance Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**
September 9, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Samuel Howard Archer High School Alumni Association Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**
September 15, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Cynthia Bailey Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Eva Marcille Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Lawrence Washington Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Dwight Eubanks Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Robert Ector Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Derek Fonzworth Bentley Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Devyne Stephens Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Rico Wade Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Shannon Balenciaga Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Miguel Wilson Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Tracy Nicole Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Lisa Nicole Cloud Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “London Couture Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Timeekah Murphy Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Melva Costen Remembrance Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**
September 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Summer Lucille Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**
September 16, 2023

Open & Responsible Government**23-0603 Finance**

No action is requested. This reporting is being provided to meet the quarterly reporting requirement for monetary transfers amount budget funds per Board Resolution #09-1262. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0604 Finance

Ratification of August 2023 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0605 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB131850C-MH, Countywide Spot Cooler and Heat Pump Rental in the amount of \$36,000.00 with Spot Coolers, Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA) to provide on-site portable air-cooled spot coolers and heat pump rental units with the necessary accessories for set-up on an "as needed" basis for designated Fulton County facilities. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Arts and Libraries**23-0606 Arts and Culture**

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Arts & Culture, SWC 99999-SPD-0000136-0008, Temporary Staffing Services with Corporate Temps Inc. (Norcross, Georgia) at no additional cost to provide temporary staffing services for an additional six (6) month period. Effective dates: July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**23-0607 Department for HIV Elimination**

Request approval to amend existing contracts to increase the spending authority of "Ryan White Part A" grant subrecipients pursuant to the Health Resources and Services Administration award #2 H89HA0007-32-00 in the amount of \$2,725,000.00 for FY23 and \$2,725,000.00 for FY24, subject to Federal funding. Contracts are 100% grant funded with no Fulton County match. Requests authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with eight selected subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and substance and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chair. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Infrastructure and Economic Development**23-0608 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 21,059 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from EA Homes, LP., for the purpose of constructing the Firefly Project at 3000 Hembree Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0609 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 30,751 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from EA Homes, LP for the purpose of constructing the Firefly Project at 3000 Hembree Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0610 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 10,221 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Branyan Trail, LLC for the purpose of constructing the Crabapple Market Residential Project at 0 Crabapple Circle, Milton, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0611 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 179,162 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Windward Park Master Association, Inc. for the purpose of constructing the Windward Park Commercial District Project at 0 Northpoint Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**23-0612 Sheriff**

Request approval to extend an existing contract, Fulton County Sheriff's Office 20RFP126238B-YJ, Behavioral Health & Addictive Disease Counseling in an amount not to exceed \$54,000.00 with Chris 180 to provide the Second Chance Act Improving Reentry for Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Illness (CSAMI), Grant) for an additional six month period. Effective October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0613 Sheriff

Request approval to extend an existing contract, Fulton County Sheriff's Office with Justice Solutions, to align with the existing term October 1, 2019 through to September 30, 2023 a new contract term of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. FY19 Second Chance Act Improving Reentry for Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Illness (CSAMI) U.S. Department of Justice Grant. Effective upon BOC approval. 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0614 Sheriff

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Sheriff's Office, 22RFP0405B-PS, Delinquent Tax Sales with Government Tax Services, Inc. (Carrollton, Georgia) to provide type-written title examinations, abstracts, and delinquent tax sales preparation services. This action exercises the first of three renewal options. Two renewal options remain. Effective November 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024. This is a revenue generating contract. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0615 Medical Examiner

Request approval to renew an existing contract on behalf of the Fulton County Office of the Medical Examiner and the Emory University School of Medicine Office of Graduate Medical Education Department of Pathology to provide clinical education experiences for graduate medical students enrolled in the Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program; and authorizing the County Attorney to make any necessary modifications to the form of the agreements prior to execution by the Chairman to protect the interest of the County. The County is not required to pay any compensation. This action exercises the second of five (5) renewal options. Three (3) renewal options remain. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0616 Medical Examiner

Request approval of a contract on behalf of the Fulton County Office of the Medical Examiner and The Department of Chemistry and Forensic Science for Savannah State University. The Department of Chemistry and Forensic Science for Savannah State University hereby agrees to perform DNA kinship testing on an individual case-by-case basis as needed and requested by the Fulton County Medical Examiner Office on a case-by-case basis not to exceed \$15,000.00. Effective upon approval through July 30, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0617 Superior Court Administration

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between The Georgia Department of Community Supervision and Fulton County, Georgia to implement weekend non-jury criminal court proceedings ("Weekend Court Proceedings") at the Fulton County Jail in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 for the term effective September 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023, with options to renew; and to authorize the County Attorney to amend as to legal form as necessary. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

23-0618 State Court

Request approval to renew an existing contract, State Court, 14RFP93286A-CJC, E-Filing System with File & ServeXpress, LLC (Irving, TX), to provide an integrated electronic filing system for all case types within the jurisdiction of the State Court. This exercises the first of one renewal option. No renewal options remain. The renewal term is for a two-year period. Effective dates: October 5, 2023 through October 4, 2025. This is a revenue-generating contract. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

RECESS MEETING AGENDA**23-0619 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to adopt the Recess Meeting Agenda as amended by moving up items #23-0641 as requested by Commissioner Thorne, #23-0642 as requested by Vice-Chairman Ellis, and #23-0648 as requested by Commissioner Barrett. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

23-0620 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Recess Meeting Minutes, August 16, 2023

Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, September 6, 2023

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

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

Absent: Arrington

23-0621 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Minority Business Opportunity Week." **(BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "Corporal Jordan Ennis Appreciation Day."
(Abdur-Rahman)

PUBLIC HEARINGS**23-0622 Board of Commissioners**

Public Comment - Citizens are allowed to voice County related opinions, concerns, requests, etc. during the Public Comment portion of the Commission meeting. **Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, whether such persons are commenting in-person, via emails or via Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call). Non-Fulton County citizens will only be heard after all in-person Fulton County citizens, representatives of business and organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, have been heard and the time allotted for public comment has not expired, except as otherwise provided in this code section. County staff shall verify the residency of each public speaker prior to such person being heard by the board. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed thirty minutes at the Recess Meeting.** In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Similarly, written comments (that were timely submitted) not previously read, may be read at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

20 Speakers: Paul Hershey (Item #23-0642); Wanda Cooper (Item #23-0598); Maurice Kenner (Item #23-0648); Marilyn Primouic (Item #23-0648); Ronelle Hunter (Item #23-0648); Juwayn Haddad (Item #23-0648); Arnold Ragas (Item #23-0648); Gail V. Ivey (Item #23-0648); Joshua Lofton (Son/Hakeem Lofton); Janet Hill (Property Deeds); Stanley Muhammad (Plantation Politics); Gloria Dorsey (Item #23-0641); Peggy McCarthey (Item #23-0641); Michael Collins (Item #23-0648); Ben Lynde (Item #23-0648); Julie Allen (Item #23-0642); Devin Barrington-Ward (Item #23-0648); Margie McCloud (Item #23-0648); Jennifer Deen (Item #23-0641) and Lisa Milot (Item #23-0641)

5 Zoom Speakers: Kevin Muldownaey (Item #23-0642); Matt Rowenczack (Item #23-0642); Ben Howard (Senior Services); Pamela "Phoebe" Eckhardt (Item #23-0648) and Andrea Coleman (Item #23-0648)

1 Emailed Comment: Lisa Jones (Item #23-0641)

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority**

23-0623 Board of Commissioners
MARTA Quarterly Briefing **(PRESENTED)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****23-0624 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB130203C-MH, Mail Services Operation in the amount of \$351,573.24 with Moore Partners, Inc., dba More Business Solutions (Peachtree Corners, GA), to provide mail services Countywide. This action exercises the second of two renewal option. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

23-0625 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134949C-GS, Tree Removal Services Countywide in an amount not to exceed \$309,000.00 with Arborserv, Inc. (Lithonia, GA), to provide on-site tree removal services Countywide under emergency/storm related situations or as-needed basis. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

23-0626 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB132332C-GS, Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Services Countywide in the total amount not to exceed \$1,344,000.00 with (A) Latham Home Sanitation Company, Inc. (Loganville, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$660,000.00; and (B) Georgia Waste Systems, LLC dba Waste Management of Atlanta South, (Lake City, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$684,000.00, to provide landfill solid waste disposal and single stream recycling services for Fulton County facilities. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

23-0627 County Manager

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

23-0628 Registration & Elections

Request approval to increase the compensation for the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections ("BRE"). If approved, the monthly compensation for the BRE chairperson will increase from \$300.00 to \$600.00, and the monthly compensation for the remaining BRE Members will increase from \$250.00 to \$500.00. This increase will be effective upon the BOC's approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Ellis

23-0629 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to award contract without competition - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23SS81723C-MH, Countywide Postage Services in the amount of \$2,600,000.00 with the United States Postal Services (Atlanta, GA), to provide postage services for Fulton County agencies. Effective dates: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

23-0630 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of an Acceptance Letter for Georgia Power's Make Ready Program, which will fund the electrical infrastructure for public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at the Metropolitan Library. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

23-0631 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to Increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21RFP127274K-BKJ, Comprehensive Operation and Preventive and Predictive Maintenance Services for the Fulton County Jail and the South Fulton Municipal Regional Jail in the amount of \$1,230,530.00 with Johnson Controls, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide support services for the Jail Bridging Plan at the Fulton County Jail. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Ellis

23-0632 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to amend existing contract - Fulton County Library System, 11RFP78732K-NH, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) Consulting Services for the Library Capital Improvement Program, Phase II (FCLS-CIP) with Hillsman, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$25,300.00 for an increase in fees for interior design, furniture selection, procurement of furniture and furnishings and installation of all procured items for Peachtree Library, MLK, Jr. Library and East Point Library Expansion. Effective upon BOC approval until projects are completed as determine by the County. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Pitts

23-0633 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Fulton County Library System, 11RFP78733K-NH, Wayfinding Design Services for the Library Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Phase II in the amount of \$7,400.00 with Page Southerland Page, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide Wayfinding Programming, Design and Construction Administration Services for East Point Library. Effective upon approval; until projects are completed as determine by the County. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

23-0634 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134934C-MH, Moving Services in an amount not to exceed \$555,397.00 with Tuxedo Logistics, LLC dba Allied Commercial Services (Columbus, GA), to cover the costs to support Phase II for the relocation of Clerk of Superior Court, Sheriff's Office, Information Technology, DREAM, Police, and Marshal's Office to the County Central Warehouse. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

Health and Human Services**23-0635 Community Development**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Community Development, 22RFP026A-CJC, Housing Rehabilitation Program in the amount not to exceed \$662,401.00 with Meals on Wheels, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide housing rehabilitation services including general program administration, marketing, customer relations, applicant screening and qualification, project management, contractor oversight, and reporting. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Ellis

23-0636 Public Works

Request approval of lowest responsible bidder - Public Works, 23ITB139005A-JWT Standby Utility Pavement Patching & Paving Services in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 with the K&E Group USA LLC (Atlanta, GA), to provide standby utility pavement patching and paving services effective upon execution of contract through December 31, 2023, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

23-0637 Public Works

Request approval to increase spending authority - Public Works Department, 20RFP126602K-BKJ Building Code Administration Services, Construction Management Services and Planning Services in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00 with NOVA Engineering and Environmental, LLC (Kennesaw, GA) to provide building code administration services, construction management services and planning services. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

23-0638 Public Works

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Public Works, 20ITB100620A-CJC, Small Water Meter Installation, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 with Wade Coats Company (Austell, GA) to provide small water meter installation services in the North Fulton water service area. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

Justice and Safety**23-0639 Public Defender**

Request approval of a MOU between Fulton County, on behalf of the Office of the Public Defender, and the United Way of Greater Atlanta in the amount of \$100,000.00 to support a select group of chronically homeless individuals released from the Fulton County Jail by providing transitional housing with case management. The MOU will be effective upon approval by the Board of Commissioners until December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

23-0640 State Court

Request approval to increase spending authority - State Court, 22SS049A-KM, Substance Use Disorder ("SUD") Monitoring) in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 with Avertest, LLC dba Averhealth (Richmond, VA) to provide SUD monitoring services delivered via Aversys, a proprietary web-based application, drug testing services and products for the Fulton County DUI Treatment Court. Effective upon BOC approval through September 20, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**23-0510 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to rescind a motion previously passed by the Board of Commissioners to refrain from taking any action regarding the composition of the Board of Ethics until certain matters are no longer pending before the Board of Ethics; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 8/2/23) (APPROVED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve.

Commissioner Hall withdrew the second.

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

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Hall

23-0512 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution requiring contracts or other written agreements to accompany agenda items appearing on the meeting agenda of the Board of Commissioners to uphold transparency in governance; providing exceptions for those contracts or agreements processed by the Department of Purchasing and Contract Compliance and for those excluded under the Georgia Open Meetings Act, or for emergency situations; and for other purposes. **(Thorne)**
(HELD ON 8/2/23, 8/16/23, AND 9/6/23) (APPROVED)

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

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

Nay: Barrett

Absent: Arrington

23-0595 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article II (County Governing Authority), Division 1 (Generally) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances relating to budgetary controls for members of the Board of Commissioners by reducing the travel/conferences budget for members of the Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Ellis)**
(HELD ON 9/6/2023) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, and Ellis

Nay: Barrett, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

Absent: Arrington

23-0641 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Article VI of Chapter 34 of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances regarding rabies and animal control to prohibit outdoor sales of dogs, cats, and domestic rabbits; to encourage each of the cities within Fulton County to adopt similar Ordinances; and for other related purposes. **(Thorne)**
(APPROVED AS AMENDED)

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve as amended by amending line 17, replacing the word "transferred" with "offered" or "displayed." The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

23-0642 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager to not include or consider any budget enhancements or budgetary increases for any Justice Department or agency in 2024 General Fund Budget; and for other purposes. **(Ellis) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

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

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments

23-0599 Board of Commissioners

FULTON-ATLANTA LAND BANK AUTHORITY (HELD ON 9/6/23) (DENIED)

The Authority is governed by a board of directors comprised of an odd number of individual representatives- with no fewer than five (5) or more than eleven (11), hereinafter the "Board". Initially, the Board shall consist of seven (7) representatives comprised of: (A) four (4) appointed by the Mayor of the City of Atlanta and (B) three (3) appointed by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

Term = 4 years

Terms below expired: 8/7/2023

Jane Bradshaw Burnett **(BOC/Morris)**
 Calvin Brock **(BOC/Abdur-Rahman)**
 Kyle Lamont **(BOC/Hall)**

Commissioner Hall nominated Anita Harris for a Full Board appointment to a term ending August 7, 2027.

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Hall to approve.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

b. A motion was made by Chairman Pitts and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to deny. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**23-0643 Board of Commissioners
FULTON-ATLANTA LAND BANK AUTHORITY (APPROVED)**

The Authority is governed by a board of directors comprised of an odd number of individual representatives- with no fewer than five (5) or more than eleven (11), hereinafter the "Board". Initially, the Board shall consist of seven (7) representatives comprised of: (A) four (4) appointed by the Mayor of the City of Atlanta and (B) three (3) appointed by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

Term = 4 years

Terms below expired: 8/7/2023
Jane Bradshaw Burnett (BOC/Morris)
Calvin Brock (BOC/Abdur-Rahman)
Kyle Lamont (BOC/Hall)

Chairman Pitts nominated Edith Ladipo for a Full Board appointment to a term ending August 7, 2027.

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

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

**23-0644 Board of Commissioners
BELTLINE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD (APPROVED)**

Fulton County Board of Commissioners shall be responsible for the appointment of five (5) members.

Term = 2 years, with such term commencing upon Council approval.

Term below expired: 5/3/2012
Cora Dunston (BOC #1/Pitts)

Chairman Pitts nominated Cora Dunston for a Full Board reappointment (BOC #1) to a two-year term that will commence upon approval of the Atlanta City Council.

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

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

**23-0645 Board of Commissioners
REGION III EMS COUNCIL (APPROVED)**

The Bylaws of the Region III Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council requires that its members be appointed by County Commissioners and must constitute a minimum of two-thirds of the voting membership. Council members serve terms of appointment of three (3) years.

Term = 3 Years

Terms below expired: 6/30/2022

Steven L. Moyers (Grady Hospital-EMS) (**Position 4/Ellis**)

Roderick "Rod" M. Smith (City of Atlanta Fire Chief) (**Position 1/Pitts**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Steven L. Moyers for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #23-0645, #23-0646, and #23-0647. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Ellis

23-0646 Board of Commissioners**REGION III EMS COUNCIL (APPROVED)**

The Bylaws of the Region III Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council requires that its members be appointed by County Commissioners and must constitute a minimum of two-thirds of the voting membership. Council members serve terms of appointment of three (3) years.

Term = 3 Years

Terms below expired: 6/30/2022

Steven L. Moyers (Grady Hospital-EMS) (**Position 4/Ellis**)

Roderick "Rod" M. Smith (City of Atlanta Fire Chief) (**Position 1/Pitts**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Roderick "Rod" M. Smith for Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #23-0645, #23-0646, and #23-0647. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Ellis

23-0647 Board of Commissioners**REGION III EMS COUNCIL (APPROVED)**

The Bylaws of the Region III Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council requires that its members be appointed by County Commissioners and must constitute a minimum of two-thirds of the voting membership. Council members serve terms of appointment of three (3) years.

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: 6/30/2023

Matthew Kallmyer (Director AFCEMA) (**Position 2/Pitts**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Matthew Kallmyer for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #23-0645, #23-0646, and #23-0647. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Ellis

COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

23-0648 Sheriff

Discussion: Inmate outsourcing options to include D. Ray James Facility and Core Civic and identify funding options. **(DISCUSSED)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

23-0649 Board of Commissioners

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

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

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the request for representation item #1 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to deny the request for representation in item #2 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
RECESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, everybody. Good morning, and welcome to the -- this meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is September 20th, 2023. It is 10:01 a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: Present.

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Present."

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Present."

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **23-0601**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission, and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Recess Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Nothing on the Consent Agenda? Commissioners, no changes to the Consent Agenda? I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, it is seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 6, Recess Meeting Agenda, **23-0619**, Adoption of the Recess Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, Commissioner Thorne has requested to move up her item on page 11, 23-0641, Request approval in an ordinance of the Fulton County code regarding rabies and animal control, to prohibit outdoor sales of dogs, cats, and domestic rabbits, to encourage each of the cities within Fulton County to adopt similar ordinances, and for other purpose -- related purposes. Commissioner Thorne would like this to be heard after public comment."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Also, I would like to move the Sheriff's item, 0648 on page 14, up to right after the Fulton County Operational Report on page 8."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What number is that?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "The Sheriff's item is 648."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Page?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Page 14."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "648."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And to just go ahead and move that up to right after the County Manager's Operational Report, 627."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

CLERK GRIER: "So noted."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Since we're playing move things around, I would like to move item 23-0595."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What page, Vice Chair?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "No, I'm sorry, that's the wrong one. Item on page 11, item 23-0642, which is Request approval of a resolution to direct the County Manager not -- to not include or consider any budget enhancements or budgetary increase for the --

any Justice Department or Agency. I'd like that -- for that to be heard after we have the budgetary discussion within the Operational Report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, all right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And I have question related to -- since we're discussing moving up item -- or since we just requested to move up item 23-0648, the Sheriff's item, and it's a matter of a lot of public interest. We received very limited to no detail about this item. Is there additional detail that has been provided to the Clerk that would be shared with us during the meeting that could be made available to the public?"

CLERK GRIER: "I have not received any."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So we have no information. And who is -- do we know who is to present on this information?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I believe that's the Sheriff's office presentation. But might I suggest that at least some portion, initial discussion be conducted in Executive Session, due to the fact that the --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'm not -- well, I -- that's an interesting suggestion. I think it should a public discussion item, but --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, I agree with that."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- you know, but I -- my main question was, there's no additional information that we have or that you have that can be shared with the public other than what's the brief documents that are in -- in our agenda right now, packet?"

CLERK GRIER: "That is correct, yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Anything else? All right. Then I'll entertain a motion to approve the Regular Agenda as amended. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion -- with Vice Chair, six yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. And will someone notify the Sheriff that we're moving that item up. It's not last, it's near the -- so he can be here to -- all right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "23-0620, Ratification of Minutes. Recess Meeting Minutes, August 16th, Regular Meeting Post-Agenda Minutes, September 6th, 2023."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: " 23-0621, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing Minority Business Opportunity Week, sponsored by the full Board of Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "All right. Please come up. Please come up, you, and is there anyone else here with you that would like to stand with us? Please come up. Come on, we'll make sure you all get the pictures. This is a proclamation: WHEREAS, since 1975, the Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council, Georgia's leading small business development and supplier diversity organization has certified minority business enterprise firms, developed their capability, capacity, and competency, and facilitated partnerships with corporations and governments in need of their goods and services. AND WHEREAS, the GMSDC serves more than 400 corporations that are headquartered in Georgia or have a significant presence here, as well as more than a thousand certified minority business enterprise firms. AND WHEREAS, the GMSDC has helped minority business enterprise firms create thousands of jobs, generate billions of dollars in revenues, and help build sustainable enterprise. AND WHEREAS, the GMSDC continues to support Georgia's minority business enterprises through its various signature events and educational programs designed to provide opportunities for growth, success, and long-term sustainability. AND WHEREAS, on September 18th through 22nd, 2023, the GMSDC will host its Quarterly Business Opportunity Exchange to stimulate opportunities and explore ways for minority businesses to do business with corporate and governmental supply chains. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Minority Business Opportunity week in Georgia to honor the achievements of minority business and their importance to our economy. And does hereby proudly proclaim, the week of September 18th through the 22nd, 2023 as Minority Business Opportunity Week in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you please put your hands together for such a great organization. And now, we will have a few words."

STACEY KEY, GMSDC, RECIPIENT: "Good morning. My name is Stacey Key, and I'm the President and CEO of the Georgia Minority Supply Development Council, GMSDC. And I will tell you, I am honored to be able to serve in this capacity, I am grateful for the opportunity. For the last 15 years, every day I wake up, and my feet hit the floor, the world trembles because they -- it knows, we're going to help some minority business grow. I'd like to thank Fulton County and all the Fulton County Commissioners for your support of minority business -- minority businesses and this Minority Business Opportunity Week initiative. I am grateful for your support. Also throughout the state that we're celebrating, the Governor has declared this to be Minority Business Opportunity Week throughout the entire state to bring recognition and focus on the contributions that minority businesses make to this great state and this economy. Georgia is number 1, and recognized for being number 1 because of the contributions of small businesses and minority businesses. And so again, just simply, thank you. We're grateful, a lot activity going on. If you have an opportunity to support a minority or small business, please take that opportunity. They fuel this economy and help us continue to be the number 1 state for doing business. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The last proclamation is recognizing Corporal Jordan Ennis Appreciation Day, sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can I get Corporal Ennis and also Lieutenant Charles Chapeau and any other supporters. Any of our law enforcement that's in the building, if you would please stand with us, the law enforcement that's in the building. This is a very, very prestigious moment. And I believe we do have a video to show why it was imperative today that this gentleman, and I call him gentleman because when I saw that takedown, I couldn't think of nothing else. Oftentimes, law enforcement get a bad rep. And so if we can show that video of this amazing thing that this law enforcement Corporal Ennis did that day."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "How long is the video?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "It's ten seconds at the most, Chairman, maybe five. Chairman, don't start with me this morning. Can we get the video to play, please? See we -- I get fussed at when y'all don't have the video ready. Do we have the video ready? We don't have the video ready. Okay, so what I will do at this point, I'm going to hold -- I'm going to give them a chance to see if they can get the video ready. Before I go into this, I want to say that Lieutenant Charles Chapeau, if I'm saying it right -- Chapeau, is the cousin of our Vice Chair Bob Ellis. I know you can't tell how handsome he is they're related, but they are. So I wanted to recognize them. But here again, this proclamation: WHEREAS, Corporal Jordan Ennis is a native of West Philadelphia, and

a dedicated member of the Georgia State Patrol for more than 11 years. AND WHEREAS, Corporal Ennis joined the State Patrol in 2012. And his journey as a law enforcement professional is a testament to his steadfast commitment to upholding safety and serving the community he holds dear. AND WHEREAS, in 2017, Corporal Ennis demonstrated his love for our four-legged friends when he rescued three abandoned puppies -- I'm a dog lover -- in the heart of Southwest Atlanta, my district. Whether safeguarding the streets of Georgia or rescuing vulnerable creatures, he is a shining example of what it means to be a hero. AND WHEREAS, on August 20th, 2023, Corporal Ennis' training and quick thinking came to the forefront when he executed a daring pit maneuver to halt a reckless vehicle that struck a pedestrian on a crowded street. AND WHEREAS, Corporal Ennis' decisive action, not only prevented further harm, but also showcased his exemplary dedication to preserving the safety of the public. AND WHEREAS, in addition to his heroism and dedication to the safety of the community at large, Corporal Ennis is a dedicated family man, and is happily married Leigh Solomon. And I'm going to take a personal privilege of saying, he deserves a big S on his chest. Because what I saw him do that day, by his self, he could have waited on backup, but he knew that every second was crucial. And I stand here with my colleagues, just not only in awe of what you did that day, but so glad that you saved lives in what you were doing. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Corporal Ennis for his bravery and willingness to go the extra mile to protect and serve those in need. And does hereby proclaim, Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 as Corporal Jordan Ennis Appreciation Day in Fulton County. Can you please put your hands together for this gentleman."

CORPORAL JORDAN ENNIS, RECIPIENT: "So, I was told where to go and that I -- there would be doughnuts, but I didn't know I'd do a speech. And I can't follow the speech for last one. So, just thank you to everybody. Thanks to the Governor, my command staff, for letting us do what it is we do. And just thank everybody, really, thank you."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And Lieutenant, can we get a few words from you, Lieutenant, since you are the cousin of our Vice Chair?"

LIEUTENANT CHARLES CHAPEAU: "I'll just echo what Jordan says, you know, I supervise Jordan as well as several others on the Crime Suppression Unit, Criminal Reduction Unit, that go out every day pretty much, protecting the citizens in the state of Georgia, not only here in Atlanta, but across the state. And it's every day that, you know, you hear about a law enforcement officer that puts their lives on the line. And I would encourage all of you to thank the person blue. I don't know if you heard about the

LA County Sheriff's Deputy was sitting at red light, and some -- I'll just leave it at that -- someone pulled up next to him and shot him dead, right there where he sat at a red light. All because he's wearing this uniform. So, appreciate the people in blue, because without the people in blue, it's going to be anarchy. And we don't want that. Thank you."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you. And I want to say, the takeover group that was responsible for that was the 'Doughnut Dudes.' So I just wanted to make sure. So we can get a quick picture with our Vice Chair and Chairman. Chairman, please come."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam Clerk."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I just want to note for the record that I have objection to the post-meeting agenda minutes from September 1st meeting. And I'll be emailing those over to the Clerk and Commission."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, Public Hearings, **23-0622**, Public Comment -- Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate -- participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing by registering on the county's website: www.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing business or organizations within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes. In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached, but prior to public comment being completed, the 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 have received 22 speaker cards here in Assembly Hall. Will the first six speakers please come forward: Paul Hershey, Wanda Cooper, Maurice Kenner, Marilyn Primouc, Ronelle Hunter, and Juwayn Haddad."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Speakers, as always, when you have 15 seconds left of your two minutes, I'll say, 15 seconds. That's your key to conclude your remarks. The Clerk has indicated that we have 22 speakers, that's 44 minutes. That's really an

hour by the time you come up and so forth. We got 30 minutes for public comment. If someone has said what you plan to say, I mean, don't feel obligated to repeat it. Because we hear very well and understand. So I would appreciate that if we can accommodate everybody within the 30 minutes. Yes, sir."

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Before you start my two minutes, I still have not received any information back on my motion that was done on what -- the motion for the extension of committee chairs and members of the committee in a statement, and motion that said they were automatically extended. Now, I've received calls from your -- your assistants. But I've never received any information back. So I want to know when I'm going to hear that. And when am I going to see that motion? Because you are not -- you are not replying to your constituents, period. So somebody needs to do something. And this is a bad day. And I'm ready for my two minutes. First thing that I'd like to say is, is this, I'm in support of Commissioner Ellis's proposal, 0642, for the following reasons: Number one, your DA spent \$542,000 to a law firm that couldn't lead a group in silent prayer. Number two, in that, you've got 300 employees in the DA, you got 1209 prisons -- prisoners that have never been indicted. And every time that I'm here, this guy over here stands up and says, well, we don't have time, we don't have judges that want to hear it. I've got the -- I've got the statements from three judges that said, they got plenty time in the calendar. So if you spend \$542,000, for another law firm to do something, then what the heck is the rest of your people in the DA department doing? Number two, why does a Sheriff have to come to this Commission or the County Manager to move prisoners? Number one, you've got -- you've got 341 people or 341 people sleeping in -- in the floors. You got three -- you got 358 spaces available throughout other -- other facilities. If the Sheriff doesn't know how to do it, let me tell you what, I'll volunteer to do it. And I can do it with a minimum amount of people. I can do it with a minimum amount of -- of money. And here's how I'm going to do it: I've already contacted the National Guard. They are required to handle POW, prisoners of war. They can have a training exercise to move those prisoners to those facilities during a weekend."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "And I will volunteer to coordinate all of that. And I'll spend my time, at nobody's taxpayer dollars to do it. And I want to know why the Sheriff hasn't moved anything. And you guys are responsible for those constituents that are sitting in the jail, and you're not doing your job. And I am sorry, that was --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Thank you, sir. Thank you. Next speaker."

WANDA COOPER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, my name's Wanda Cooper, and I'm old Atlanta. I'm coming here today because I was very upset the way you guys banned together to attack Commissioner Hall. That should have been left in the back room. It had no place to be on a public forum, and I'm so upset about that. But what I want you to do, Commissioner Hall, keep your -- let your little light shine. Keep doing your good works. Because I'm old Atlanta. You don't know what I know about some of you all. Khadijah, when your name was Beverly, I remember you being at Magic City. You, Robb Pitts, Robb Pitts, now let me tell you something about you. I mean you -- I'm beyond words. I'm beyond words. And I mean, the one you're doing things. But you all had the nerve to ban together and vote against this women sense her, when -- when -- if we put a UV light in your office, it'll be stains everywhere, everywhere. And you was wrong for that. Y'all was wrong for attacking this woman. And I had a big problem with it. But you know what, I ain't -- I think I done said enough. You can have the rest of the time. I done said enough. I'm tired of y'all. I mean, the calendar calls are crazy. I mean, you got two -- you have two -- you have two calendar clerks working on one calendar. People waiting five years to get on a call -- get on the calendar. It doesn't make any sense. Then you got a DA, oh, my God. She needed money for everything. When it's all said and done, who is going to pay for this? Who? Who? But my thing is, do what's right among you all. Do what's right by the citizens, okay?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

WANDA COOPER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yeah, I know. You can have it."

MAURICE KENNER, PUBLIC DEFENDER: "Good morning, Chairman Pitts and Commissioners. My name is Maurice Kenner. I'm the Circuit Public Defender for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, which is all in Fulton County. I'm here to absolutely oppose any attempt --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excuse me just one second. Now, for the benefit of the public, elected officials are not restricted to the two-minute formula, to the two-minute time limit."

MAURICE KENNER, PUBLIC DEFENDER: "I'm here to absolutely oppose any thought of the Sheriff moving our clients across state line. Just think about this for a minute. What the Sheriff wants to do is to move, presumptively innocent clients, mostly of color, 400 miles across state lines, into the state of Mississippi, into a private prison, and tell us that they're going to be safe. They're in danger, just drinking the water that'll be piped in from Jackson. I totally get that jail is unsafe. I understand that. But our Legislators have anticipated such a situation. And they've codified what a Sheriff should do. It's an O.C.G.A. 42-4-483. And it says the Sheriff has the duty to move those

inmates into other adjoining counties, and to keep them safe. That's the law. All I'm asking the Sheriff to do is to follow the law. And if he needs a copy of it, I'll provide it to him. I'm also asking you all to reject any proposal by the Sheriff to relocate inmates because it doesn't make good legal sense. It doesn't make good fiscal sense. You may save a penny or two on the front end. But I promise you, you'll pay on the back end. It's an affront to human dignity. This is 2023, not 1923. Just require the Sheriff to follow the law. You all have given him a lot of money, a lot of money. And it's a simple thing to do. We expect every citizen of Fulton County and the state of Georgia to follow the law. We shouldn't expect anything less from our Sheriff. Thank you."

MARILYN PRIMOUIC, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Marilyn Primouic. And I'm a supervisor attorney with Mr. Kenner's office, your Atlanta Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office. We are bound by the law to zealously advocate for our clients. And by moving these, our clients, the inmates from Fulton County to Mississippi or anywhere else that makes it impossible for us to see, we will not be able to stand our oath and to follow the Sixth Amendment. We cannot be shipping our clients away from us. We have to show them discovery. We have to go over video surveillances. We have to go over all of their rights, what witnesses are saying, talk to them about their defense, going out and finding witnesses, coming back to them at the jail and saying, hey, this didn't work out, what else do we have? Talking to them about the process, and what the state is saying. It is an ongoing conversation that we have with them for months, for months. We have to build trust with them. They have to know that we're for them, and we're advocating for them. We cannot do that. We cannot represent someone, by the Sixth Amendment, by phoning it in. It's an expression, right? Phoning it in. We can't do that. We will be phoning it in if you move our clients away from us. We're taken it back, as Mr. Kenner -- to 1963 before Gideon. Gideon makes our state clients, our defenders, get attorneys. They'll be over there without attorneys. We'll be attorneys on name, but not in actuality. We need to see them, and have face-to-face conversation with them, as the human beings they are that are protected by the Sixth Amendment. Do not take our clients away from us. We cannot do our jobs as the Constitution demands us to do. Thank you."

RONELLE HUNTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings. My name is Ronelle Hunter. I'm the supervisor of the Alternative Sentencing and Mitigation section of the Office of the Public Defender, Atlanta Judicial Circuit. I am here today to shed light on and bring awareness to just a few of the adverse effects of moving or relocating our clients to out-of-state facilities. Incarcerated individuals are entitled to basic protections of their civil rights. If transferred, our clients will be away from the court-appointed resources and services they are entitled to and require, like the Public Defender Council, their social workers, specific alternative sentencing programs, and other resources available to

them that ensure their wellbeing and smooth transition back into society. For humanitarian purposes, our clients have the right to see their families. Moving them away from home disrupts families by making visitation financially prohibit -- prohibitive. And if long-distance visitation does occur, it effectively raises the cost of bond, via additional monetary burden of travel and lodging. All this, without due process. Many of our clients are mentally ill, and have been diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, amongst other illnesses. They have formed relationships and become familiar with jail staff and social workers and mental health personnel. Moving them out of state would be inhumane, as it would disrupt their routines, cause stress, and worsen their mental health conditions --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

RONELLE HUNTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- moving our clients out of state would interfere with their medications, commissaries, segregated and protective custody issues and court appointments. Finally, there is evidence that keeping inmates close to home reduces recidivism and --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, ma'am. Thank you."

JUWAYN HADDAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Juwayn Haddad, I'm a supervisor with the Fulton County Public Defender's Office. I'm also here to express my opposition to moving our clients, our incarcerated clients out of state. So when I first meet a client, I have a couple of objectives. One is to develop rapport, and two is to build a trust. These two goals are crucial to effective assistance of counsel. Not only is it required by the state bar, but frankly, more importantly, our clients, my clients, are entitled to it. Building a relationship and trust takes time, and it's never, almost never achieved the first time, often takes weeks and months. So you ask yourself, why is that important? And the answer is very simple. A client is more likely to follow his or her attorney's advice when there is a built relationship of trust in there. For example, faced with overwhelming evidence of guilt, a client may heed his -- his attorney's advice by trying and working out a plea. The flip side, of course, if your client is innocent, or perhaps has good, strong defense arguments, then perhaps a jury trial is a more appropriate route if the state does not dismiss the case. The client's decision under these circumstances is difficult and requires a lot of handholding. Moving out of -- moving the clients out of state will undermine this. Now let's keep in mind also that our clients prior to conviction, they're all presumed innocent, they are all presumed innocent. And our clients, of course, are poor by definition. And many of them are unable to post bond, make bond, while they await their day in court."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

JUWAYN HADDAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So in effect, if you were to move our clients out of state, not only does it affect the client-attorney relationship, but in a sense, you're punishing somebody for being poor and unable to make bond. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers: Arnold Ragas, Gail Ivey, Joshua Lofton, Janet Hill, Stanley Mohammad, and Gloria Dorsey."

ARNOLD RAGAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I am Arnold Ragas, I am a Deputy Director of the Georgia Public Defender Council. And I stand for those who otherwise will stand alone. Many of the people I represent are charged with very serious crimes. But I want to be clear, they are merely charged with those crimes. They have not been convicted. And very often, they have not been informally accused by way of indictment. They have only been charged. Yet they sit in the Fulton County Jail, which is a living, breathing, and often dying Eighth Amendment violation. The Eighth Amendment prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. However, what happens in the Fulton County Jail is anything but. It is cruel and very usual punishment. They are being killed, they are being stabbed, and they are being beaten every day. Now the Legislature, in its wisdom, has given the Sheriff tools. It has told the Sheriff that in the event those people who are charged, only charged, not indicted very often, you cannot keep them safe, you must move them to an adjoining county. However, the Legislature also gave the Sheriff another tool. He may, or she may at some point in the future, move them to another county if it is more accessible. That is what the law says. The law says to an adjoining county or to another county if it is more accessible. So the law, the Legislature has a proximity premium. It places a premium on being close to loved ones and attorneys."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

ARNOLD RAGAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm asking -- I'm asking that you ask the Sheriff to follow the law. I'm asking you to ask the Sheriff to join me and standing for those who otherwise will stand alone."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Come on, let's go."

GAIL V. IVEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Investigator Gail Ivey, with the Fulton County Public Defender's Office. I have been employed Senior Investigator for almost 25 years. I have a couple of impacts that moving the -- moving the defendants will impact our ability to serve them with subpoenas, with documents, for us to have -- for them to see personal videos, for them to see surveillance videos, for them to have -- able to personally have a physical discovery from the -- our attorneys. We basically are also are a liaison between the attorney and us. And also, to -- some

days we have a same-day interview with the clients or the next day. By moving them to another county in Georgia will impact us able to see them or by going to another state where we have to travel, which will impact our other cases or them. So we're basically not able to see them and give them the information that is needed. Also that we've -- sometimes when we go to the jail, we might see them for 30 minutes, maybe to two or three hours. But by going to another county in Georgia, or out to Mississippi, we are not able to give them the updated information which is needed on their case. We also have to provide them -- sometimes they have to sign documents or subpoenas. They might have to sign documents for their authorization for medical records, or veteran records, or something like that. So we have to be face to face to talk with them about the -- those records, those information. And they have to sign with it. So we won't have access if they're going to another county and state -- in the state of Georgia."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

GAIL V. IVEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Or if they're in Mississippi, that will hinder us from doing our job efficiently and effectively. Because we are needed to be able to talk to them person -- on one on one. Thank you."

JOSHUA LOFTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Joshua Lofton a.k.a. Joshua Mohammed. I'm here today to bring to your attention the issue of Hakim Lofton, H-a-k-i-m L-o-f-t-o-n, my son. Case number 14-SC-124018; habeas case number 21-CH-028; and detention number at the Georgia State Prison, one -- 1001410629. My son is sitting in prison for a case that didn't happen, never happened. My son is sitting in prison for a case that was fabricated by the very Fulton County DA's office, by Fani Willis' predecessor, Paul Howard. And Fani Willis being a part of that, at that time, as the first gentleman that came before this Commission stated, there was no indictment. That may sound like a legal issue, and it is one that you all are responsible for. So I'm asking all of you to recognize your oath of office, and look into what happened with my son. When we found out the truth that nothing happened, four -- four lawyers quit his case, four DA quit his case, four lawyers quit his case, because of how egregious it was. And when we found out the truth of what happened, they -- they tried to kill my son in prison at Macon State Prison, stabbed him in the head three times, one in the neck and four in the back. That's my son, Hakim Lofton, who sits in prison for a trial -- for case that -- for a crime that never happened. And I'm here today to ask you all --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

JOSHUA LOFTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- to follow your oath, as everyone has asked you to do before me, and make sure that my son come home and get out of prison for something that didn't happen. Because I don't understand how she can

prosecute the former President, when she have not done right by my son, Hakim Lofton. Thank you."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, good morning. I'm here today to follow up on a request of an investigation to an ongoing problem related to deed theft, property theft, and forgery. My initial request was made to Natalie Hall, August 11, 2022. There is a systemic problem with fake companies filing fake deeds in Fulton County that targets seniors, minorities, single women head of household, veterans, our most vulnerable population. Our community is under attack. This is an immediate epidemic that needs your attention. In my particular case, there were three false lawsuits that were filed against me by this fake company who admitted under oath that they have no authority to bring this lawsuit into Fulton County. They admitted that they have no tracking of \$700,000 cash. And they have actually filed over 100 of these forged deeds the majority of them in Fulton County. I have supplemental documents that I'll be submitting to you that show under the Department of United States Committee of Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, reminding the scammers. Who call themselves conducting robo-signing to stop. I also have a copy of a letter from the senior, who is my neighbor. Her house was stolen twice, and nothing has been done."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds, ma'am."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "The business administration of this -- these zombie companies have fake addresses, so that they can do a bait and switch and evade service of legal documents. I'm here to help. We need to get this resolved immediately. Thank you for your time."

STANLEY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I would like to before the clock starts, as the Caucasian gentleman was privileged the same opportunity, please, before the clock starts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, the clock has come on now, let's go."

STANLEY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. But we had the clock not starting. I want to say something, please."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have two minutes, sir."

STANLEY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Two minutes as of now? Well, I'm here to deal with plantation politics, where we have in this county, we have Judges in Magistrate Court, such as Judge Nancy Mau, Judge Elizabeth George, and Judge Jeffrey Frazier, who are actually committing fraud and deceit among Black people, particularly me and my family. I'm a business owner, homeowner in Fulton County, a

clergyman. But I'm wondering why our Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk is not actually supervising this corruption. They're ruling on behalf of White attorneys. And every Black person I saw go before Judge George, she regurgitated everything the White attorney said. Now, I'm asking you, you Black elected officials, we voted you in office. I sent a ante litem item notice to all of you. No one responded about the corruption. We have a Black business in College Park, where we slumlords are actually allowing us to be in terrible -- I got four seconds."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Fifteen seconds, no, 15.

STANLEY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- slumlords, who are actually in our community. And when we ask them to abide by the law, they retaliate and send you to evictions. And now I have young Black people I'm employing. We have been faithful in paying our rent, faithful in abiding by the lease. But when we have these buzzards who come in our -- why can't our community look like Alpharetta?"

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

GLORIA DORSEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners -- (inaudible) can you hear me now?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

GLORIA DORSEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Gloria Dorsey. And I stand before you as a representative of the Atlanta Humane Society to ask that you support the prohibition of sales, of outdoor sales of dogs, cats, and domestic rabbits in Fulton County. I have observed activities of involving the attempted sale of puppies in the streets on my way to and from work in the parking lot of a local retailer and from the tailgate of a truck in a service station in my community in the City of South Fulton. As a veterinarian, I have treated puppies purchased from these circumstances for poor nutrition, internal and external parasites, anemia, pneumonia, Parvo, distemper, mange, and lice. Most of the time, these puppies are born to adult dogs that have not been vaccinated. And they are taken from their mothers before the recommended time of weaning. The sale of a puppy in any circumstance and for any amount, pretty much opens up the door to the continuation of this kind of activity. And it sets the stage for more litters of puppies to be born with illnesses and into environments that are hazardous and where they don't receive the proper care. There's also emotional devastation associated with the experience. And sometimes children are involved in those situations."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

GLORIA DORSEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "And without legal measures to humanely address the numbers of puppies and kittens born, we may not have enough municipal funds, disposable incomes, or nonprofit funding to address the problem. So please support the prohibition."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, Peggy McCarthy, Michael Collins, Ben Lynde, LA Pink, Julie Allen, Devin Barrington-Ward."

PEGGY, MCCARTHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Peggy McCarthy, and I'm a volunteer Board Member for the Georgia Pet Coalition. I've been a Fulton County resident and taxpayer for the past 33 years. The animal ordinance being proposed today, 23-0641, is intended to curtail unlicensed backyard breeding and illegal pet sales, which harms animals and shifts the burden, the financial burden, to taxpayers. The ordinance is one prong of a multi-prong solution that is needed to reduce the excessive number of animals entering our shelters. As the largest urban county in Georgia, I hope Fulton will become the leader in curbing reckless backyard breeding. Thank you to Commissioner Thorne for leading on this initiative. I'd like to address three points in support of the ordinance. First, this ordinance provides an easy tool for law enforcement to combat illegal pet sales. An outright ban on outdoor sales alleviates the need for law enforcement to check for violations of licensing laws, which is a time-consuming process. Importantly, this bill does not require additional local or state funding and protects responsible breeders who comply with licensing and tax laws. Second, we now have four precedents in Georgia, Athens-Clarke, Forsyth, and Hall counties, as well as Gainesville, have all unanimously passed this ordinance using similar language. A Gainesville Police Officer told me he welcomed the ordinance because it provides him with the authority and address unscrupulous backyard breeding --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

PEGGY, MCCARTHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- in his community. My final point is that to date, 12 large animal welfare organizations based in Fulton County and totaling over a million followers on Facebook have endorsed this ordinance including Angels Among Us Pet Rescue and Atlanta Humane Society. Thank you for taking --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, ma'am."

MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. My name is Michael Collins, and I'm from Color of Change. Two weeks ago, we sent letters to DA Willis and Solicitor General Gammage on steps they could take to alleviate the jail crisis. Our message was very simple. DA Willis, clear the backlog, work through cases quicker, indict them,

and let's get people out of jail. And Mr. Gammage, stop asking for cash bail on even the most trivial of offenses, including stealing an iPhone. We're not asking for any changes in laws. We're not asking for additional funding. We are simply asking that the Prosecutors do their job. Now, I know that some Commissioners might believe through the data on Project ORCA that DA Willis is actually doing her job and clearing the backlog. But that data comes from pre-COVID backlog. And it doesn't include data that we currently have. Your operational reports show that in April of this year, the unindicted population of the jail was 37 percent or 1,277 people. And then in August of this year, it was 35 percent, 1,209 people. We're not making any progress on this issue. In addition, she has between 11 and 12,000 unindicted cases since 2020. And that's despite receiving almost \$16 million extra in funding from this Body. There are a number of steps she could take that are relatively simple. Stop taking every case to the Grand Jury, accuse more cases. Some of the proposals that have come before the Commission make no sense, including your proposal, Chairman Pitts, to transfer people out of the state. The Sheriff does not have the staff for that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "We have already established that. Mr. Ellis's proposal has a lot more merit in terms of freezing the funding, especially for the DA's office. Please use your leverage, please use your authority, which includes the budget. Thank you."

BEN LYNDE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Fulton County Commission. My name is Ben Lynde, and I represent the ACLU of Georgia. You may remember me from last year when I came before this Body in a good-faith effort to explain what Fulton County could do to reduce its carceral footprint to address many of the issues that you find yourself facing today. Our recommendations were intended to help shareholders reduce the number of people that were being held before trial, such as indicting cases in a timely manner, and in considering a person's financial ability to pay their bond before bail is set. In essence, what we were suggesting to Fulton County is to follow state law. But as you just heard from Color of Change, there has not been meaningful progress made since our report of last year. And in fact, the problems are only getting worse. As we predicted last year and told you, increasing bed space through the lease of ACDC would make no real difference in the humanitarian crisis that exists within Fulton County. This year alone, this calendar year, ten people have died in Fulton County custody, including eight in the last month and a half. Fulton County taxpayers, myself included, are saddled with spending \$40,000 a day to house detainees outside of Fulton County. We're here to express our concern that there are now plans to send detainees even farther, 400 miles

into Mississippi, to which there's a plan that will only increase the financial and human costs, without actually attaining any of the benefits that you're trying to reach. It is clear since our report, simply moving detainees around does not solve overcrowding. I'm so glad that the Fulton County Public Defender's Office is here to explain the cost that would have on their representation and their ability -- their duties under the Eighth Amendment and -- of the Sixth Amendment, rather. And the human costs --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

BEN LYNDE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and the taxpayer costs. All they're recommending that y'all do is require the Sheriff to follow state law. That sounds like a lot like what we did last year. And we hope you actually consider it this time. Thank you for your time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's go."

JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Julie Allen, District 3. I was present for the September 6th, Board Meeting. I commend Maria Gaudio for her parody rendering of Me and Mrs. Hall that received more than 1.3 million views on social media. Maria belted out, she raised our taxes and doubled her gigolo's salary. We got to be extra careful so the Chairman don't find out. How abusive was Commissioner Arrington's behavior that he stated he had all day, and proceeded to behave so badly that five Commissioners vacated the chamber as he violated decorum. Only Commissioner Hall stayed behind in solidarity and codependency. While the circus was going on here, it was reported that a 24-year-old Fulton County Jail inmate died, a nonviolent offender who had been held since April 1st on \$2,500 bond. He couldn't afford 10 percent, or a mere \$250. Now he's dead, the sixth inmate death since July; the tenth in 2023. The inmate that died the week before, stated days before his death, I am in sullen isolation with no water, no working toilet, sleeping on a hard metal floor, and then they decreased my food. Fani Willis had yet to indict him, and now he's dead. How is it that you passed Commissioner Barrett's urging resolution supporting Fani Willis' political prosecution of Donald Trump and 18 others while inmates languish in conditions that violate their human rights without due process? Do you think no one is paying attention? Where is your humanity? Harrison Floyd, one of the 19 Fani Willis is politically prosecuting who couldn't make bail himself raised \$72,000 and spent last Tuesday bonding out nonviolent inmates. What does that say about Harrison Floyd? LA Pink spoke on September 6. She was right to ask for the resignations of Natalie Hall, Sheriff Patrick Labat --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- star of the soft-porn series, The Closet, and DA Fani Willis. I stand with LA Pink. I stand with Commissioner Ellis's 23-0642, requesting approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, directing the County Manager to not include or consider any budget enhancements --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Devin Barrington-Ward with Communities over Cages ATL. I'm not a psychic. No one calls me Ms. Cleo, but I told you all, all of this would happen. Literally, as you all are looking me in my eye, you know the truth. For the Commissioners who have been here, I told you all that this would happen. Other advocates told you that this would happen, that Patrick Labat would get you all sued, that the feds would investigate, that there would be more deaths because his plan is not really a plan. And that derailing the repurposing of the Atlanta City Detention Center into the John Lewis Center for Freedom, Equity and Inclusion, would fix nothing by you all forcing this lease down the city of Atlanta's throat. So hopefully, you'll listen to the recommendations today. I'm urging you all to pass a resolution to Fulton County Law Enforcement that we increase the use of Atlanta Fulton Pre-Arrest Diversion Services, so that we can divert more people from going to the jail in the first place. LaShawn Thompson, Alexander Hawkins, Samuel Lawrence, Monte Simpson, None Baptist, all of these folks could have been diverted to PAD. If we're increasing funding to a failing Sheriff's Office, certainly we can increase funding to PAD that has actually produced results. So that way we can divert people from going to the jail in the first place. Additionally, we need to convene a group of experts, many of the folks who have spoken here today, so that we can figure out what is our plan to de-carcerate in Fulton County. It was the District Attorney who suggested when she was running for office that we should have a maximum population of no more than 1,000 people at Rice Street. I agree with her."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Where's the commitment to that campaign promise? And additionally, we need to take this \$2 billion new jail idea off the table, right? Commissioner Ellis, if we're willing to freeze funds, certainly we shouldn't be moving forward with a \$2 billion expenditure for a new jail. We need \$2 billion --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "We need \$2 billion for --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, sir. Thank you, thank you, thank you, sir. Thank you. We got four more? Okay. All right."

CLERK GRIER: "Last four speakers --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. The 30 minutes have expired. There are four more speakers, so if you limit your remarks to one minute, I'll try to accommodate everybody, if there are no objections. All right, next four speakers. Those are the final four."

CLERK GRIER: "Margorie McCloud, Jodi William, Jennifer Deen, and Lisa Milot."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can we please allow these people the full two minutes? This is too important of an issue. Please allow them to have the two minutes each, please. I'm asking you. This is too important of an issue."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. I know, Arrington, you know me. Natalie Hall, Robb Pitts. No, no, no, I take my time. I'm here because I'm against removing inmate to Mississippi. You going to put them in a frying pan. You would not be able to stay in that jail in Mississippi. They have problem their self. I'm a grandmother. And I know you got children. You wouldn't want your child to go to Mississippi. And I am against -- Labat don't chance, because you didn't give him the money. He kept asking you for money, for money, and what did y'all do? Death air. But what I'm saying, grandmothers, it's going to cause up a burden trying to travel. It's money involved. And like they say, majority of them people is in there, they can't afford it, bail. I just got off the Uber ride. She told me, my son is in jail, but I don't have the money to bail him out. Guess what, it's for parking tickets. That's what he was in there for. You do your job, put the money where the money is supposed to be at. That's all. And I'm -- I took my rent control shuttle. I'm everywhere. Because I know how it feel when a grandmother cannot travel to Mississippi or anywhere else. Those are private jails. And you going to make money off it. And I do have inmates had been out of the state saying that, oh, I did my time, but then what they do, they extend it. You know that, Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, 15 seconds."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. So what I'm saying, do not take our children out of state. And I don't surprise -- where the leaders at? Where Concerned Black Clergy, because they got children. I'm aware of the other grandmothers, they can't make it. They don't have the money. So what I'm saying to you, Robb Pitts --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. We gave you two minutes. Thank you. Next speaker. Next speaker."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "And give these lawyers these --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

JENNIFER DEEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity, although it feels kind of trivial after what I've heard other ordinances and things that are going on. But I appreciate the time. I am the Director of the Georgia House Rabbit Society. My name is Jennifer Deen. We are a nonprofit rabbit-specific rescue. I'm here to tell the story about a single rabbit named Pascal. He was purchased from an outdoor pet seller in March 2022. Shortly after getting him home, the new owner realized that he was in bad shape. She was unable to track down the person she bought him from. With no recourse, she sought vet care, but was unable to afford the vet care to get her new rabbit healthy. She found the Georgia House Rabbit Society. And we agreed to intake him to save his life. He was emaciated, he was dehydrated. He had ear mites and bite wounds. He had nasal discharge, and he had multiple abscesses from bite wounds. Our vet determined he was only six months of age. A nasal swab, a biopsy revealed he had Pseudomonas and staphylococcus. After several weeks of antibiotics and procedures, Pascal was finally healthy and adopted into an educated, capable and loving home. Our vet bills alone for him were right under \$1,500. Pascal is just one example of thousands of rabbits that are sold every year in outdoor and similar transient locations with no oversight on a state or federal level. This lack of oversight makes it appealing to ill-intended people to make a quick sale with no worry of recourse from the consumer. Due to the high cost of veterinary care for rabbits as exotics and that prolific advanced reproductive organs, advanced litters are more common in rabbits than any other animal. The Georgia House Rabbit Society fully supports the proposed ordinance banning the outdoor sale of cats, dogs, and rabbits in Fulton County. We're the only freestanding licensed rabbit rescue in Georgia, and strongly believe --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

JENNIFER DEEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- that this ordinance will not only help Fulton County with its pet overpopulation problem, but will in turn reduce the number of

dumped rabbits and other animals that end up in animal control using taxpayer dollars. Thank you."

LISA MILOT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Chairman, and Commissioners, thank you. I'm Lisa Milot, and I'm a professor at the University of Georgia School of Law, where I specialize in animal welfare, and particularly in the low-level commercial sale of dogs, which is often illegal and produces the dogs that are filling our shelters. I was invited here today to talk about item 23-641, which I helped draft. Georgia and Fulton County have a pet overproduction problem. Our shelters are overflowing. Fulton County Animal Services is overflowing. On January 1st, Fulton County Animal Services had 573 dogs impounded. Six months later on August 1st, it has 831 dogs impounded. That's a 50 percent increase in six months. You have a new shelter opening in two months, and that shelter is 356 kennels. It's going to be more than full by the time it opens. Last week, the current shelter had up to nine dogs in kennels. And those kennels were built for one to two dogs. You're only doubling that number of kennels. The dogs that are filling the shelter are nine month to two-year-old large breed dogs, often bully breeds. And they were sold as puppies for the most part in big-box store parking lots. They're often impulse purchases, they're surrendered to the shelter when there's too sick, they're too big, or they're just no longer wanted. All of these represent illegal breeding activity, or many of these represent illegal breeding activity. But enforcing the current laws against it, but the state-level licensing laws and the tax laws and the business licensing laws against these low-level breeders is exceedingly difficult. The problem with respect to pet overpopulate --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

LISA MILOT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- is much larger than just this one piece, the banning of the outdoor sales of dogs, cats, and domestic rabbits. But this is one step to help reduce the burden on your taxpayers and shelter staff. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have six speakers on Zoom and one emailed-in comment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, quickly on the Zoom."

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

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners, Kevin Muldowney, District 2. It's very clear we have a crisis and emergency in our county, severe over county -- overcrowding at the Fulton County Jail, inmates dying from

neglect. In a recent five-week span, six inmates were found dead, inmates held in extreme overcrowded conditions for extended period of time awaiting trial, in some cases for minor offenses. Innocent till proven guilty, has changed to, good luck in there, hope you don't get killed awaiting due process. At the heart of this crisis and emergency is Fani Willis. Fani has had her budget increasing. Fani Willis has been instructed to clear this tremendous backlog of cases. Fani Willis is the problem. What has she done with her budget and the budget enhancement she's been granted in the past? Nothing for the citizens of Fulton. Fani Willis's j-o-b is to clear this huge backlog of cases and stop the killing of potentially innocent inmates in the Fulton County Jail, not to try to create a grandiose case against the GOP front runner and his supporters in an attempt to do nothing but harass and intimidate in clearly political witch hunt. Fani Willis is clearly abusing her office and budget to promote herself to a national platform. To what end? So she can end up with a cush job at CNN or MSNBC? Citizens of Fulton and inmates of our jail, be damned. We need to, at the very least, approve Vice Chair Ellis's resolution, 23-0642 to stop throwing good money after bad. If you sincerely want to fix this crisis and emergency, we must force Fani to do her actual job with more than adequate budget and stop herself --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- from an abusive of office. Thanks, sir."

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

MATT ROWENCZACK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. We just had a proclamation this morning, rightfully celebrating the actions of a law enforcement officer. I will be so daring to make the assumption that at least the majority of this Commission supports law enforcement. Let's see if that is just lip service or if you truly believe it. If you support law enforcement that means you support a just legal system that does its job. That means a right to a speedy trial. That means the right to representation. That means innocent until proven guilty. That means the responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. Well, folks, we have a DA that appears to have violated every single one of these. And two of you were at a recent fundraiser for her. You heard this morning from a father whose son has been a victim of this corrupt woman. And he's not the only one. You know what might be a good solution, maybe Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Hall, how about you spend a weekend in the Fulton County Jail and see if your policy and your support for the current DA is the same. For this Board as a whole, if you truly support law enforcement, then you will support Commissioner Ellis's resolution, 23-0642, to not include or consider any budget

enhancements or increases for any justice department or agency in the 2024 general fund budget or for any other purposes. Lastly, this Board should have never given this department additional taxpayer money to clear the backlog when the government created the backlog problem in the first place. It's just another frequent example in this county of the taxpayer being punished --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

MATT ROWENCZACK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- when elected officials violate their oath. This county is beyond unethical, and people's lives have and are suffering for it. Support Commissioner Ellis's resolution if you have an ethical bone in your body. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Ben Howard."

BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings, all. Ben Howard, senior advocate, public policy analyst. Pardon me. A good contact for senior citizens matters like transportation, housing, home repairs, and meals is the Fulton County Star Line. The telephone number for the Fulton County Star Line is (404)613-6000. That Star Line number is (404)613-6000. To the officers and leaders of the Housing Authority of the Fulton County -- (audio stops.)"

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay. We'll go to the next one. The next person to speak is Candy Muldowney. Okay. The next person to speak is Pamela Phoebe Eckhardt."

PAMELA PHOEBE ECKHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I would just like to agree with almost everyone who spoke today about our jail situation and these -- just these -- these terrible crisis of death. And I just hope that you'll really stand up and do the right thing, which I've asked you do before. And to this day, I haven't seen you do that, the right thing, many of you on this Board. So I'm asking again and appealing to you for -- for the good of just a decent human being, who deserves to rights that are in our Constitution. Please, please change your -- the way that you are governing today to make a difference for those that are poor, please. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Adrienne Coleman. Adrienne Coleman."

ADRIENNE COLEMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Adrienne Coleman. And the reason for -- I'm informing you today is to express my deep concern about the recommendation to transplant or relocate Fulton County inmates to Mississippi. I -- and specifically to Mississippi to a private jail. I would ask

the Commissioners that you, in my opinion, you have not done the due diligence. There has been organizations that have come to you repeatedly, and again today, to say that there are other measures that can immediately change and impact the lives of Fulton County inmates, as well as to affect their -- even from a county perspective, the fiscal nature of this, the logistic of this doesn't even make sense. You transfer hundreds of prisoners to Mississippi. How do you transport them back when their cases come? The logistics doesn't even make sense. But from a human standpoint, the fact of the matter is that Fulton County is less than 50 percent African-American, but the jail population is over 80 percent African-American. And as a Black mother, grandmother, I am deeply concerned that our -- our residents, our families are being cheated like chattel. Yes, they have been charged with something, but they are not chattel. You don't get to move their bodies anywhere that you want to. So I'm asking you today to please, have a work session, bring in the experts, let's have time to figure out the best way forward. But please, do not support the relocation of Fulton County inmates --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

ADRIENNE COLEMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- outside the state of Georgia. Thank you."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have one email, all right, quickly."

CLERK GRIER: "And we have one email comment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We'll take the email at the end of the meeting. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. Item that was moved up on today's agenda on page 11, **23-0641**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend Article VI of Chapter 34 of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances regarding rabies in animals -- animal control to prohibit outdoor sales of dogs, cats, domestic rabbits, to encourage each of the cities within Fulton County to adopt similar ordinances and for other related purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Any comments or questions? You want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, I'll just address it quickly. I'd like to amend line 17 to read, instead of transferred, substitute the words, offered or display."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any objections? Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So for the benefit of the audience, this, Madam County Attorney, would this ordinance only apply to -- or what specific area would this apply? Is this only for Fulton Industrial, the unincorporated area of Fulton County?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes. Yes."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes, that is correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I just feel like, we've been working on this resolution since April, and we put it on hold. But Fulton County has been in the news recently for euthanizing dogs. We transported some dogs to Texas, who died accidentally. And this isn't going to solve the problem, but it's an attempt to at least start addressing the problem and have some conversations and encourage our municipalities to adopting a similar resolution. The dog population, as has been mentioned, it's gone up from 343 in 2022 to 831 in August. So, I hope you'll -- I just encourage you. We are sending out to our cities, we're increasing the fees. So this is costing taxpayers on the city level. It's costing us on our new shelter, is already going to be overcrowded. So I hope that my fellow Commissioners will support this resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0623**, MARTA Quarterly Briefing."

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Hello, Chair Pitts, Commissioners, my name is Collie Greenwood, General Manager and CEO of MARTA. I'm here to provide a Q3 update."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Who do you have with you, Mr. Greenwood? Any of the board members?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Sure. We have -- I'm not sure if I'm going to get all the names right. But we have, first all, listening online, we have our Board Members, Freda Hardage. We have Al Pond and Stacy Blakley, all on online. And then we have Colleen Kiernan -- raise your hands if I -- Shelley Peart, Carrie Rocha. It's a cast of three."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "So we're here to speak to the Q3 update. Next slide, please. And we'll agenda, moving into the operational updates. Next slide. The first one being -- yeah, next slide. Thank you. The first one being our -- our typical review of monthly ridership by mode. And this coverage from February 2020 to July 2023. Clearly, the trend continues in the positive direction. It's not the, you know, the spike that we had hoped it would have been back in 2020. But there is a slow and steady return. Quarter over quarter, we see an improvement over the -- over the -- that same period of the year prior. Of course, you know, travel patterns have changed. We understand that 80 percent of Americans, American office workers, are now choosing to work at least one day remotely, at least one day. And so there are some effects on ridership that MARTA can't control. But for those things that we can control, we are hard at work. We continue to do a lot of work focusing on the cleanliness of our environment of our stations. We've got the Station's Manager Program in full swing. Lighting has been improved, and you'll notice if you look at Peachtree Center Station and Art Center Station, a drastic improvement in the level of lighting. And that effort will continue throughout all of our stations. Smart Restrooms are rolling out into every one of our stations. Station renovations with tens of millions of dollars being put into every station in the system. New trains, new buses, electric buses, and a capital expansion program rounded out, as well as a significant increase in service. But just in August of this year, we increased the level of service on our trains during the peak service hours. And peek service, for those that don't know, starts at 5:00 in the morning until 9:00 in the morning. And picks up again from 2:30 in the afternoon until 8:00 at night. And what we've done there is, is move the headways, which is the time spent waiting between trains. And that goes from 15-minute headways to 12-minute headways. And that also means that in the -- in the trunk between -- between Lindbergh and Airport Station, you'll be waiting, not more than six minutes for a train. So, happy to report that since inception, we've achieved 97 percent on-time performance with that new metric. And that's -- that's due in large part to the improvements in workforce, scheduling, and of course, the addition of those trains. Next slide, please. So we talk about workforce,

this is just to assure going that we continue our efforts. We are near 100 percent in terms of the workforce for our operator staff. And that effort continues, just to atone for any -- any retirements and departures that happened in the same timeframe. So we are hiring, on average, about 54 operators a month. The last job fair was held on August 31st, 90 people attended, 48 people were recommended for hire. Next slide, please. Public Safety, Commissioner Ellis had asked at our last session about our posture on public safety. So I just wanted to bring this back to the group that we were happy to report that we've experienced a 17 percent reduction in part one crimes, that's serious crimes, over the past two years, 32 percent reduction in robberies over that same timeframe, and an 87 percent clearance rate for those robberies. Meaning, clearance rate is a time that the -- the fact that those that commit the robberies are arrested, charged, or turned over to the court system in 80 -- 87 percent of the time. The primary uptick in -- in robberies has actually been the theft of automobiles, Kia and Hyundai. They're up 142 percent over the past year. As it happens, there was an online video that demonstrated to people how to break into these cars without -- without keys. So that -- that had an adverse effect. But MARTA Police Department has been partnering with the auto companies to give away over 640 Club wheel locks to mitigate that loss. And we've also added mobile trailers with cameras, also to deter that kind of activity. And finally, MPD also recently achieved state law enforcement certification, which is -- which enables them, which is really, it's a complex process that's established to ensure that agencies are held to the highest standards of safety. MPD was also awarded the Gold Award recently at -- at our American Public Transit Association gathering, in respect of the work they've been doing in the community. Next slide, please. In terms of bus shelters amenities, just an update. MARTA continues to provide 50 amenities per year in Fulton County. In terms of FY23, the status is such, 24 of them have been installed, 26 are under construction. Within four or five weeks, those 26 will have been concluded. And we are underway with FY24 as well, 41 in design, eight in permitting, and one under construction. Next slide, please. This is what it looks like when you get the job done in terms of our amenities. So this location at Wendell Drive and Wendell Court Southwest, it serves the route, 73 Fulton industrial, serves Aviation Park Economy Lodge and the Efficiency Lodge as well. So just another example of, you know, the shelter providing shade overhead, protection from the elements, the rain, and keeping you out of mud and water when the rain comes as well as providing a bench and a trash receptacle. Next slide, please. What you'll notice also with our bus stop amenities is the difference in our bus stops themselves. On the left, the traditional MARTA bus stop. And on the right, a New MARTA bus stop, which is more consistent with international bus stops. The idea here is that we're providing more information to the customer at the stop. Not only is it accessible because it's in raised lettering and available in Braille, but also because there's a QR code on there, so you put your phone

on it, it tells you when the bus is coming next. The blade also tells you what bus routes are served by that -- by that bus stop. Sixty of them have already been installed along our -- along our regional routes, and the other 8900 are underway and will be completed over the next two years across all our jurisdictions. Next slide, please. Commissioner Arrington had raised the issue of Niskey Lake at our last briefing, so I just wanted to provide an update here. So we have continued to work with ATL DOT. They have provided concept treatments such as, you know, lane markings and -- and no, you know, no parking signage along the -- along the route. MARTA has also, as of August 15, we've, you know, tested a reverse route so that we can get more access to the sidewalks on that portion of Niskey Lake. There still remains work to be done. We have asked DOT to widen the roadways in certain areas. But while they do that, MARTA continues with the MARTA Connect Program. So since inception, 517 rides have been taken along that -- that stretch of roadway. Next slide, please. The Bus Network Redesign, just a request for everyone here to make sure we beat the drums to make sure everyone is aware that this is happening. Niskey Lake is just one small example of what happens when a route is changed or curtailed temporarily. This Bus Network Redesign will be a complete overhaul of every bus route in the system, something we've not done for 40 years. So it really does demand the attention of anyone interested in the bus not working, any customers, any constituents, anyone that has or plans to use the bus system. Or even anyone that, you know, operates businesses that rely on a solid bus network. So this is ongoing. We want to make sure that everyone's aware of the upcoming public engagement series. That website at the bottom Marta2040NexGenbusstop.com is critical for all the updates and all the details about what's going on here. The Stakeholder Design Workshops are happening on October 16 and 27th. So this would be round two of the -- of the technical improvements or the technical review of what's going on with the bus network redesign. Next slide, please. In other MARTA news, if we can go to the next slide. I'm just happy to announce that we continue our work in HE Holmes, so the predevelopment work on the transit-oriented development at HE Holmes Station continues to advance towards RFP release and to the development community. And that should happen later this year, if not early in Q -- Q1-2024. The master planning process wrapped up in June of this year, followed by the successful rezoning of the property in August. I specifically want to thank Commissioner Abdur-Rahman -- Abdur-Rahman for her leadership and assistance. As we had six very well-attended engagement meetings, which serve to inform the development program. But also served to inform interested community members as we talked about that space. Next slide, please. College Park Station is in the news. We've continued our good work there. You may recall last time we talked about a ribbon cutting because we had, you know, made some improvements to the -- to the entranceway of College Park Station, you know, with lighting and seating and

garbage facilities and redoing the greenery and shrubbery in the space. Now we're into the parking lot paving, and we're in -- phases three and four are now underway. This will now be fully ADA compliant, and it'll be compliant to current standards. And we'll have ADA spaces beyond the required 36. We'll have 39 provided beyond the ADA required 36. We'll also have access for pedestrians through the new sidewalks from the curb through the lot and to the station. Next slide, please. Artbound, in terms of what's going on at Five Points, this is just a quick update. As part of the Five Points Station rehabilitation, the Artbound Art and Transit Program has selected four artists to develop eight new mosaic installations for the upgraded Northbound, Southbound, East and Westbound platforms. We're excited to engage a mix of local and international artists in the capital upgrade of our systems largest and busiest station. Other improvements, of course, will include train platform lighting and aesthetic improvements. And this is part of a larger systemwide station rehabilitation program that I spoke of earlier in the presentation that's going on at all 38 rail stations. Next slide, please. And of course, our new labor agreement has been signed and ratified. This, the placemat on the right is something that we've handed out to all of our employees, our unionized employees, to reassure them of the benefits that are involved in this contract. It's more than just money, but in terms of money, we did see employees enjoying a 16 percent salary increase, 10 year -- 10 percent in the first year, and then 3 percent in each of the subsequent each year two and year three, paid family leave, attendance bonus structure. We've always had an attendance structure, but it was an annual payout, we're changing it to a quarterly payout to encourage people to get their attendance up. MARTA still suffers and struggles with an up to 25 percent absenteeism rate in our frontline employees. So we're putting money and structure into that, as well as the -- as well as management initiatives to encourage good attendance, and to, you know, de-centivize bad attendance. So we also, you know, make it clear that our lifetime pension is increasingly rare in public and private employment. I mention all of this because of the 4500 employees of MARTA, 1,043 of them are Fulton County residents. So nearly one quarter of our employees live here in Fulton County. Next slide, please. Just a quick update on the ATN, the Automated Transit Network Pilot Feasibility Study, we continue to investigate the new modal technology, like personal rapid transit to make important last-mile connections to our transit networks. On July 18, MARTA joined Commissioner Pitts to sign a memorandum of agreement to advance an ATN Feasibility Study and Pilot Demonstration Project from the Skytrain at the airport to the Georgia International Convention Center. The airport CIDs are leading this pilot project, and we're supporting with a 2024 budget, which includes a \$1 million spend towards this effort. So the RFP is expected out this week, and it'll be followed by financial feasibility study to be completed by the end of 2024. Next slide, please. Into the Deep, we've talked about our new railcars coming, the CQ-400, the first of which will arrive in 2025.

In the meantime, the question is, what are you doing with your existing railcars? Of course, we have a regular decommissioning process. And this is something new, we've started to partner with the state, with the Department of Natural Resources. And we are now sending two decommissioned railcars off to the Savannah Coast. So they left as of September 11th. They will be transported to the coast to prepare for deployment this fall. The cars will create a stable habitat area for corals and algae to grow, and will attract fish and other underwater organisms. The picture in the bottom right-hand corner is -- is a picture of a railcar that the NTA in New York had provided not that long ago. And very quickly, the algae and sea life have started to take to it. So just good news there, and MARTA's involved in this green initiative. Next slide, please. Our Breeze Mobile 2.0 is, of course, now available across all regional partners, and will launch in Cobb County soon. This will provide another way in addition to the Breeze card to transfer seamlessly between systems. So looking forward, we expect to select a contractor to completely overhaul our -- our fare collection system. It's the AFC, Automated Fare Collection System 2.0. And what that means is a complete overhaul. We'll be entertaining open payments, modern conveniences, regional efficiencies. You'll be able to access our stations using any AFC enabled device, your watch, your phone, your credit card. We received proposals for this in June, and we're completing the evaluations right now. We'll be recommending our selection for the award to our board on September 28th. So we're just around the corner from launching 2.0 on the AFC. But in the meantime, Breeze Mobile is getting us there. And next slide, please. Yesterday for the 14th year, MARTA joined volunteers, community organizations, and businesses across the county for -- across the country, sorry, for National Voter Registration Day. This is an annual, nonpartisan event to encourage civic engagement and voter participation with our riders. This year, we had partner organizations participate at five rail stations -- rail station locations inside of Fulton County. And we're just -- we're just pleased to be able to participate in this, and continue to support National Voter Registration Day. And with that, Chair Pitts, I'll return the floor to you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Mr. Greenwood. Any questions or comments, Commissioners? Anything? All right, Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "In regards to the app that you're launching, did you ever look at what they have in New York, where you don't have to download an app. You could just pay with your wallet when you approach? Or is the app a better option?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Yes. That is -- we expect that, again, be the award or the bids are being processed now. But that was very clear in our -- in our, when we went out to market that we're looking for that kind of open payment. So we fully anticipate that it will be every bit as good as New York."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So tell me more about, I guess, the tests run on the 15th that was on, what, the same sized bus or --"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Yes. Yeah, same sized bus on Niskey Lake. And instead of going clockwise, we went counterclockwise or vice versa. And so the bus comes on the other side of the road now. And that, our operational and safety folks got together and said, we think that that will improve things. But that'll give us more sidewalk access. And it's just the geometry of the curve, it -- there are -- there are fewer pinch points when we go that way. We're not there yet. We're almost there. There are just a couple areas that we're asking ATL DOT to help us with. And then we'll be able to return buses on to that route."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, it -- I would love for you to be kept in the loop on those conversations with -- with ATL DOT."

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Will do."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And because -- so smaller units or the smaller buses that you have or shuttles that you have, that's not a feasible option?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Right. The only size that would work is the size that we use for our Mobility vehicles. So that's not, you know, that doesn't have the capacity, right. You get eight passengers, so that's why. And running that on a schedule is less conducive than using the MARTA Connect Program that we have right now. But when we go to put service back on, it's got to be a service that -- it's got to be a vehicle that can actually accommodate the passenger capacity elsewhere on the route, right, so you got to have a big enough bus to do that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. And so, all right. I'll just wait to hear from you more on that. You said -- the question I had, you said, how many people have been served 500-something on it --"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Yeah, I think I said --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Just along that route?"

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Yeah, it -- not on the route, in that -- in that, you know, 50 -- along that portion of the route. So the number of people that have used

MARTA Connect along that portion of the route. I think I've lost of my spot there. But it's -- yeah, 517."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Sorry, as of August."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioners, anything else? All right, thank you, Mr. Greenwood."

COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA: "Thank y'all."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Appreciate you. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on the bottom of page 7, County Manager's renewal items under Open and Responsible Government, **23-0624**, Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval to renew an existing contract in the amount of \$351,573.24 to provide mail services countywide."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, it is seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, **23-0645** Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$309,000 to provide on-site tree removal services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0626**, Request approval to renew existing contracts in the total amount not to exceed \$1,344,000 to provide landfill, solid waste disposal, and single-stream recycling."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Cast your vote, please."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0627**, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Manager."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Good morning, Commissioners. The operational report has been submitted to you. Added attraction today is the Board of Health. And Dr. Paxton will provide an update on the COVID spike, as well as she'll provide an overview on some issues, impacting her staffing as we develop the 2024 budget. Project ORCA, of course, is always where we start. You'll see case reductions continue. Just draw your attention when Mr. Adams speaks to this that we have about 35,000 cases to go, about 12 months of funding. So in round numbers, 3,000 a month would be the run rate to be on, which would be about double where we are over the last couple of months. In the Justice Report, the average length of stay has improved, which is good, but the unindicted cases remain at 35 percent of total cases in the jail, with 45 more since the last report. And the total jail population has increased to 3670. Fulton County Sheriff's Office plans to deliver its own report on planned actions to mitigate this later in the -- in the agenda. We've also provided jail maintenance information, it may be a little dense. But I'll Joe Davis to comment on it. But wanted to provide it based on the request that you had to have visibility into it. I'll ask him to comment on the data. But then also on the Blitz plan, I did visit the jail a week ago, Friday. Very impressed with the progress in the one unit where we started. It will make, I think, a tremendous difference. There's some innovation there with some epoxy that withstands 5500 pounds per square inch, which would do a lot to eliminate the ability to bore through walls and make shanks out of the material. The Board of Health, as I said, will be discussing the COVID results and trends. We have been in discussion with Dr. Paxton. We don't recommend anything new at this point based on the risk that she will talk about. But we are going ahead and keeping that in mind as things develop. The COVID response financials remain unchanged. We did receive a \$2.6 million check from FEMA this past week. So kudos to Matt Kallmyer and his team for the good work along with Finance and putting our packages together that have received favorable response, where we're 80 percent now reimbursed for dollars that we had previously expended with FEMA. So still leaving some that we continue to reserve against. But great amount of progress. Importantly today, and included in the operation's deck, is just to give you a very high-level overview of the budget for 2024 process, reminding you of the dates, the steps that we'll. Also, a high-level view of what we see as the challenges in terms of both revenue and expense. There is, you know, a starting point

of 150 million plus and a gap, of course, we know full well how to close those gaps, I think, reasonably well. The question will be, you know, how much in terms of enhancements do you try to add against \$150 million gap closure plan. Which already starts with the assumptions, as you'll see in our overview, of removing new items from the agenda, whether those were in the long-term plan or in the actions taken by the Board at the end of last year. So as a starting point, we're recommending putting those aside. So again, the numbers argue for keeping a lid on as much as possible, anything new. We have also included an analysis of leased and owned property. That was a request that was made. Probably not subject for discussion today, but we wanted to provide that to you, give you, again, high-level perspective on that. And certainly, we'd welcome discussing further actions that might be taken in that arena as we go through the -- go through the budget process. So Mr. Chairman, with that, I'll step through or ask Mr. Adams to start on his, and then bring up the others as appropriate."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Mr. Adams."

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "All right. Good morning, Commissioners, and thank you, County Manager. I will take us through the ORCA and Justice System Report. Please feel free to ask questions as I go through, I'll touch on the highlights. Beginning with the first page, next feed, please. Per the County Manager, we have disposed of 113,266 cases of the 148,209 that we started with. And we have remaining, 34,943 to go over the next -- over the next 12 months or so. If we dispose of 1500 in August, that's up from 1147 in July. As you can see, we made progress across all of the various agencies. Next slide. It gives you an update on progress for the month and project to date. We continue to fall a bit short of the straight-line forecast for each one of the agencies. But we are, in fact, making progress in terms of the absolute. As you can see, a bit of a shortfall in the Solicitor General's area and Magistrate Court. The Solicitor General's area will, in fact, see a significant bump in September as we had some systems issues that -- that resulted in some of the dispositions not being able to go through the system. Program to date, we are still 35,000 to the good in terms of the actual forecast. But we have got some work to do, based on the current -- the current pace. If you look at the next page, it talks to the hiring process. We had nine new hires across the system across ORCA. And in the month of August, we had three individuals who left, so net of six. And so we continue to make progress, I think, in keeping the individuals in the particular departments that we need to move the program forward. The next slide, next section talks to -- one more please. This is our cumulative case reduction slide. The County Manager, here again, alluded to a couple of the areas where we made some progress. We had a decline in the average length of stay from 71 days in the baseline, 61 days today versus that baseline. We had an increase and stayed, I'd say, almost relatively flat in terms of the individuals indicted without charges."

Positive movement in both the clearance rate for felony criminal cases and the cases disposed within 180 days. Next slide, please. This gives a brief look at the number of detainees in the Fulton County Jail by Judge. No real measurable change in terms of the relative -- relative numbers and relative rankings. But this is just for informational purposes. The next slide shows the same information for the State Court. I will note that the Public Defender and Solicitor have launched a program to use ankle monitors where appropriate. So we expect and hope for reduction in terms of the number of detainees who are eligible in the State Court area. Next slide, please. One more. This gives you a sense of the jail population. As you can see, this -- this chart was -- was dated and ended on the -- on the 27th, 27th of August. We, in fact, have some good news in terms of the trend, bending the curve a little bit as it pertains to the number of individuals in the -- in jail. I received this information yesterday. The Public Defender, the DA, the Sheriff, and the courts have been working diligently. Have, in fact, reduced the jail population by 220 individuals and 6 percent over the last -- over the last two weeks. Yesterday, our jail population stood at 3,439. And the Public Defender indicated to me that some 54 individuals were released yesterday. So the numbers are moving in the right direction, the curve is bending a bit. We're not where we need to be, but the trend is positive. And certainly appreciate the efforts of the various agencies to move these numbers in the right direction. Next slide, please. One more. Thank you. This shows the -- what we call, facility -- facility utilization of the various facilities that are used to house individuals in the Fulton County jail system. No real takeaway, say, except that as you can see, ACDC and Cobb show the greatest availability of beds, but for a number of reasons, which the Sheriff's Department can talk to. Those are not filled to the capacity that we'd like. That having been said, here, again, no real movement in terms of the distribution of those individuals across the various facilities that house our Fulton County detainees. On the next slide shows the number of individuals in the jail who are unindicted. And we did do an analysis of those individuals in terms of how long they have been in the Fulton County Jail. Of the individuals in the jail as of this time and when we made this count, 68 -- 688 of the individuals were there for less than 90 days. 521 of those individuals were there for over 90 days. And 60 or more have -- were in the jail for more than a year. So that gives you a sense for the length of stay broken down. The number of unindicted is broken down by their length of stay. Next slide talks to some of what I call the bottoms up initiatives to make progress on the population. The ones that have had the biggest impact were the C-3 Attorneys, and the increased use of virtual capabilities. We hope to see more of the civil cases moved to State Court, which will allow the Superior Court to focus on criminal cases. And my expectation and I believe that -- that the Superior Court has advised me that we expect to have some positive movement in terms of the establishment of a Competency Court, which is particularly important given the number of individuals that we have in our jail who

require some form of medical or mental health treatment. The next slide just talks to where we continue to focus and prioritize. Obviously, continuing to resolve the ORCA cases as we move forward. We are working, as you just saw from the previous slide, on a multiagency jail reduction plan that just touches on some of the ones that we launched a couple months ago. Clearly, a big focus on preventing post-ORCA backlog, that's going to be addressed, obviously, as we move up the volume of jury trials as we move forward. And then we have 12 months, as we -- to think about the ORCA wind down. What does that look like in terms of focusing on the areas where we can advance the disposition of the cases, as well as looking at the spend and making sure that we, in fact, do not -- we will not exceed the amount of money that we received from the federal government to address the backlog. Happy to answer any questions if you have any."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Mr. Adams. Vice Chair Ellis, followed by Commissioner Hall, followed by Commissioner Barrett. Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Adams, for the report. I think a couple of things that sort of clearly jump out, pace continues to be slow, no real, measurable change in many categories. And I think that's something that, you know, we continued to hear month after month after month. Occasional, some sort of anecdotal piece, appreciate you sharing that one anecdotal stuff, we'll see if it shows up and sustained in the numbers. But, you know, as of what we've got right now, in terms of hard data, no real, measurable change. You had shared one piece of information that we're able to kind of get developed yesterday. And Nikki, do you have this available? I want to put this slide up here, and I've got copies of this, so pass that out to everybody. And this is the aging of the unindicted jail population. And we've been talking about this unindicted issue. And you know, I think some sort of mysterious little bit, well, these well -- are these folks who were just sort of running up against the 90 day mark, you know, what did it really look like, right? And I think this -- this provides a lot more detail. And quite honestly, is even more disturbing to me than where I even thought we were. You know, so sort of, as I understand it, you know, kind of the judicial standard is that you need to be indicted within 90 days if you're held, loosely speaking, right?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What is that, Commissioner Arrington?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Are you entitled to a bond or not?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You're entitled to a bond after 90 days if you're not indicted, so."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We have 521 folks that are inmates right now that have been in there over 90 days that are unindicted. And we've got, you know, 60 of them over year. I mean, if that's not pretty disturbing data, I don't -- I really don't know what is. So I think this is something -- this is a good data -- this is some better data for us to kind of look at and monitor, you know, my -- every time we do these reports to see if there is material change or not. So I think it would be good to -- you've -- since we've got this, we can include this in our reports going forward to kind of show, are we seeing progress in this particular piece? And hopefully, if we do, than that will begin to see some manifestation and change in the jail population itself. You know, I think we're all, you know, heard from a lot of folks from a lot of different, you know, probably points of view in terms of where they come from and frame of reference today. But I think collectively, everybody's pissed that the level of results or lack of -- lack thereof that we've seen from, you know, kind of the judicial process. I mean, we committed, through this Project ORCA, significant funding, resources, and administrative support. I mean, you've dedicated yourself to this, Mr. Adams in terms of trying to come up with ideas, resourcing, planning, et cetera to try to drive these numbers down to seek to avoid just exactly what we are facing today. And that's -- that, in particular, should be a high-level point of frustration for all of us. We designed this to prevent what we're seeing today. But yeah, we go, we heard over the past year, no measurable progress. Hopefully, that changes, hopefully, hopefully, today is a -- is -- is the watermark for that change. And hopefully, we'll begin to see it. 349 people in jail over two years, 843 over one year. We do have an overcrowding problem. But we've got an overcrowding problem that can be addressed through an effective justice system and processing of these cases. So, glad we set this up. I'm not happy necessarily -- I'm certainly not happy where our results are. But I'm hoping this is all getting -- finally getting the level of attention it deserves and it's merited some long time, and that we're going to see some -- some material results going forward after that. The other thing I want you to, maybe if you go back to the -- the jail slide that had sort of our, where we're at via facility. I don't know if you had numbers on that or not. But it's slide number --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "16?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "15 and 16."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "15 to 16. Can you go to that slide, Nikki? Nikki, can you go -- okay. Keep going, all right, that slide right there. We don't have individual numbers in those two different barcodes. But, you know, this is the other thing, right. Over year

ago, roughly a year ago, we all sought to get access to a facility to give us 700 beds. We spent some money on bringing Alpharetta online, 50 beds. Provide additional jail capacity of 30 percent in Fulton County. I'm not talking about the out-of-county stuff. That took us to capacity of to 2589 to 3339, okay. So we knew we had challenges with given the pace of our justice system, given the growth of the inmate population to try to address this. Largely, all we did for a better part of the year was, we cost ourself more money by moving people out of a facility that we owned into a facility that we leased. And they're some folks in here that probably say, well, I told you so. I heard that during the public comment. They were right for the wrong reasons. The plan was right, what was wrong was the lack of execution by the people that were called to execute it, despite the resources being there. And this has not gotten enough attention, and people have not paid enough attention to it. And this thing -- and we called it forth, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and I introduced this in terms of our report bag that this was something we need to continue to track and monitor. Because for the better part of a year, we've allowed persistent overcrowding to exist at the main jail facility, while we had open beds at facilities that we have -- we control and have access to. And that problem -- I mean, maybe the numbers become different with some of the stuff that you just shared. But that problem persists today. I mean, according to this data, we're 322 over at Rice Street, while we've got 358 available beds between ACDC, South Annex, and Alpharetta. Back in April, I mean, I was not here for this meeting when y'all approved about roughly 5 million or whatever in additional spending. Part of that was to get at this issue to provide logistical support through this organization that was hired, EMSI. It was April. What's today?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "September 20th."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Same problem. I mean that was -- and mind you, that 5.2 million was brought forth as an emergency, in all caps. And then the emergency discussion we will have in just a little bit, despite the hack that we haven't figured out a way to move people to these things, will be about, now we need to move them -- consider funding and moving them to some other facility that we don't manage, and entertaining more expenditures. I'll save my comments related to all that once we get to that piece. But this particular slide, and these particular metrics need to be reinforced, as well as that aging of indictment slide. We need to continue to reinforce that and the measurements in both of those. We need to see more significant improvement than what we've seen."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So Mr. Manager, Mr. Adams, you've heard what I think is an accurate analysis by Vice Chair Ellis. What's your reaction, agree, disagree?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "I'm not sure there's a short answer to that question, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, take the long answer, then. We have time."

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "The fact is that the -- Commissioner Ellis in his comments about the metrics, is accurate. The numbers are the numbers. The -- there are reasons why these beds aren't filled, and I will leave that up to the Sheriff to talk to them. A lot of them have to do with the ability to staff, some of them. And then some of the restrictions on what we can do at ACDC. However, that having been said, I do believe that the overall comment that we need to do something differently to move and flatten the curve on the increase in the jail population is indeed accurate. And I do believe that funding is not the issue. I do believe that we do have -- and I'm not talking about the jail because the jail is the end of the train, it's not the beginning. I do believe that we have the opportunities to make some progress, to make faster progress along the way. But I will note that that's not something that any, myself or the County Manager can order anyone to do. We serve as advisers to the justice system. And we bring recommendations, and we bring suggestions. And to the extent that they are adopted, then we're able to make some progress. And to the extent that they're not, we come up with additional ideas. And so we serve at, in some ways, at their pleasure in terms of what they will take in terms of suggestions. And our -- our charge is to try to find a way to use best practices that we, in fact, look at across the country and bring those to the Fulton County system. And a lot of the rep -- the recommendations that we have made, have also been made over the last 25 years by five different studies. So I'd like to say that a lot of stuff we're doing is brand new, but those recommendations have been pretty consistent. And so as a result, I would say yes, the overall sense of us being able to make some progress is accurate. However, there are a number of structural things that get in the way, perhaps, of moving those things as fast as we would like."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, for now. Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. We can't keep buying beds, and not clearing the backlog and the overcrowding. We just cannot. First, let's go to page 14, where you spoke about this new decrease. You said it was about 200-plus within two weeks."

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "220 individuals in the last -- in two weeks as a result of collaboration between the District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Sheriff's Department, and the judicial system. That's correct."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And so what changed to cause this two-week decrease that was not working before? Was it just the collaboration of these four offices?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "I -- and I, you know, the Public Defender is here. He can probably talk more specifically to that. But what I've been told, it's just been a very focused effort to identify individuals who could be granted bond, who could be granted bail, and -- and the Public Defender and the DA in particular, are working with the Sheriff and his recommendations from his -- from his team to identify individuals who would be available for bond or bail, using electronic monitoring, and perhaps a real look and a more detailed look at those individuals."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Well that leads to my next question, how many of these unindicted are nonviolent and just cannot afford to be out on bond?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "I don't know, specifically. I can find that information for you, Commissioner -- Commissioner Hall, to come back and send it to you. I will say that, you know, if you look at the violent felons in our jail, it's somewhere around 60 to 65 percent. It's gone up dramatically, as some of the individuals with lower charges have been -- have been put on bond or bail. So -- but I don't know the specific question in terms of what percentage of those are unindicted."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, the answer to that question, though, is very relevant. We need that --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes, it is."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- information."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Definitely. So how soon do you think you could have that information about how many of these unindicted cases are nonviolent, and just cannot afford to be out on bond?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Within a couple of days."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay, great, thank you. And you said funding is not the issue. So if funding is not the issue, then what is the issue?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Well, the -- our justice system, not unlike justice systems around the country, are structured and way where you have a number of elected officials who run their own operations. And so they tend to optimize within their particular vertical, whereas, to make significant changes, you need to optimize across

the horizontal or across the entire system, right. So it includes -- it includes everything from the way we get information when an individual is booked into the jail, to how quickly what kind of information gets to the Judges to allow them to make better decisions on bond or no bond, to being able to get in -- to get those -- to get those cases calendared more quickly. In some -- in some jurisdictions, for example, the calendaring is actually run by the Clerk as opposed to the individual litigation managers. And so you tend to have a different pace. And then from that -- and then how quickly do you, in fact, once those calendars have been set up, and how quickly are those calendars set up, have trials where you reduce the number of motions to content -- continuances. Some of the Judges, in fact, are known for not allowing as many contingencies, so that the ADAs come prepared to get the cause -- the case resolved at that point in time. And then once that has -- decision is made, let's make sure we get that information to the Sheriff as quickly as possible, so that he can, in fact, release those individuals, and have them move on wherever they have -- the decision is made to move them on to. That entire process could be sped up if we, in fact, looked at it across the system. However, like most judicial systems, and the way we're structured, we optimize going down in each area as opposed to across. And we don't have, unfortunately, as much of a lever or certainly the authority to say, this is the way it needs to work. And so here again, we are no -- we're no different. We're probably on average, right. No different than any large county with a large urban environment. But that's one of the reasons why this county, like many others, has not been able to move the -- these cases as quickly as we'd like. You see the same issue in Harris County in Texas. You see the same issue in Cook County in Chicago. You see a lot of the same issue in Washington, DC, a lot of the same issue in Philadelphia."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "You said recommendations have been made, but not accepted. What significant recommendations were made, and not accepted that you believe, could have changed the outcome in a positive way?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "The adoption of case-management standards for each single one of the courtrooms, the establishment of the civil and a criminal court within the Superior Court, expanded use of diversion, right. But -- and right now, we have a lot of diversion programs, but they're scattered across the county. We need to figure out which ones have the biggest impact, and then scale them, right, to be cut. So we need to -- so we can address the number of individuals who deserve diversion. We need a different way to treat the 35 to 40 percent of the individuals in our jail who have mental health issues. Today, we are the largest psychiatric hospital in the state of Georgia. And jail is the wrong place to try to treat those individuals. So we need to find a way to fix that as well. If we can do some of those things, right, we can, in fact, make measurable progress. We do not have the ability to order that to happen. But those

represent best practices that if we did implement them, we can, in fact, see an acceleration of the progress we're trying to make -- we've been trying to make over the last few years."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I agree, wholeheartedly. Expanding diversion, we heard from Devin Barrington-Ward worried about PAD. That was an initiative that I sponsored funding for in years past. And they are still a significant initiative that needs to be funded, as he stated. Mental health, I think that we should give ourselves a -- some kudos on the fact that we do we have the Behavioral Health Crisis Center that we broke ground for. And that is going to help in the area of mental crisis. Because absolutely, we should not be locking people up who are in mental crisis. They need to be sustained and then put on a pathway to success, so absolutely agree with that. Can we get a list of those things that have been recommended to the judicial system? And you also said that the jail is the last part of the process, that there's a whole process that happens before that. But we cannot move prisoners out of state, because that's just inhumane. And I was always taught that family should go visit, friends should go visit those who are incarcerated. And we would make it entirely too hard for those family members and friends to get to those people. And everybody needs a sense of encouragement. As you know, I've been attacked because of giving someone a second chance, who had a record. And so I believe that we need to be able to -- to have that ability to nurture and speak with and help those who are incarcerated. And that goes for the family and the friends. I want to go to page 18. If you go down to the blue box that says prioritize jail cases on the Superior Court calendar. And then next to that it says, the description is prioritize jail cases on Superior Court calendars. The start date has changed. This start date was originally August 15. It is now September 30th. Can you explain the change?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Yeah, I think as I read it, Commissioner, the prioritization has started. There are some -- there's some things that needed to be automated, as you can see under the update, that -- that would -- that were needed to help kind of facilitate that process. But in my discussions with Judge Glanville, and I actually had an opportunity to brief the Bench a few weeks ago. This process of focusing on jail cases has already started. So our mistake in terms of an input -- of saying that it was going to start on September 30th. It's really ongoing, and it started a couple of months ago."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And then the next one is weekend court at Fulton County Jail, description hold criminal court cases at Fulton County Jail on weekend days. This date, start date, originally was September 9th. And it is now September 30th. Can you explain that?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "We had to -- we had some contractual issues that needed to be worked out with the probation group and so on. So that if somebody, in fact, is adjudicated and they can leave, we actually have to be able to facilitate that. Apparently, we use an outside service of some kind. So the contract's been done. Judge McBurney has graciously agreed to be the first Judge. It's set for Saturday, I think September 30th is a Saturday. And so everything has been kind of -- kind of dealt with to allow us to get started on date, that is a firm date."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. And my last question is, do you believe that there is a need to further fund the judicial process or ORCA, or even the need to fund all of the positions that are necessary? Because it has been told to me that the ORCA positions will go away, right? And then how are they to continue to function without those employees?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "So a couple of things, the ARPA program was designed to have a firm end date. And ARPA requires you to have had funds appropriated by the end of December of 2024. We extended the ORCA program to October of 2024, by in fact, because we were under running. And we also reduced the number of head count per. To answer your question, I -- in terms of where I believe, expect us to be, and hope we'll be on -- on October of 2024. We expect that all the cases in the DA's bucket, all the cases in the Solicitor's bucket will in fact have been charged. And so they will now be in the State and Superior Court to adjudicate. All of those cases won't be done by October, because cases take longer. If somebody is accused of a dangerous crime, or if they're having continuances, they're going to extend beyond October 2024. However, our goal is to have them all charged, all indicted, so they, in fact, part of that, they moved on to that part of the process. In terms of -- of the funding request, I will say I haven't, you know, I think Finance is putting together the totality of requests from the system. There may be some places where we do need to double down, as I've talked about. We may need to spend a little more money on diversion. We may need to spend a bit more money on technology to help facilitate some of these things happening. In terms of whole-scale additions of staff, I think that that's something that, as you've heard from the County Manager, something that we're going to have to take a look at. When I say we, I mean as a -- certainly, from the executive team standpoint. And really figure out from an affordability standpoint, whether we can actually do that or not. It is hard for me to look at the numbers and to look at the funding requirements for next year, and say that, historically, we would be able to fund all of the requests that come in from any of the -- of the agencies, certainly including the justice system."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. Thank you so much for that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. We're at a crisis. And I would be remiss if I didn't say, everybody don't realize that we're at a crisis. We have had how many deaths in the jail? And we're still going back and forth. We're still going back and forth. What do I mean by that? Well, what is the jail reduction, multiagency plan, and how is it being implemented? I would be remiss if I didn't say, well, we talked about the ACDC plan. Let me be crystal clear. I support the Sheriff. I disagree with him on some things. Because when that plan came before us, I didn't support it. And I have a good memory. And if we have beds over there and we're not utilizing them, you can show me all the data that you want to. But if you are not utilizing that, it didn't work. So something else needs to work. I am sad today that in the civil rights cradle, we're talking about shipping individuals to Mississippi, really? And so I say today, let's stop playing with people's lives. People are dying. We need all our criminal justice partners on board. All of these Commissioners down here, see this as a crisis. The executive team sees it as a crisis. We need all our criminal justice partners to see it as a crisis. If somebody can't make bond and they can't pay to get out of jail, why are they still sitting there? We need diversions. Are all our law enforcement partners using diversion? Are we using everything that we need to use in this crisis? This is a crisis. We have had too many people die. I know people want me to be quiet, and they want me to make them cozy and warm. And what they want me to not say what I have to say, which is, until all of the criminal justice partners, until everyone sees this as a crisis, I'm going to be Ms. Cleo. And we're going to be here again. What we have to do is enable our County Manager and our executive staff to do what they need to do and take the politics out of this. We need to ask city of Atlanta, do what you need to do for us to get the beds. The Sheriff needs the beds. And if the city of Atlanta can't do it, do you have any other agencies or jails in the Metropolitan area that will do it? And we need to do it. But at the end of the day, we come down here, every 1st and 3rd, and we look at nice little slides. And we don't deal with the fact that crime is going to continue. What is the plan for those individuals that are still going to get arrested? What is the plan for that? So I ask my colleagues, I ask the Sheriff, I asked the Courts, I ask every judicial partner today to please step up and treat this as the crisis that it is. No more deaths in Fulton County Jail."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. If we could go to slide 16. I'm trying to understand, it looks like there's an axis or some numbers missing from this slide. What are the numbers that are missing? I mean, it's got to be a percentage, or what where are those lines? Is that 125 people each? Like, something's missing."

How many -- the orange part says, bed available. So how many bed available are there at ACDC? That -- no, sir, there's 700 hundred total. I'm asking you about the orange. There's blue and there's orange, right? Blue says beds in use. So how many beds are in use? There's something missing from the -- can nobody else see that?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "So the -- the slide that's projected up there didn't -- when we moved -- when we transferred in, it didn't show up. So to answer your question, Commissioner Arrington, there are 229 available beds in ACDC, 108 available, as in not being utilized, 187 out of county, which is primarily Cobb. But that includes a Oconee and one other county, 110 in the South Annex, and 23 at -- in Alpharetta."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So that's a total of how many available? About 600, approximately?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Approximately, a little less than 600, that's correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, just a clarification, ACDC, the city jail, they have 1300 beds. Our contract limits us to 700 of those 1300."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, and not only that, there are also restrictions on who can be put over there."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm very familiar, yes, you are correct, Mr. Chair. There are 1300 available beds there. But again, there are restrictions on who can be sent there, right? Which the city of Atlanta imposed. In addition to the cap of 700, I think -- I think we got to call on our partners at the city of Atlanta to raise that cap from 700, certainly we got to do whatever we can to get anybody out of jail that shouldn't be in jail. That -- like, this number one, right? Now, I don't know what that number is. Sometimes it may be an unindicted case along with another case. See, I hear y'all talking about this and these numbers and charts. But I practice law every day. I have two clients right now with murder cases that are in the jail that are unindicted. These are not just numbers and charts and -- these are people. This is not the Finance Department, and you can, say, they -- they didn't hit their numbers this month. They didn't hit their numbers, they're not going to get any budget next year. This is not the Real Estate department, where you can say, well, you didn't make your mark, no bonus this year. You can't add money next year. How can you tell someone that their budget is going to go away, that the money that was funding, what's been helping them is going to go away, the ORCA money. And they can't ask for a request to allow those people to

stay on? That's another human issue. So those people just going to get fired? How many people y'all going to fire by doing that? How much more of a backlog is that going to create when y'all let half -- they have to let go everybody that they hired for ORCA? See, I've been at this -- I've been practicing law for 27 years, before COVID. Before COVID, it took two years, two years from a case to go two blocks, from the city of Atlanta Municipal Court, to this court right here. Two years before COVID. And we had, what, two, three years of COVID? We got to be real careful, what we're talking about and what we're doing. And I don't know anyone that's -- that's playing with this. The idea that someone is down here playing, is -- that doesn't make sense to me. I don't think anyone is down here playing. And if they are, they need to leave. You know, it's a few things that we just have to really be mindful of, right. I'm -- let me back up. Part of the problem that we have is this little pesky thing called the Constitution. The Constitution of the United States and of the state of Georgia, as you all have heard me say before, require and demand the separation of powers. As Commissioners, we are part of the Legislative Branch, not part of the Judicial Branch. Executive, Legislative, and Judicial, those of the three branches of government, pursuant to the U.S. Constitution and the state Constitution. And the reason that I said this is not the Finance Department or the Real Estate Department where you can just say, look at the numbers. These people -- these are constitutional officers that we're talking about. The Clerk of Superior Court is a constitutional officer. The Sheriff is a constitutional officer. Judges are constitutional officers of the judicial branch, of which we have no say nor control over, because of this little pesky thing called the Constitution. Now, we do get to allocate budget for those officers. However, as a lawyer, it is -- it would be completely irresponsible for me to talk about how the DA is conducting her office. It's unethical as a lawyer to talk about how another lawyer is handling a case. I don't know how she's running her office and what's required. I don't know how many new cases are coming up and how many cases are being resolved. Guess what, I had surgery this year. I was out for 60 days on medical leave, I couldn't go to court. And right after that, my dad died. I was out another 60 days. Oh, court couldn't go forward. Guess what, that happens all the time. I showed up for court, and the Judge's parents had died. And so we couldn't have court that day. Shit happens. If a client is in court, and his lawyer can't be there, or the judge can't be there, that case might have to get continued in order to protect his constitutional rights. This is not something that you can just judge say, oh, the numbers, they didn't hit their numbers, they didn't -- they didn't meet their numbers. They're not -- they're not meeting the goal that -- we have a goal, and didn't meet their goal, we're not going to give them any money, we're not going to let them ask for any more money. Are you kidding me? These are people's lives. And so I'm reminded, because from vantage point as a lawyer that practices in the judicial system every day, there has been tremendous progress made. Now, you might not be able to

show it or see it on these numbers on this pages. But you know there -- it reminds me of the Chinese bamboo tree. It has to be watered for five years. You have to water it for five years to build a foundation. You know why? And at the end of the five years, they grow up to 60 feet tall in five weeks. So do they grow in five weeks, or do they grow in five years? What's happening during the five years is that the root system is growing. The foundation is being developed. So that when the fifth year comes, they can handle growing up to 60 feet in five weeks. What that means is that progress is being made. But you have to have persistence, you have to have faith, and you have to have patience. And you can't just look at something say, oh, well, these numbers on this chart say they're not doing anything. No. Two years before 2020, before March of 2020, it took two years for cases to go two blocks. And then we had all jury trials shut down for three years. At least two years, if not three years. Which means that's four years now. You -- it's already took two years. All jury trial shut down for another two years. Now you up to four years. It's easy to look from the outside and observe and say, oh, they're not doing that, they got a -- they got a -- he got something on his jacket. It's easy to do that, to judge from the outside. Probably better to talk to people that are on the inside. Now, certainly, we need to get any and every one out of the jail that we can. But we just have to be more careful. We have to think about all of the unintended consequences. Now, as for moving people out of the state, I don't like that idea at all. However, I have to give our Sheriff credit. He came to us a year ago. He came to us a year ago, and asked us to move people to Irwin county in the state of Georgia. And we pushed back on that because it was five hours away. It didn't matter, I didn't care we -- Mississippi, Georgia, wherever. I didn't want people moved five hours away, period. But we pushed back and told them, no, no that a year ago. And now we're in a situation where, me personally, I'm going to have to vote for this contract. I can't protect their -- the inmates' constitutional rights, if they're dead. I can't let them -- they can't go to trial to get -- be found innocent if they're dead. There are people dying. We got to get everybody out that doesn't need to be in there. Absolutely, number one, first thing we got to do. But other than that, we got to make sure people are alive so they can go to trial. I can't keep them safe if I can't keep them alive. My only -- our only role in that is budget. Do we allocate budget, as a Commissioner, I feel it will be completely irresponsible for me to not to allocate budget that will allow people to be moved out of a jail where people are dying almost every day. Now, if we can house them somewhere locally, closer, sooner, yes. The problem we have with ACDC is we -- I'm surprised that we're up to that number -- is that the deal we have with the city of Atlanta, we have to staff that building. And we having enough problems staffing the current jail. And so it's easy to say, oh, put -- put more inmates over there, take it up to 1300. Okay, who's going to staff it? Who's going to staff it? That's fine. I agree."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That's the problem. But that's a long term solution. We got people dying every day."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Two minutes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Those social problems aren't going to change in day."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So we've got a lot of stuff that we have to do. We've got some real challenges here. I'm a criminal defense lawyer. I don't want my clients going five hours away. But as a Commissioner, I, again, I feel it would be irresponsible not to allocate money to make sure that we can save people lives, and make sure that not one more person dies in that jail. And if that means I got to -- they have to be moved somewhere that I don't want them moved to, and that I didn't want them moved to last year, then that's -- that's unfortunate. But under these emergency circumstances and situation, I don't -- as a Commissioner, I don't feel I have any other choice."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Commissioner. All right, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a couple of quick things. First of all, I do want to echo my colleagues' sentiments that, you know, we are in a crisis. And, you know, I do feel the pain of sort of not being able to do a lot from our side of the fence, other than talk about what we do or do not fund. But wanting to protect the lives of the people in the county's care. But I have some sort of questions, I think, really about the way some of the numbers have been laid out and discussed. And one is, I think there's a little bit of a conflation of multiple issues here, because Vice Chair Ellis talked about, you know, we gave them all this ARPA money under Project ORCA. And there's been no progress. But the very first slide -- and I'm -- I'll phrase this as a question to you, Mr. Adams. But the very first slide you brought up showed that we have made incredible progress in terms of disposing of ORCA cases, correct?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "That is correct. And you are correct in terms of the intermingling these -- the ORCA addressed civil and criminal cases, individuals who were in jail and individuals, the vast majority who are not in jail. And so to that extent, there's been a lot of progress. Some of the individuals who are in jail may have been impacted. And so to that extent, we made progress in the ones that had been identified as ORCA cases. That having been said, the goal of making sure that we funded the

backlog was to allow the existing system to work without being hindered by the cases in the backlog. And so theoretically, you would have expected us to continue to make progress on the non-ORCA cases as well. So both of those are correct. If I might -- I don't know if that makes sense. But ORCA case, lot of progress, some of them in the jail, some of them not. It would allowed us to free up the existing system to do what they're designed to do, and ideally, continue to move cases so that we wouldn't necessarily have the number of increases in the jail population."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I got you. I acknowledge, of course, that there isn't -- there's clearly not significant progress on the jail population. So I'm not trying to say that that's not true. I do want to ask you, though, also about the numbers you talked about that have occurred over the last two weeks, this effort of -- multi-departmental effort on the justice side, that I believe you said have lowered the jail population by 220 folks over the last two weeks. And I think you said another 54 or so this week or --"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "As of yesterday --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- today? As of yesterday --"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "-- it's with the Public Defender Kenner mentioned to me this morning."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So my question is, what is your expectation in terms of how that will continue? Do you have goal numbers for what can be accomplished with this sort of effort that's been made over the last several weeks?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "I don't, Commissioner, I can get you some additional information. I don't think you can expect that -- I mean that number is not sustainable, right? Because what -- what happens is that, as I understand it, the District Attorney, Public Defender, Solicitor, the Judges, Sheriff's Department get together, they look at individuals who might be eligible for bond to be released on -- on an ankle monitor, for example, based on their charges. But if you look at the distribution of charges of individuals who are in the jail, you reach a point in time, where that -- where the charges and the severity of the charges would not allow for you to do that. So I can get a better answer on that for you. But I think what you saw, not unlike what we saw when COVID began and we moved 500 individuals out of the jail in a two-month period. It was a concerted effort to identify those individuals who could, in fact, be released without a threat to the community. And let's get after it, and let's see if we can get them out of jail."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So I can surmise from what you're saying that we're in that mode again, at this moment, yes?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "We continue to focus. I believe that's ongoing effort; that is correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Well, obviously, we'd like to continue to be updated on that. The other thing I just want to mention, and I'm really just seconding what a lot of my colleagues have said about diversion. But I just want to make it clear, at least from my perspective, that we -- there are different opportunities for diversion along the path for folks. There's pre-arrest diversion, which is what PAD is about. And PAD's been brought up a couple of times already today. And I just -- and maybe you can help me with this Commissioner Abdur-Rahman because you were in the same meeting I was for the Justice Policy Board or, you know, one of you all who were there. And I believe I heard somebody say that PAD is underused. And that's not anything to do with the Fulton County side, but rather the Atlanta Police side. In other words, they're not getting called enough by the -- called on enough by the police. And so, my -- is that your recollection?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes. The law enforcement is not utilizing the ability to divert to PAD at the level that I personally think they should be. And it's not just Atlanta -- APD, but APD being the largest, they need to do more diversion to PAD."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Commissioner. Yeah, I agree. And I think my question really becomes, what have we done, or what can we do to really push a little harder on the city, on APD in that front to sort of encourage that? Because, you know, everybody that they arrest, instead of taking to PAD that could have been eligible, is somebody else that is likely going to end up in our jail and exacerbate the problem."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Just add to perhaps that, I am having breakfast with Peter Aman, the Chief Administrative Officer of the Atlanta Police Department on Friday. And it's specifically to follow up on that question. I think if you -- if you heard him, say, for the benefit of everyone else, it's a pretty massive cultural, logistical number of people to touch, train in incentivize shift for APD. So what we may have thought this is, you know, makes perfect sense to the getting it all the down to, you know, plus 1200 or so officers, may not. So I want to explore what -- what his plans are, what we could do to be helpful to that end. Obviously, we're funding PAD, so that's not really the issue, and I think it is more inside that organization. I do think, of course, if you recall, one of the advantages of the Diversion Center that we're co-funding with Atlanta is that it's a physical location. And I do -- if you listen to him, I think the aspect of

a physical location versus mobile, seem to have resonated more. I'm not sure that that should be the only answer, but hopefully it will be."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I'd like to make sure that we, certainly want to hear the outcome of your conversation with him. And also would just like to make sure that we continue to push for that. I recognize that it's, you know, I heard him say that in the meeting that it was a significant cultural change. And I acknowledge that, but you know, we are in a crisis, and we need that change to happen sooner than later. In the same vein, and this, I guess, I'll phrase as a question too. You know, I know, everybody keeps talking about the beds at ACDC and the restrictions on moving people over there. I don't know if the public necessarily grasps that when they, you know, hear this conversation. So could someone speak to, specifically, what the restrictions are?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Certainly. When we -- when we met with the representative of the city and -- and talked about the beds, they had a specific requirement, I guess I would say, that we would not move at certain level of individuals, right, charged with a certain level of crime. And I think there were two or three or four categories. I don't remember exactly now. But part of the agreement was they wanted to have individuals who were not viewed as dangerous, dangerous criminals or whatever the term, I think, in the contract might read. And like I said, it's a particular level, I can go back and look at the contract for you. So as part of the agreement, and when we looked at the jail population at the time, the agreement was okay, we'll move level one and level two. We have enough of those individuals to, at that point in time, probably occupying 700 beds, even if you could staff it, right. I'm not sure those numbers exist at this point in time, which is why we've kind of reached the ceiling. And so to be able to move more individuals, here again, staffing is a main -- is a big issue, right, and we can't underestimate that. But even if we had the staffing, that restriction, we would bump against that because we don't have that number of individuals with those crimes. And so if we wanted to move more, we have to get that restriction changed in the contract."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Are we doing anything to get that changed?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "That -- here again, if -- if like I said, even if you were able to get it changed, if you don't have the staffing, then you couldn't use the beds. So that's part of the -- part of the dilemma in the sense that without the staffing, you can't use the beds. And that's one of the constraints, in which is one of the reasons why there's a -- a look at other options that include the ability to staff those -- those beds as well."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, obviously, I'll certainly look forward to hearing what the Sheriff has to say in terms of trying to staff ACDC. But those two problems do seem like they should be achievable. Like, we should be able to get over the hump on both of those in my opinion. I -- but I may be miss missing something. So I'll look forward to hearing the rest of that conversation. But it does seem that we should be pushing from a cost perspective, if for no other reason, but certainly also, from taking people a distance away, that if there's anything we can do to try to push harder to use the beds there. And I think, to the Chairman's point, more, even more than the 700. And I understand that there are political issues. And I would sort of echo some of my colleagues here, I think, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, who said to like, let's take the politics out of this. And we need -- we need their help. I mean, we need the city of Atlanta's help to deal with what is a crisis in which people are dying. So that seems like whatever we can do as a group, if we need to all show up at their City Council meeting. And I don't know, but -- but I think we should do whatever we need to do to try to move this along. The last thing is I just want to maybe clarify with you, Mr. Adams, something you said that I think was a little bit contradictory, which was that this was not a budget issue. But then later in your remarks, you said, we may need to spend money on diversion, we may need to spend money on technology. So I just want to be clear, there are possibly budget-related issues across all of the justice partners that are likely going to come up that may be over and above what we have spent in 2023; is that accurate?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Well, let me clarify. When I said it's not a budget issue, my point was that, it's not clear that the budget issue is what got us in this situation. That having been said, I do believe that selective investment in key areas, right, to allow us to in fact, move the needle in the right areas, will be important, and in fact, necessary. And as Commissioner Arrington pointed out, there's some practical things that the system requires. And so it's a -- it's a, you know, it's a big complex. But just to clarify, my point was that there's some systemic things, right, structurally and otherwise, a lot of which we don't control because they are driven by the Constitution, that perhaps, contribute to some of this -- these issues. That's what I meant to say."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, sir. Mr. Chairman, that's it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. You know, there's a thing called the Constitution. But there's a thing called execution. And that's what's lacking. I appreciate Commissioner Arrington's anecdotal remarks and some of the components of that. But quite honestly, that's how we wound up funding a lot of the stuff based on

the anecdotal and not the hard facts. You know, as a practicing attorney, you may be in conflict, and may not be in a position to really critique the judicial system for obvious reasons. As an elected official, that's my job to understand it, components of it, why something is being asked, what I should fund, whether it should be continued to be funded. When we have supplied a boatload of money through Project ORCA, when we are just coming off this year, where in the aggregate, we increase funding for the judicial agencies 16 and a half percent, 16 and a half, off of a large, large, large increase also, from '21 to '22. That's not sustainable. The thing is funded. You want to go back and look at different points in time in 2019, here's just a few data -- data points. In 2019, we conducted 119 criminal trials. We have done 66 today. We're on track to do 99 this year. Less than 2019, despite significant more resources. The DA's budget 2021, 26.3 million; 2023, 41.6 million, a 58.1 percent increase, plus funds from Project ORCA, plus grant funds, okay? Unindicted rate in the jail in 2020, 10 percent or about 2400 people. 35 percent today. These results -- we're not even retaining the results we were getting in 2019 with significantly less funding. Today, Sheriff's budget, 100 -- we allocated 123.2 million in resources in 2021, 188.7 in 2023, 53 percent increase. Think we bought about 169 vehicles for 7.32 million. We bought 12 Harley Davidsons for 225 grand. We've just bought two electric Mustangs on July 2023. I'm not sure what the hell that had to do with servicing our jail, paid \$138 -- 39,000 for those. Their resources have been committed. It's their job to figure out within their budgets, how to do their job. That's the Constitutional thing. That's not my role to tell you how to do your job. But if we're going to fund it to a certain extent, I'm darn well going to look at how you're using those funds and ask serious questions. And if you aren't using them effectively, you should not see any more funds go to -- into your budget, until you sit down, and you figure out how to properly utilize them to get the results that our citizens deserve and merit. And that's not taking place right now. You know, so and we're going to come back and talk about that other in just a minute. So I'll save my remarks on that. But just to bring out a few factual points and get away from some of the anecdotal."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let me remind us that there's a -- there's nothing on the floor vote on. Now, what we're talking about now, we're responding to the report that was made by Mr. Adams. But there's no legislation before us as we speak. So let's be mindful of that. Commissioner Thorne, Commissioner Hall, and back to Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'm going to be brief because everybody's covered a lot of what it was going to say. So -- and I'm going to speak later on some other issues. But on slide number 18, the bottom, it says that they voted against the creation of a dedicated competency court. It was an initiative and it was defeated. Why are we -- what's the holdup, or why?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "It's coming back before the Bench. We expect that it will be -- it'll be approved by the end of this month."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Oh, then -- but it was just kind of held up --"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "It was held. There was some questions and concerns. There was some questions about it would be implemented, which I think have been addressed."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. And I just want to address and see, you know, we had slide number 6 up. And I remember, I wasn't a Commissioner then, but I remember a year ago seeing almost this identical slide, except the numbers instead, were 2022 all across the bottom. And it just seemed that everything flatline. Like, initially, the cases went down quickly. And then they just kind of flatlined. And now there's been no change in over, you know, two years almost now. So my question is, how are these high-profile cases affecting the court system? Or do they have any court? I remember, last year listening, you said something about the judges go to conventions and all that kind of stuff during the summertime or something to that effect. Why -- why are we seeing this flatline? And how are these high-profile cases attributing to that, if they have any effect at all?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Well, a couple of things, it's not -- respectfully, it's not flatlining, it's slowing down. But at this point in time, we're still 35,000 dollars -- 35,000 cases to the good versus the straight-line forecast. So the pace has slowed down. The initial order, the kind of gate caseload, I think it's fair to say that there were a number of discussions that -- and activities that allowed for faster disposition. It has slowed down, you're correct, considerably. But it's not flatlined, because we continue to dispose of in last month 1500 cases. In terms of the -- I think I did mention that there is a predictable summer slowdown. And it's just conferences across the entire system, right. So from -- from what I understand, there are certain CPE credit requirements across the board. And as a result, we tend to see a bit of a slowdown in the -- in the case pace during the -- during the summer."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And so, what will happen in October, this next month, September, October, are they picking back up now?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "I expect them to pick up. I can't give you an exact number. But I would expect, just like they picked up in the last couple of months, that we continue to see an increase."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, thank you."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Commissioner Hall.

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. So Mr. County Manager, do you remember in 2018 and 2019, a number of meetings that I held with yourself, your executive team, the Mayor's office, Pre-Arrest Diversion Executive Director Moki, Devin Barrington-Ward, Atlanta Police Department, Corrections. And this is when Sheriff Labat was actually over corrections. The Fulton County Sheriff's office, Magistrate Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Solicitor General, and it just goes on and on. And we discussed what was wrong with the diversion process and what was needed to try to fix it. Do you recall those meetings?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am, and the room we met in."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes. And you came up, after all the meetings -- and there had to be close to over 20 or more. After all the meetings, you came up with a location. And we all came up with an idea of how to fix the problem. Because what we found was that the police, law enforcement, were saying that there's too much crime in Atlanta for them to have to stand around with a suspect and wait for someone from Pre-Arrest Diversion to come and assess that person and make a determination on where they should go, if they should go to jail, or if they should go to a Diversion Center. And at that time, PAD had no location. They were offered a location in a park somewhere in the Old Fourth Ward, which they didn't want to do because of the people that would be coming to that location -- you're shaking your head too, Alton. You remember, they could not use that location because children come to the park. So they didn't want a Pre-Arrest Diversion Center in a park. But Mr. County Manager, you came up with a brilliant idea. We have building that was between the jail and Jefferson Place. And at the time, I forget, someone was in there and moving out or -- Alton, you want to speak so bad. Go ahead."

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "No. I was just want to say, because I remember making the trips with you. Accountability Court, that's where Accountability Court currently is, Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Exactly. And at the time we were looking at this location as a potential spot for any officer to take someone to divert them so that they could be assessed in an adequate manner. And also we were told that they would have to accept diversion, or we couldn't put -- we couldn't force them. They had accept it, right? And the location was great, because it's right by the jail. If they didn't accept, we said they just be easily taken across to the jail. If they were assessed and found to need to go to jail, they could still be taken to the jail. But it allowed the officers to be freed up in a timely fashion to get back on the streets and fight real crime. So what is stopping us

from being able to fix this problem that we all came together and figured out a recommendation of how to fix? What is stopping us?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Well, part of the -- and Commissioner, you know, I was with you when we went over to look at the location there --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yes."

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "-- that the -- kids' park, right? So very much involved in that. I think the challenge we had at the time was we -- we had -- we would have to have relocated Accountability Court. And then we needed to make some significant improvements to that structure, it had some roof issues and so on. So that's kind of where we were. And for whatever reason, we didn't kind of move forward with relocating Accountability Court. Now, we're looking at that now. It's taken us a bit to get there. But that was, I think, the number one issue, which was good location, a physical plant that had to be improved. And we needed to find a way to relocate Accountability Court somewhere else."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So is that a possibility still? You sound like it may be."

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "It may, but the long-term use of that property is going to be the replacement jail. And so --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Right."

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "So I'm not sure it would solve our -- but I do think, if I can, I do think the concept of having another facility that can allow for more scale in terms of diversion is a good one. And I'm not sure if that's the right place when we have -- but I do think that -- the goal of broadening diversion so you have more people that can be treated, I think is a good one. Because right now, as I talked about the people in our jail, with almost a thousand people who have challenges like that, we need -- we certainly need more scale. So I certainly think it's something we got to look at. I'm not sure whether that would be right place, given the long-term plan for it."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. Well, it definitely was said in the room with all of those individual offices and agencies that it needed to be somewhere close to the jail so that the officers can get back on the streets. It would have been nice if it was the Behavioral Health Crisis Center. But that is all the out on the other side of town. But I have a feeling that we might see something like that just happen. Because that need is there, and that's one of the main things that will help us with the pre-arrest diversion and

including funding it more so that they have the funding necessary to do the work. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So Commissioner Ellis, I got -- I don't know about those numbers you got. I'm -- on 119 trials in a calendar year throughout a whole court with ten, 12-plus judges? I we're going to have to double check those numbers and circle back on those. I don't -- I don't buy it. But, you know, Pre-Arrest Diversion is a great program. Former Council Member Kwanza Hall and I were the ones that brought it and implemented it here. And we did that initially as a pilot program in his City Council District, District 2. I do not know how much that program has expanded and whether they are covering the entire city or not. However, Atlanta is only one of 15 cities in Fulton County. The Sheriff doesn't lock those people up and take them to the jail. It's the 15 cities that do it. So all the activist here don't want people in that jail, we need your help. We need you to go to those cities and those police, and let them know you don't want those people arrested. Because they are the ones arresting them and bringing them to the Fulton County Jail. We need your help to go to the state because there's no reason that the Fulton County Jail should be the number one mental health institution. We need to be going to the state together. We -- there should be -- they closed all of their mental health hospitals. The state of Georgia closed all of their mental health hospitals. So where else do we have to put them? So, I would just challenge us, as we talk about these things, you can -- my mother said, you can disagree without being disagreeable. And so you don't -- I don't know that it benefits us or you or your calls to come attacking people, right. Because you might have more in common with them. They might agree with what you're saying but if you're attacking them, they're going to push back. And so we got some complex issues that need to be resolved and need to be discussed. But there's no pre-arrest diversion in the other 14 cities. So if we can -- if we can't afford to fund pre-arrest diversion in the city of Atlanta and actually have it implemented or executed, which is, again, a third branch of government over there, County Manager, then it doesn't do us any good. Fourteen other cities, are we going to be able to fund pre-arrest diversion in all 14 other cities too? So, there's some real complicated issues. Pre-arrest diversion is good, but only if it's been implemented. And, you know, I probably need to call and get a report from them or update to know the progress that they have -- that they're having and find and what problems they may be encountering. But I'll stop there -- I'll stop there for now because we got -- we'll probably have a chance to talk about this later."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just one quick comment on pre-arrest diversion and Commissioner Arrington, I share the sentiment with you on that, that it's, you know, we probably don't have the ability to fund it everywhere. And it probably should be cities' obligations to fund those. And the execution of that really could -- really is driven by at the city level with the police. But just remind folks that also that we're -- we did agree to enter into, you know, an arrangement with the city to have a pre-arrest physical facility, okay. That thing was supposed to come online first quarter of this year. Now, it looks like it might be first quarter of next year. So that some -- I mean, this is a -- everything is multifaceted and complex. I think we probably -- not that diversion is bad, certainly, and it has its merits and its place. But we need to focus on the things that we can't control right now, and try to get that right. Mr. Chair, just one other thing, too, just while we're in the midst of this, we may -- and given the time of day, it may make sense to elevate the Sheriff's discussion, you know, to right now, then come back and pick up the rest of the operational report, I'll leave that to you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'll second that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Do you have anything else -- any issue, Mr. Adams, anything else you want to add?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "No, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Where's that, the Sheriff's piece? Where is it, what page? Call -- all right. No objection then, sound that, and we'll bring that while we're on this discussion. Is the Sheriff, is he here?"

CLERK GRIER: "On page 14, **23-0648**, Discussion, inmate outsourcing options to include D. Ray James in Core Civic and identifying funding options."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Sheriff, come on up, Sheriff. It's 1:12 colleagues, and that -- and I'm hoping that we would have this same lively debate when we get to the money part of this meeting today, where we're going to pay for all this stuff. That's coming, so I want the same attention to that as we put on this. Nothing is free."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So, first of all, good afternoon. Let me begin by saying, thank you, thank you, to each one of your Chiefs of Staff that reached out to me as I sat on the tarmac when you all decided to move this to the front of the meeting instead of the end where it was, because I was meeting with more than 50 large County Sheriffs in Orlando about these very same problems. This is not germane to Fulton County, Harris County, I believe, Mr. Alton Adams mentioned, they have 10,500 inmates. They have 1200 inmates across the state line in Louisiana. So this is not

germane just to us. Where we find ourselves is at a crossroad. The crossroad between the Constitution, execution, and education. So I am going to make sure that we answer a few -- few of the questions that were asked, correctly. Irwin County, three hours away. Gwinnett County is now using that facility for 400 inmates. The population on slide 16, needs to be adjusted. So where it says 500 at Cobb, we have -- we reduce the amount of monies there, going there, 234 people. And so that's inaccurate, plus they have space where they too have said, you can bring inmates, but you got to bring staff. The city of Atlanta routinely -- and the Chairman wrote to the Mayor as well, quite simply, the criteria needs to be adjusted. Equally as important is, their pace in which their -- the cadence in which they -- they operate. So we will send them 200 people to be cleared, they'll send us 40 back. Ultimately, we have units there, but again to your point earlier, we have to staff that. I promised you months ago that we will certainly keep you updated as to our accomplishments, the partnerships we created. Last tranche of money was \$25 million. On September 11th, we went live with the technology that we -- game-changing technology that will save lives. Ultimately, the delay is simply because we cannot move inmates, cannot move detainees out of these spaces to work and upgrade the unit itself. The tower staffing, which was something that was very important to all of us, ultimately, we contracted for 75 individuals year to date or since the contract was put in place. We have 41 individuals. Two of those individuals have been arrested. Another one's access revoked. So they have the same issues, because that's just where we are with respect to -- with respect to hiring in a correctional environment. Someone asked earlier about the new programs we put in place. And let me walk you through some of that. We've worked with our DA and our Solicitor, and including the Public Defender's Office, who's somewhere along the line is suing me for something I haven't done yet. So to that extent, we have 50 consent bonds from the DA's office that we have processed, another 29 in process today. But someone mentioned earlier, we have released over 220 people. Because we have said -- here -- here's the piece that needs to be clearly understood, while we run a facility, that's our job. But we've had to pull resources to create expertise in a fashion and in a form that says, why are these people still here? And so we look at the number of people, and we'll go through some of this slides -- or some of the slide deck here shortly. So you'll see some of the accomplishments. We created an Inmate Advocacy Unit. Well, what's that mean, Sheriff? That means I got to take a Data Entry Clerk or a Supervisor, stop her from what she's doing to process people in and give us the facts of what's going on. And so ultimately, you talked about pre-arrest diversion, which I fully support. We found in that stack of individuals that we could release, somebody that was waiting on pre-arrest diversion for 30 days, right. So let's go through this stack that each of you have. And I think you'll see the execution portion being out -- just outstanding from the team's information --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sheriff, what are you speaking from? This document that you passed --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yes, sir. In that document, there is -- each of you have this slide deck. And let -- and while we clarify this, someone mentioned visitation. Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Which one?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Someone mentioned -- yes -- yes, ma'am. Someone mentioned visitation. We don't do visitation now at the jail. We do video visitation since COVID, to try and keep down all kind of airborne diseases, et cetera. So we don't do visitation now. Every facility that you will hear about here shortly, has not only the ability to do video visitation, but even document signage for lawyers, et cetera, so that no one has to travel. Plus, we built in a package. If you got a grandmother that wants to go, we're going to take you. We built that in, so -- in that space. If you turn to the first page, talking about the jail population, look at what we've been able to do since 2021. We had high, and that high is -- that high of 3609 is actually, we found another number, it's 3673. As of today, that's 3398. And then you start -- and you go across the center, you look at the number of people that, in the main jail. But here is one of the things that each one of you, as you taken a tour, has been astounded by, but I hope you now see because of the works that are being put in place, the execution that's being done on a daily basis. At a high in the last two years, we had 500, close to 600 people sleeping on bunks. Because we've improved our classification process, because we've improved our outsourcing, we got less than 300 people. As of this morning, 270 people sleeping on the floor. That's more than half of people that were -- again, trying to treat people more humane as we go along. If you go to the next page, it's important to understand that we don't have this mythological misdemeanor postulation. Right now, as of today, we got 146 people that are charged with misdemeanors. We've been working with our Solicitor General to see now if we could cut that in half and put some of these people out on ankle monitors, put them out on bands, whatever that may be. Because many -- to you're point, many of the people that are charged with misdemeanors have been there longer than they would have been if they'd have been sentenced by a Judge. So with that, I would ask your indulgence, and maybe you could ask the County Attorney to rule to see -- or to find legislation to say, I'm going to stop taking misdemeanors. If it's a nonviolent situation, I don't -- take them to your jail. If you got a jail, take them to your jail. East Point got a jail, Atlanta's got a jail, College Park uses East Point's. City of -- City of South Fulton uses East Point's. If you got a misdemeanor, take them there, take them there. So I haven't crossed that bridge yet. But again, an opportunity for you to see on this next -- on this particular slide, we got

1331 people without bond. So they're not going anywhere. Instead of languishing in jail, we're going to present to you a couple of opportunities where they -- there's more space, a cleaner environment. The jail itself -- several months ago, I bought in here 1200 shanks in five different wheelbarrows that are being -- the weapons are being fashioned by the building. And so when we put together this Bridging Plan, which didn't pass last time -- I got to give Mr. Davis and his team some credit. In order to repair and fix over a thousand doors that have been ripped from the walls, not -- not locks jammed, we got to have the opportunity to get it done. And so we have a Bridging Plan that we've put together with EMSI and Mr. Davis and his team. But while we're doing all of that, we got four or five elevators and only one of them working, right. So we -- so we continue to meet challenges with respect to the building itself. But ultimately, we have a location. And I got it, no one wants to go to Mississippi. I don't even want to go to Mississippi, got it? But I went. Because I saw a facility that there's an opportunity for us to, instead of people languishing in jail, but let's -- let's bring it back home. We have a facility in South Georgia, it's not three hours away like Irwin County, but it is four hours away. And there's an opportunity there. So you all be able to see that as we continue to go on. If you go to the next slide that looks like a bunch of octagon stop signs. This Inmate Advocacy Unit that we put together, has had an opportunity to review over 6,000 cases. And that's important when you look at how many misdemeanor releases we've been able to affect. The first week we opened up the Inmate Advocacy Unit, we found a 187 people that we were able to address. We got 78 of those people out of jail. But by the weekend, to Commissioner Khadijah's point, by the weekend, there were another 90 people arrested. And so crime is not going to stop. We just -- we've come to that realization. The other thing you have to keep in mind that we wanted to focus on, which is systematically, the system is broken. Many of you said that, I know many of you agree in that point. We just had an individual go to court two weeks ago that has been in our facility for ten years, right. Now, he's charged with murder, don't get me wrong. In our facility for ten years. But we're stuck in the middle. And so I want to make sure that you see on that slide, they're 26 people in our facility that's been there five years or longer. But the Sheriff's Office doesn't have anything to do with that. So as we go about execution, if you go to the next page, we talk about inmate advocacy. When we were able to analyze, again, pulling people from other resources, other jobs, analyze the exact population, you see this court production order. We had 200 -- nearly 250 people sitting in jail that Judges were saying, bring them from the state, we're going to try them eventually. And we just took the stance that, quite simply, tell you what, if you're not going to try them in two weeks, we're going to take them back to prison where they belong. And so now we got 37 people in jail, as opposed to 236 people. And then I want to clarify something, each of you all have a memo that is addressed, the regard line is wrong, it's -- it was typed on an old memo format. So the body and the

context is about the facilities that we will talk about here shortly. And I also want to be genuine about the numbers Vice Chair presented. Our budget is not \$187 or 83 million. We also moved \$43 million worth of healthcare out from an anecdotal fund. I don't know the proper one, CFO, I don't know the proper name for it, a contingency fund back into the Sheriff's office, where it belonged. So the inflation, in and of itself, needs to be articulated when we come through with these numbers. Now, I'm going to turn this over to our General Counsel. But before I do, if you'll indulge me, because I don't do anything small. I can come and tell you about the conditions, you can come and see them. But more often than not, you don't get an impact until you hear one of these -- one of your constituents tell you about the facility. So if you give me just a second. I got a detainee that wants to talk to you all. We couldn't make it for public comment for security reasons. But ultimately, I got a representative that wants to at least, if you'll indulge him, give you an idea. Like somebody said, spend the night in a jail, right. Let's let somebody with some passion, come talk to them. Introduce yourself."

KENNETH PERRY, JR., FC INMATE: "Good afternoon, my name is Kenneth Perry, Jr. And I've been at the Fulton County Jail for about 16 months. Off rip, the jail itself is deteriorating. The walls are crumbling down, and inmates are getting -- creating shanks out of the walls. So you can go inside of the wall and get you a knife. You can go inside of your light and fix yourself on something and stab somebody next you. Just because we -- they have nothing else to do. More importantly, we as inmates, we have to then start defending ourselves. If people are going to start stabbing us, because there are people that don't care there. And that's just on them. But there's -- when people are put in jail for a period of time, to where we're just supposed be there to sit and wait for the -- to get to court, so wait for a bond or wait to get there, we shouldn't have to be sub -- subject to being stabbed or having instruments pulled on us. And then you have mold everywhere in the jail. Again, I've been there for 16 month. And luckily, I'm in a different facility now. But it's a lot of people that are in the jail due to overcapacity. And we're putting more and more people inside of the jail, but not creating solutions to where we're cleaning up the jail or we're -- or we're replacing the broken things that are there. It doesn't work. And for me, I'm lucky, but I also had four knives pulled on me at once. I had knives put to my throat, and I had to call my mom telling them, please wire somebody some money or I'm going to be killed. Nobody should be subject to that at a jail where you're supposed be waiting to get your day in court. And that just does not work for the inmates at Fulton County Jail."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "All right. So that said, I thought it important that you hear -- you're not going to hear from everybody. But -- and everybody has a story, right. As my pastor would say, Pastor Paul would say, everybody got a testimony, right. It's important that you understand that these facilities, in and of themselves, right,

Mississippi, South Georgia, which we went to see, have the space, have the programmatic opportunities to have hopefully change lives. So the myth that we are to shipping people over somewhere else, it goes back to what Commissioner Arrington said, and quite simply, if we can't get you to your day in court, what are we doing? And so to that extent, I will let Ms. Joiner come up, give you some specifics around the facilities, what the options may be. And we hope that you will take this journey with us."

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Amelia Joiner from the Fulton County Sheriff's office. In speaking about execution, we talked about specifically, the Cobb County arrangement, which has a contractual capacity of 500. But Cobb County will not allow 500 to go there. We are limited to 234, and we cannot force Cobb County to take more than that 234. That is their capacity, and it's based on staffing. With respect to the city of Atlanta, the contractual capacity is 700, that's aspirational. We cannot put those inmates there without the staff. We also can't force Atlanta City Department of Corrections to accept inmates that their classification standards will not allow. So we are not able force other facilities to take our inmates. So we are executing and doing what it is that we were asked to do. But as you just heard from these inmates, there's execution and then there's execution. An inmate should not have to go and be -- reside -- residing at a county jail waiting for their day in court and be executed by the walls and pieces of the floor and the lights. And so what we have done in order to try to address this is go to facility that would have both the bed space as well as the staff. This is not the first time that we have done this. Sheriff Labat has reached out to every single Sheriff in the state of Georgia and asked those Sheriffs for any one single bed. They had none. Douglas County has 40 percent capacity with their inmates. It's only at 40 percent, but they don't have staff. So we can't send one additional inmate to them. They won't receive them because they are at capacity. That's their operational capacity, is 40 percent. So we can't keep them here and we can't keep them local. With respect to the inhumanity part, you know, we haven't had in-person visitation of anyone outside of attorneys since the beginning of COVID, right. So that's not happening now, but there is an opportunity for it happen in one of the two places that we most recently visited. So in the memo that Sheriff Labat submitted to you all, we talk about the two facilities that we visited. The first was Geo Group located in Folkston, Georgia. Although it is four hours away, it is in the state of Georgia. So we're not talking about, in that instance, going out of state. For that specific facility, they are able to take between 800 up to a thousand inmates, they can take them. They're able to staff for 500 within 30 days, and the additional 500, 30 days thereafter. So within 60 days, they are able to do that. How is that possible? Happy to tell you. So, they have already explained to us that they used to be a fully functioning facility that was a BOP, a Bureau of Prisons facility. And when that facility closed, they

lost a lot of their staff. That staff is willing and able to come back to them. There is a need for that staff there. And so they're able to do that. That facility is able to provide medical, mental health care, programming. They're able to provide transportation to and from court and transportation for the purposes of ramping up the facility. The cost for that is not cheap. And for one to -- one to 500 inmates, the cost is 2.5 million per month. But once we get to the 1,000 mark, it is 3.5 million. So it's a smaller step up once we get to the 1,000-inmate mark. We understand that that is a significant financial investment into the care of the inmates that we have here in Fulton County. But how much is their life worth? How much is their safety worth? That's the one thing that wasn't discussed during public comments, was the inmates' safety from the building itself. Additionally, we saw Core Civic, we visited with Core Civic in Tallahatchie, Mississippi. They also are able to take between -- up to 720 inmates. The cost for them, which is a housing-only cost, their housing-only cost is between 75 and \$80, that's the per diem. There would be additional costs of \$7,000 per trip for transportation. And that's the transportation related to going back and forth to court and also for ramping up the facility. Do the Commissioners have any questions at this time?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is that the end of your presentation?"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "It doesn't have to be."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, what does that mean?"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "It is."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It is, or it isn't?"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "It is."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Vice Chair Ellis, followed by Commissioner Arrington."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, I mean, this is kind of just (unintelligible) two things. We're being asked to spend another \$30 million for access to 500 beds, when we've got 358 available beds in existing facilities that we have control to, okay. So, let's just note that. Secondly, I want to say this, this is about the third time that the Sheriff's office has come down here, not -- with not giving us information ahead of time to ask us for a boatload of money with limited detail, and create sort of a stage presentation associated with it. That's an abuse of power, my friend. That is an abuse of power. Not acceptable. We've had shanks, we have inmates --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Hold it, hold it, Vice Chair. Just a minute."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Now, I've been very lenient so far. But that could end quickly. Continue, Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We need hard data, contracts, that sort of stuff when we're considering stuff, not to be paraded down here with the anecdotal. That's just not acceptable anymore."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "No, no."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "As I've noted before -- I'm going to finish my remarks."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "You're not going to sit up here and disrespect me --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Sheriff --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "No, no, no. I've been disrespected."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sheriff, Sheriff, come on. Come on."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Let me tell you -- no, no, no."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff, please. Please."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "You got me confused."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sheriff, Sheriff, please."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Now, I mean we --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "You got me confused."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Enough."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "When -- we are disrespected when we're not presented --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- with full information."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair. Audience, now, I've been very lenient. In about one more minute, I'm going to clear the Assembly Hall."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. So we have supplied significant funding to this operation, over 53 percent since 2020 -- and 53 percent increase 2021 to 2023, and our various funds for different types of things. Your general fund budget, inmate outsourcing, et cetera. As I said before, it's your job to execute. You made decisions to do certain things. You created new units that weren't necessarily geared at detaining -- detaining inmates and providing adequate security. Instead we got motorcycle units, other units, that sort of stuff. That was your choice. That's how you chose to spend the funds. When we know we have the scarcity of officers throughout the region to be able to attract. So you chose to do that with those precious funds. And so now we're being asked to go further spend money to outsource what should be your core function. I recognize all the challenges. And there's a whole big discussion about the fact that the overcrowding rests with another group of folks that need to get their act together, all right. And hopefully, some of this stuff, maybe some of them have woke up, and we're actually going to see some movement on that. But there's these other components that's this -- this is not a long-term solution. We -- we've got 3,339 beds in Fulton County. It's -- we should have the ability to manage that and do that ourselves, not relying on some outside facility, whether it's Folkston, Georgia; Memphis, Tennessee; Jackson, Mississippi. I don't -- I don't care where it is. We should be able to do that ourselves. The other thing is, when we come down here, and when you come down here, and you make an ask and a specific ask, and it's not followed through or there's been a distortion on it, I can't personally go back at it again and evaluate any of it unless I've got all that stuff in advance. And I understand how it's going to work, what the specific costs are going to be, what the milestones are going to be, what happens if they aren't met, okay? And I want to give you one example of something. I wasn't here for this particular meeting, \$5.3 million was approved in emergency spending, the April 16th meeting, I believe; is that correct?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's correct."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "April 16th. In response to a horrific death that occurred, I believe, in October of the prior year. Is that -- am I right on that?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "No."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "November?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Routinely, wrong. September."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "September. September, the prior year?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yeah."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, even worse. September, the prior year, we're evaluating -- we're in response to something in April, okay? Part of that ask of that 5.3 million was a \$2.1 million contract with an outfit that was going to equip all of the -- like a thousand people within Rice Street, within the ten-week period with bracelets, medical bracelets to monitor them that hopefully, would prevent that type of event from occurring again. We learned at our last -- right around the time of our last meeting, they're none of these in that facility, none, zero. But yet, we've had people that have died for the same reason that it was presented to us, this is what this is going to go to protect. We were in -- induced into a contract with somebody on an emergency basis to be completed in ten weeks, when that -- a company apparently had no ability to stand that up and put in place."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "That's not accurate. That's not accurate. I'm not going to sit here --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That's -- okay."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- and let you --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sheriff --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- disrespect --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So, I'll --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sheriff, you'll have --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I will say this, and I'll complete my remarks."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "That's not accurate."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sheriff."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'll complete my remarks with this, all right? So when that kind of thing takes place, when there wasn't hard detail provided around it at that point in time, it's emergency piece. This comes in here, emergency, we need to do it now, got to act. It may not have any space left, somebody may take the space, I'm not going to be in a position to vote on any of that. I need it all laid up, it needs to be teed up, the public needs to see it, everybody needs to be able to weigh in on it, and see if they believe in it. And if there is going to be something like this, we also need to be

presented with plan about where you're also going to cut the rest of your budget to be able to fund it. And I'm going to stop with that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Sheriff."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Well, first of all, you are completely inaccurate. So let's start there, let's get some facts to you, so that we can make sure that at least, we're reading from the same hymnal. So to that extent, the emergency money that was put in place, you might want to ask Mr. Davis, how can he outfit and any company outfit anybody that is full of inmates sleeping on the floor. I said, quite honestly, we cannot outfit or fix a facility if we got inmates sleeping on the floor. Don't be disingenuous about any of the outsourcing numbers when it comes to Cobb and/or the city of Atlanta because you knew from day one that we had to staff it. And so we cannot keep staffing other facilities and not staffing our own facility. Don't be disingenuous, like you and I did not have breakfast, and I told you, quite simply, we created a Motorcycles Unit, so when there's an emergency, I got additional staff, made up of mostly retired people. I created a Traffic Unit made up of individuals now who have to move gang members back and forth to court. Don't be disingenuous and tell me what my core value -- my core operational need is, when I have three constitutional responsibilities. Count them, three, and you can look that up, while you looking up everything else. The first one being, the chief law enforcement executive in the county; the second, run the jail; and third, protect the courts. Because I will not lose the court. Don't be disingenuous when you look at 19 inmates, not -- not even inmates, indictments that brought worldwide attention to Fulton County, and we didn't drop -- didn't miss a beat, because of those very units, because of the jail staff that works tirelessly. So you sitting up there like you didn't have lunch -- breakfast with me, and I didn't explain all of this to you. It's disingenuous. So you can take the -- all the theater and go elsewhere. I brought that detainee in here because he said he had something to say, because some Commissioners won't come visit and have that conversation. I'm with each of you. We'll give you a bed space so you can see what it's like. I have done nothing but day one -- from day one, trying to improve the conditions in the Fulton County Jail and Fulton County Sheriff's Office as a whole. So you act like y'all rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic is something that is culpable. It is absolutely not. So let me tell you, my friend from the north, who you think that nothing happens without your tax dollars, because we had this conversation. You got me disingenuous, and you got me messed up. See, I can bring all the SWATs out if -- the Southwest Atlanta, so you can have all of that. Understand this, I'm not getting ready to let you take me there, because my mama taught me better. But you're telling not the true, you know it, like I know it. So you take that -- I'll reduce it to writing. The one thing that you and Commissioner Khadijah asked for in that resolution that made no sense, was a report. If you pull up

the Sheriff's app, almost everything you asked for is at the -- your fingertips. But see here's the difference between me being able to have a genuine conversation with other members of the Board, at least they are honest about what they do. And so I'm not here to play with you. I don't even play the radio. So you can figure this out, or you can run for Sheriff. Try that one out. Because I'm here to tell you, quite simply, the women and men of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office are doing yeoman's work. They come to work when other people think that what they do doesn't matter. They come to work with the least of these, and not just detainees that are -- have to face, these every day things that are happening, but we got people that come to work, put a uniform on. And for you to disrespect them in a fashion that I'm asking for -- I asked to increase their pay. We worked together and we did that. We did that. We asked to increase double time at the jail, and what an impact it has had, right. But if you want answers, you know how to find me. I ain't hard to find."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Arrington."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Y'all did have a meeting with these companies. Don't be disingenuous. Y'all have -- some of y'all had meetings --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Sheriff, Sheriff --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- before I had meetings."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yes, they did."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. All right. So I want to know about these numbers, because what I didn't hear was -- what I heard was apples and oranges. I heard 2.5 million a month for one facility, and then I heard 75, \$80 a day for another facility."

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I -- like, that doesn't compute. I -- if you're going to give me one thing in a per-month number, give me the other one in a per-month number. If you're going to give me one thing in a per-day number, give me the other one in a per-number. Because otherwise, I can't compared the two, and I can't reconcile either one of them."

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Yes, sir. So, happy to do that. What we did was, we asked the -- both entities to provide the best pricing that they had. In the first instance, Geo Group said that the best pricing they had was to do a flat rate for the facility. If you broke it down to per diem, right, then it would be roughly, at 1,000 inmates, it's roughly \$116 per day, per inmate."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "For 1,000 inmates, right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Now, that --"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "And that includes both the medical care, other programming, as well as transportation. The costs for a detainee here to stay at Rice Street or some other facility here in Fulton County is roughly \$105 a day based on what we learned from the County Manager's office yesterday."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So that 116, I want to go back. Is that based on the one to 500, or the 500 to 1,000?"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "500 to 1,000, yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, all right. So what's the -- what is it at the one to 500?"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "One to 500 is more expensive. It is roughly - and that was just a number that was provided just so we would have an idea of what would be required financially in that first month when they were -- would be transported. And so that number is roughly, 166 per day."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "166?"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Yes. That is the 166 per diem. But that is not the -- the ultimate goal."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. That's fine -- I'm not --"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm not -- I appreciate the explanation, but I don't really need the explanation --"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- I'm trying -- I'm trying to figure the numbers out."

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Right? Like, I, you know, I just want to know what the numbers are. You know, I think we all want to fix this problem, right. And I think everybody is a little frustrated with the fact that we are where we are. But there's nothing we can do about that, we're here. So how do we map our way forward? How do we map our way out of this? What -- you know, Commissioner Ellis is right, I don't know that 2.5 million or 3.5 million a month is sustainable. What is the projected length of time for that?"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Well, the proposed agreement that they sent over to us that you have that we just received from them. That proposed agreement suggests a two-year period of time with the ability to have one year renewals for a total of five years, would be the ultimate plan. It coincides with, if this Commission should decide to build a --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Numbers --"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "-- replacement jail. But --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Numbers. I don't care about none of that. Tell me --"

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "I understand, but --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Tell me what them numbers are for two years and five years."

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Yes, it would -- it would be roughly 40 million per year."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Have y'all had a chance to analyze what she saying? Yes or, no?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So, you know, I think we all agree that we need to get as many local beds as we can first, right? We need to get as many local beds as we can. And I think we all realize that that is somewhat -- the biggest challenge to that is staffing up, right, is one of the biggest challenges to that. And so, I don't know how we get there. But for me, I -- for me, I'm just trying, I want -- I want to hear numbers. I ain't trying to get into the theory and all of that stuff. I'm trying to -- I got to evaluate this."

This is a budgetary thing for us. So for me, I need to know what are the numbers that we're looking at, right? And so 166 a day, we're doing 105 a day as a cost for the inmates; is that right? You said you got that from the County Manager's office?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Yes, that's correct, Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. And then this other place only 75 to \$80 a day? Now --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Could be, yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is that -- was that correct? That Core Civic?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "It could be, but that is minus a lot of different services. So we -- we, again, all of this is simply a visionary approach to a complex problem that we wanted to make sure you all had the information prior to even entering into or attempting to enter into any contracts, so that you had the information. So, again, our Chairman and a bunch of other people have met, all right. So having this conversation was, how do we solve both problems at the same time? Ultimately, to Vice Chair Ellis's point, we can't improve the technology if we can't get people off the floor in order to wire the building."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So, from --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I know, you just want numbers."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So, well, for me, I don't care about the -- for me, it's really life safety. I don't want nobody else to die first, period. I don't want nobody else to die in that jail. So that's my -- I can't -- I can't think about the -- even the numbers until I'm -- know that we are -- everybody can -- can be safe, and the numbers are down so that you -- the staff that you do have, can control the people better. Like, to me, life -- to me, everything else is secondary to life safety."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I agree."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Making sure that everyone is safe and not getting potentially shanked. I was in court the other day. I was at the jail in court, trying to get a bond for a client. The guy in front of me in court said, hey, they came at me with a knife, what was I supposed to do? And I don't think it was a knife, it was probably a piece of the building. So, I mean, I -- I don't need the tour. Again, I go down there all the time, right. But this is a real issue. And for me, I'm more worried about saving people's lives, first and foremost. And then I could deal with -- after -- if we can save their lives, then we can deal with any other issues they got. So that's where I am."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I just have a couple of questions. On the staffing issues, you mentioned some of the counties, just, they have space, but there's no staff. Is not something where they would have to hire staff, or where they would allow you -- okay. So we wouldn't even have control over that."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Correct. I mean, Cobb County, again, we have a -- a great relationship across the board. And as Amelia mentioned, Ms. Joiner mentioned, you know, I reached out to 158 other Sheriffs and said, if you had one bed, ten beds, 1,000 beds, we need your help, right. We have someone also, Oconee County, Forsyth County, Fayetteville, those kinds of things. But ultimately, Cobb County said, we have the space, you just got to provide the employees because we have our own problems hiring. 40 percent capacity at Douglas County, we have the space, but you have provide the staffing --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So they would let us provide staff?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yeah, I mean, we --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "But we aren't able to hire people --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- is what --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "But again, to both Commissioner Ellis's and Arrington's point, as we hire individuals and we send them over to, four at a time, five at a time, over to ACDC to open up a 50-person unit. Again, our attrition rate is equal as, you know, comparable to our hiring rate."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean, this might be an overly simplistic question, but is there a dollar amount in terms of salary that would help? And if -- have we mathed out, if we did something like that, what would be the difference in versus paying for an additional -- a different facility like these numbers that we're talking about, these two and \$3 million per year numbers --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And so, that's a great question."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- or per month?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And one of things the Chair and I talked about was, when we went about doing the 20 percent pay raise for Detention Officers and

Deputies, we left out Sergeants and above. And so now I got Sergeants and above leaving, right, going to these other facilities, where they can get either promotions or get -- get those. So we compare -- comparably across the state, we do a good job. Even the double time has really increased people's attitudes toward working these longer hours. Chairman Pitts and I talked about, again, remember, we talked about double time, we talked about triple time in the jail, what this looks like. So here's -- here's a unique, fun fact, we are paying comparable salaries. But even down south in Geo, they're paying the same salary, less cost -- less cost-of-living expenses, all right. So they're having an opportunity to attract more people to bring them in and to the facility. So to answer your question directly, we want to make sure -- there are couple of things - - and here's a point that Mike just brought, right. We -- our vacancy rate since January was on the decline, since we put in the double time, since we increased the salaries. Now it's going back up. It has plateaued, right. And so right now, we have 100 -- 89 vacancies, right. I know the county shows 110, but we have 21 people in process, so what that looks like. So we are hiring at a nice clip. But we're -- but retaining people becomes, you know, a difficult proposition. It may end up being something along -- and again, keep in mind, we're paying 10.5 -- or \$10,500 in signing bonuses, which comes out of our budget, right, in terms of how we allocate and go through those processes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So what is the retention issue? Is it because they stayed long enough to get that signing bonus? Is it because they're -- the conditions are bad at Rice Street? Is it -- because that would be different, obviously, if they're stationed at Cobb or --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So, it's a couple of things. And the Chairman and I had this conversation as well. When we went about, as a society, and fixing the pension issue, we went from a defined benefit plan to a five-year plan, where people are maxing out their five years, and then going to another county for five years, going to another county for five years. So they have two or three pensions. And then the conditions, you have to recognize as -- as much paint as we put on the wall, as -- as often as we fix it, again, one -- the young man that got up and spoke, said, listen, we don't have anything to do. All we do for 24 hours, seven days a week is think about defeating these systems that you all have in place, making shanks to protect ourselves. And so all that trickles down to each and every woman and man that works in the Fulton County Sheriff's Office."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Because I'm just wondering if we could -- I mean, I know I'm -- it's magical thinking a little bit. But it just seems like there'd be some way to do some sort of hiring, you know, at a different price point or something to get people to work. So I don't know if it's that, you know, adding that cost of living to the amount, you

know, because you were saying that people in the other part of Georgia, is it South Georgia that have -- are making the same amount with lower cost of living? Do we somehow try to account for that? Do we provide some other benefits? I don't know. I'm just trying to think creatively here. And I'm going to just add to that, that I understand Vice Chair Ellis was frustrated that we didn't get materials until we got here. But I would -- I would sort of push back and just say, I thought this was supposed to be a discussion item. So I thought we were here to have some -- some discussion. So for me, as long as we're not making a vote right this minute, I'm good with, you know, learning about this with you all and having the conversation. So that's why I'm trying to just have a conversation about how can we help you think creatively about how to solve that problem and address the concerns about moving people further away. So, you know, I think that's helpful. It'd be nice to see these numbers for these two laid out in a way that they're easier to compare. I don't know what the best way to do that is. But then maybe also comparing, trying to figure out what -- what would be a timeline if we could convince city of Atlanta to do something different. And we did need to try to staff up locally, what would that look like? How could we accomplish that, and what would the cost of that be?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And first of all, thank you. And this was intended to be a discussion, right? Informative, at best. We want to make sure that you all have the right information to help make those decisions. I tell people all the time, don't worry about thinking outside of the box, just move the box, and then you don't have a problem. So the other thing that needs to be said, and I know the Chairman put it in his blog. Even with respect to the penitentiary, right, that's the first space that we wanted. It's 100 acres over there. That's the first space -- we met with the penitentiary. And they said, sorry, since the presidential order came out, we're getting ready to increase our inmate count from that from 500 to 1500, just that week alone. So I would submit to you that we have -- and I'll tell you the same thing I told the DOJ when they got here. If you can think of something that we have -- a rock we hadn't overturned, please, we'll welcome -- we want to hear it. And so we're willing -- we want to have these work sessions and say, okay, what is the best criteria? Do look at pay parity, right? Do we look at Deputies versus Detention Officers? What does that look like? How do we have that conversation with HR, right? Again, speeding up the hiring process, those kinds of things will help us deal with these numbers. But to look at where we came from and where we are, our team is doing an incredible job. It is simply that -- and to your point, the conditions at the jail -- now, here's the interesting piece, people leave, and then they come back. They come back because of the leadership, they come back because we are taking the right steps to make sure that we take care of our people. And this is something that Commissioner Khadijah and I grew up, right, we going to take care of

our people. And that's just how -- and so to your point, we are focusing on our people, and we're also -- we're forced to focus -- focus on the circumstances at the jail."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I have another question just about the numbers of people in Rice Street right now. And I think, you know, obviously, the first priority is that we try to do whatever we can so that they are no more deaths. But secondarily, I think, you know, we all know getting people off the floor is ideal, lessening the population so that we don't have people in that situation. But I guess my -- my question is from a number's perspective. What is the sort of minimum number that we need to move out to start doing the maintenance blitz that we've talked about? Because that seems like an important number to know as we make these decisions."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And we -- after visiting the different facilities, after taking all the data in consideration, between 800 and 1,000 people, we have to move in order to -- we have 78 zones. In order to rehab each one of those zones, without the connotation that ultimately, when we get to 77 and 78, we're going to have to start over again. So to get people off the floor, get 270 people off the floor, maximize the others -- the units that are outsourcing that's available to us, it has to be between 800 and 1,000 people."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "All right. Maybe I'm confused about those numbers. So we -- if we need to get 270 off the floor at a time, where does the 1,000 come from?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "The 1,000, ultimately, as we get ready to empty these units out so that we can really bring them up to code, bring them up to standards, right, and -- and continue to get these folks off the floor. Most of these folks, if you look at the slide here, that's there's behind you, we had five -- almost 600 people sleeping on the floor. So we had to get creative about how we, one, get them into cells or behind cell doors, ultimately, out of the facility. Again, no one argues that the system is broken. Ultimately, we get held responsible because the system is broken. And so to your point, but being able to move 800 to 1,000 people out will allow us to go in and collectively address all the maintenance issues that I've brought to the Board in -- on multiple occasions. And we'll get you -- and I know Mr. Davis's team do a really good job of how many work orders. They're thousands of work orders in a month that are seen. But ultimately, the wear and tear on a 30-year-old building that was built for less -- really, half the population, it really continues to strain the system. So being able to move those folks out, not only that, being able to give them the space to be human and take advantage of programs that we can't do when we have people stacked on top of each other."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Just one last thing. You mentioned wanting to explore the ability to sort of say, no to taking misdemeanors in the jail. What can we do to help with that?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Well, I -- again, I'd asked the -- our Law Department, do the research on that from -- again, they represent us and you all as well. Ultimately, any violent misdemeanors, we will take."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Sure. Domestic violence, et cetera."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Now, the other thing is, I just may make an order and say, we're going to stop taking them. Then you're going to get blowback from all the other 15 cities, right? All right. Or from 15 cities, and what that looks like. And so, ultimately, we have -- and here's the other dangerous part about that, and I tried to forewarn people, when the city stopped taking detainees in at different magnitudes. The minute we do that, it's up to the officer's discretion, so that they go from disorderly conduct, to obstruction. And so now you go from a misdemeanor to a felony, all right. And what does that look like? So I -- our goal is never to increase anyone's charges, but to ultimately, be in a space that we can really provide service. And so that's a -- that's a mantle we'll have to decide if we're going to move in -- into."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm just going to toss this over to you, Mr. County Manager, not really a question, just a statement. Maybe when you speak to Mr. Aman, you can bring that up as well, because that would also be a cultural change, right. So we would need to make sure that that was addressed, yeah? Okay. Well, that was all I had for right now. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. It is 2:04, ladies and gentlemen."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And? I've got something I need to say. Chairman, I'll try to be expeditiously quick as possible. Sheriff, you know I support you even when we don't agree. But there has to be something said about respect. You made a comment here in the open that the resolution that I did with the Vice Chair made no sense. It may -- it may not have made any sense to you. But as an elected official, it made sense to the taxpaying citizen. And so unfortunately, do not confuse respect or me supporting you and me disagreeing with you, as being the same thing, because it's not. You cannot count one time that I have not voted for you to get what you needed. Even if it's one, I came in here in January of '21, asking for \$6 million as a newbie, and you got it. So let's not do that with me. We can agree to disagree. But every time I

speaking about you, I say, I support the Sheriff. You inherited a situation. But you put your name on the ballot."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Amen."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "So the heat comes to you regardless. And so do not convolute the issue. What do I mean? I'm getting ready to apologize to you right now, because you're not going to like what I'm getting ready to say. Those inmates are not props, they are people. There is a person, and a couple of people that passed away, you can't exhume their body and bring them in here to say nothing. So you have sent a message that I know that you don't want to send, because I know you. You have sent a message to the families of those individuals that their lives may not be as important. And I know that you didn't mean to send that message. But when you bring inmates in here, we don't know what they've been promised. We don't know anything other than they're inmates. And you have reduced them to a prop, which means it could have been a fan on the Real Housewives of Atlanta. Don't do that, because it sends the wrong message to the constituents, and it sends the wrong message to us. I know that's not your intention, because I know you as a person. But please, don't ever do that again. That is disheartening. That is dehumanizing. And you did not -- you could have got your point across, I know, to all of us, and especially me, without that. So I'm going to ask you, publicly, to never do that again, please. Because those are lives at your jail that you care about every last one of them, okay, and I know that to be true. But that right there, sent mixed messages. And I would be remiss if I did not tell you. Last and not least, and this is just something I want you to think about, okay? I have received an unprecedented number of people wanting local beds. They understand you are in crisis. They understand you got a decision to make. They understand that this is not just you being in crisis and us, that everybody has to do their -- their fair share to make sure that we get past this. But if we can find a way for staffing, whether it's for local staffing, retired policeman, retired correction officers. I don't know. That's not my wheelhouse, that's yours. But I'm throwing it out there because the people are saying, if we got to put beds somewhere, can they be local? That's all. That's all I'm asking. But please, do not bite the hand that feeds you. I will always support you. I will not always agree with you. Okay?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Amen. Let me say this --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington. Did you want to --"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yeah, I do want to respond."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Quickly, Sheriff."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I do want to respond. First of all, thank you, all right. We may not always agree. And bad choice of words when I said it didn't make sense. It didn't make sense to me. You know why? Because when you want something, you pick up the phone, you get the information immediately. And it did not take a resolution to do that. I have been in this Assembly Hall more than any other Sheriffs in the history of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, bent over backwards, asking to make sure, and you know this, to support our teams in every sense of the word. Absolutely. But you're right, it's not about props. It's about the conversation that's generated because of it. Because when I go and I sit in those units, and they said, let me go talk to the -- let me go talk to the Commissioners, maybe they don't understand, right? Maybe they don't understand when you came out, week one or week two, out of the tour, and you had a press conference, you said it's a third-world country. And we are three years removed from that. And so when you have somebody that is eloquent enough to be able to -- see this is what I try and get people to understand. Just because you are incarcerated, doesn't mean you're not human, and you cannot express yourself. So when that young brother said, I'd like to go, right, I'd like to go have that conversation, right. Are there better ways to do it? Maybe. Maybe we invite that whole -- let's have a Board of Commissioner's meeting over at 901 Rice Street, right. There's some opportunities to do that, let's continue to do that. Because of our relationship, we may not always agree to -- we can agree to disagree. But I certainly appreciate your approach. It was not demeaning. It was very respectful. And so in that, we can have a conversation and communicate. And as long as we're communicating, and I've said this from day one, as long as we're communicating, we can do the jobs we are elected to do. To your point, it's a heavy mantle to be the Sheriff of the largest county in the southeast, just like it is for each one of you as a Commissioner in the space that you are. But as my mama say, you know, you asked for this job, not only did you ask for this job, you begged people to vote for you. And so I will continue to fight for my people, both that work there, and both that we provide care and custody for. And that's why we do the work that we do. And I --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "But you do know that we're going to disagree sometimes."

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I agree."

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

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I agree."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank y'all. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'll be quick, Chairman. Gosh, I had no idea that we were talking, three and a half million a month until, like, I get all this material to try to look over. So thank you for coming down here, and thank you for your presentation. How long do you think rehab would take, or do you know?"

PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So it's beyond the rehab piece, right? We're talking about building a new, a replacement facility. And so ultimately, what does that look like in terms of continuously moving people, Mr. Davis and his team and EMSI had worked out, again, the Bridging Plan, right, that was part of this 78 piece. We're trying to do one a month. And that's on the one floor a month. And that's on the aggressive end. And so our teams met yesterday to see how we can improve services, both from contractors that come in, I suspect, even on best hopes, right, we'll be able to do a floor a month, maybe a month and a half. Ultimately, continued -- continuing to push from there. And maybe Mr. Davis has a little more insight as to the overall specifics. So that may be able to be helpful from there. But the other piece that we're trying to prevent, again, both with staffing and outsourcing is that by the time we get to 77 and 78 in those units, it's ultimately, do we have to start over. So we're trying to prevent that, using better products, high-end products, more -- more products that weren't even in existence 30 years ago. So we're taking that approach. And then as far as the bands and saving lives, ultimately, we have to move people out. I'll give you a great example, and the Chairman and I talked about this. You all didn't have the Board of Commissioners meeting in here while you redid Assembly Hall. And I know you just got -- I know you just got elected. But the former Council Member -- I meant, former Commissioners understood that, you vacated this space with a \$4 million price tag. And we have what we have. But to be able to do that and not -- and be unencumbered by detainees on the floor, detainees in those areas, is our biggest challenge. And that has been the biggest piece in terms of delays. And I don't know if Mr -- Mr. Davis has anything to add, specific-wise."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "He doesn't."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Yeah, I mean, I -- you know, I've been -- I went to the opening or -- of the PAD or the kickoff of the PAD Project. And one of the things that they really do to hopefully, keep people from being incarcerated is connecting them with family, connecting them with community. And I really see that as a vital port -- a vital thing in so many things. When I went to Austin, Texas, and I visited a tiny home, to get people off the streets from being homeless, it was about community. You know, when I look at mental health, people, friends, and neighbors who have kids that are struggling with substance abuse issues, it's about community. So for me, it's a struggle to remove people, pick them up and remove them from their community, that can be

such an important process in preventing, you know, recidivism, and the actual healing of the person. So that's kind of a thing I'm -- that it's just near and dear to my heart. But some of our -- we had a lot of Public Defenders down here. And some of them mentioned the legality of moving them. They said, you can only move them to an adjoining county or a place that's accessible."

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Thank you for that question. As has been discussed here, there is pending litigation. The Public Defender has sued Sheriff Labat, so we don't want to go into great detail and violate that space. However, since the actual statute was raised, I will say that the language of that statute said that the Sheriff may move --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "-- detainees out of our county's jail to other counties. It doesn't say within what number of miles. It does not say, he shall even keep them in the state. It does not say that. It says he may move them if our jail is unsafe."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The answer is, there's no prohibition against going out of state."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

AMELIA JOINER, SHERIFF COUNSEL: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And we're back to the word, shall, again."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "We're back to the word, shall, what it means. Got it. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Arrington -- strike that -- Mr. Adams, you have anything else?"

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "I do not, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Mr. Manager, we're going to need to spend a lot of time on the budget piece here with the CFO. But let's finish everything except that because got a Executive Session and lunch."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I wanted to just submit the corrective maintenance jail material for your review. We'll discuss that in more detail in the next session. Waiting patiently and where it's a pleasure to have Dr. Paxton with us, I wanted to ask Dr. Paxton if she could come up, talk to you briefly about what she's seeing in terms of the COVID uptick as well as other things to be on the lookout for particularly in the fall. And then give you a highlight of some staffing challenges that invariably, we'll be discussing in the 2024 budget. Thank you, Dr. Paxton for waiting."

DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH: "Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. I have sat here and I'm really regretting I didn't eat breakfast this morning. So I'm going to make this -- I have an incentive to keep this as succinct as possible. So as the County Manager has said, my concentration today will just simply be on -- on COVID. And you have in your packets, the information that we provided to you about our oral health and environmental health requests. I sent my team home right now. But if you do have -- if you do have some questions about that, I can -- I can address them as well. But for now, let's just go ahead and talk about COVID. So as you see here, this is just an overview of where we are right now because people are asking a lot. And they -- I think they, you know, really need to know. What you see in that very first graph is the number of our case count for confirmed cases. Now, what do we mean by confirmed, is actually referring to a very limited number of -- a limited thing in terms of these are PCR confirmed tests. But as I think all of you are, are no doubt absolutely aware, is that most of our cases nowadays are not confirmed by PCR. It's people that have a rapid test, and we never see those. They don't -- those are not reported to us. So this is just our confirmed cases. But even so, you see right there that there has been a rise in the confirmed cases up through August. So can we go to the next slide? Okay. So happily, you know -- well, actually, you all know -- let me just go through this, you all remember that the public health emergency was formally declared at the end in May of 2023. And as -- and as part of that, our data collection for COVID-19 has completely, completely changed. We -- it's no longer a reportable disease. So we don't get reports about, you know, about cases as they -- as they come in. So what are we doing to monitor COVID? We are tracking, you know, things that we -- that are -- that we can really verify. And one thing you can verify are hospital admissions, and that is -- is followed very closely, you know, by CDC. We can also monitor emergency room visits that are linked to COVID and/or other respiratory diseases. And happily, I like to look at that slide, and you see that most of Georgia in this area is actually green. So by the CDC prevention strategies, we are having a very, we're having a low admission, hospital admissions rate throughout Georgia. May I have the next, next slide, please. All right. So looking -- going deeper into this hospital data, what we are seeing is that recently, we are seeing that our emergency department visits for COVID-19 are

increasing. So if you look at the bar -- I mean, at the graph there, the blue shows the hospital admissions, basically since the start of the epidemic. And so we're -- and on -- and the orange line is the emergency room visits. So happily, we are seeing since the start of the epidemic, we're seeing these -- these we're not -- we're not -- we have -- we're not anywhere near having the big spikes that we had near the -- near the beginning at in hospital admissions, nor in emergency department admissions. However, at the very end, which is, I'm directing you to that, that red arrow, you're seeing that we are starting to see a rise in both, but nowhere near the levels that we saw in previous surges. Of course, have to point out, hospitalizations always, always, always lag behind. So this -- we don't know what's going to happen with this. Can I have the next slide, please? So the main things that I just want to -- to bring to your attention is that the number of COVID cases in Fulton County is increasing. And I did forget to mention that wastewater surveillance also backs that. So we are seeing more of it in our -- in our wastewater. Many of you are aware of the fact that there's another variant. That's what viruses do, they mutate and they have developed more -- different variants. The newest one is the EG5, which you can refer to as Eris. And that, as of now, is the dominant variant in the US. What is helping, of course that, is that the early data indicates that this Eris not -- it may be a little bit more easily transmissible, which might explain the fact that almost all of us know somebody who relatively recently has, you know, tested positive for -- for COVID. But it doesn't appear to be causing any more -- the disease that it looks to be causing, does not seem to be more severe than has been previously the case. So what I -- for this slide, I just want to hammer home the point about vaccinations are still our best protection against COVID-19. And they help prevent, definitely help prevent severe illness and hospitalizations. So, as many of you are aware, the Food and Drug Administration and the CDC have recently approved the new COVID-19 vaccine. And it is -- offers greater protection than the older form of the vaccine. So in fact, we here in Fulton, we got our first shipment in yesterday. And so we will very soon be hoping -- hopefully, getting the rest of our shipments in, and so that we can start getting those out to people. Everyone is encouraged to get this -- to get this new booster. In fact, with the older, we're now as we're getting the new one in, we are warehousing the old -- the build booster. The recommendation from CDC is that everyone over the age of six months is eligible and should be encouraged to get this -- this vaccine. I won't go into the specifics of the vaccine unless any of you are nerdy enough, like -- like me to want to hear about it. But I want to just make sure that everyone is aware that we are also making available, rapid test kits. So in all of the -- we have been working with the Library System to make free rapid test kits available in the libraries. They're also available at any of our clinics. We have also, a kiosk that we've been working with the city of Atlanta to have COVID-19 PCR testing available at a some -- at a few kiosks here in the -- in the area. And you can always find out

information about that on our website, their location, and the like. The other thing I wanted to talk about, which is important too, is about cost for these. Because with the ending of the public health emergency, the vaccine is no longer provided for free for everyone. But, so what we are doing is that people who are insured, they will be -- their insurance will cover that. We don't -- they don't -- will not have to pay anything out of pocket. For people who are not insured, children and adults, we have -- there's a program through the state, the Vaccines for Children and Adult Program. It's part of the State Immunization Program. And so people who qualify for that will get the vaccine for free. And we will also -- and if they have no insurance, we will waive the administrative fee. So for that -- and for that group of people who don't meet the criteria yet don't -- the out-of-pocket costs of the vaccine for uninsured clients or clients that do not qualify for this free vaccine program, will be \$40. But, you know, it is -- I just want to reiterate to everyone, it is our commitment that nobody should go unvaccinated because they don't have the money. So that's just sort what we have here. But we will be vaccinating everyone as well. The other thing is that we are going to, as I mentioned, are -- the updated Pfizer vaccine has been available at all of the Fulton County Health Centers. And in addition -- except for Oak Hill and Center for -- and for CHR. But everything else including Stonewall Tell. And then we're going to continue to do our outreach efforts, you know, going out with our mobile teams to outreach events to senior citizens, to other places where they are known. So that's not going to -- that is not going to stop. So, let's -- can I have the next slide? I think is the one more slide about data, all right. So the -- no, can you go back? Thank you. For anyone who's still interested, the -- we've had fewer than ten cases of Mpox reported to date in 2023. And our last case was back in May. So we're still offering vaccinations to people who are -- who are in need of that. And we have, you know, walk ins or appointments. There is also a lot of respiratory disease surveillance going on right now because we are heading into the usual cold and flu season. So one thing I did want to bring to people's attention, case -- especially people around my age, is that the CDC has recently put out a recommendation that people over the age of 60 should consider -- should consider, after talking with a health care provider, about getting the RSV vaccine, okay. RSV is very, very common, causes the common cold. It causes more severe disease in the very, very young and the very old. I'm just concerned to find out that over the age of 60, I'm -- I guess I've now fallen into the very old, say, you know, category. And I got my RSV vaccine two weeks ago. So I wanted to bring that to your attention as well. Now, I think that that would be it. That is, I think, what -- we'll just -- we'll just stop here at those updates. You'll see in your packets that we have some information about our Oral Health Program and our Environmental Health Program. The only thing I'm going to say about that is for the environmental health, you'll see we're making a request to have 10 additional, at least 10 additional Environment Health Inspectors. And you'll see from the

graph why we need that. We are so -- you know, we're still -- we've gotten way, way through the backlog. But we have -- I don't -- I don't think I mentioned, but I'm also now the -- the Health Director for Gwinnett, Interim. So, I'm -- this, the two largest programs, I'm involved with. So I was up there. They have the same number of inspectors for -- as we have for 6,700 restaurants, they have the same number for 2700 restaurants. We are amazingly under -- understaffed. So that's -- I'm just calling your attention to that. And then there is information about the Oral Health Program and our request. So I'm just going to -- I powered through that, partly because I'm hungry. But also because -- but, you know, do feel free to, you know, ask me any questions right now if you have questions?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Are there questions? Who is that? Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. With the COVID vaccine, I know the state of Florida, they said 65 and over is recommended. Have we had, you know, the -- the populations that are dying from it or are being hospitalized? What is the age groups of that? Do we have children that are contracting COVID and being hospitalized?"

DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH: "Yeah, we still do. I mean, children have always been less affected then -- than others. And luckily, mortality rates for all groups, again, thankfully, have dropped over the -- over the past years. You should know -- you should -- I want to make people aware that the recommendation that has come from out of Florida from your -- their Surgeon General, has been highly contested by others in the room, being you know, in the field. I won't get into -- into that or why -- what think that they made that recommendation. But that is not the general recommendation for, you know, for -- from the CDC, the FDA, the NIH, any other group."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So this vaccine is not going to protect you from getting the illness, it's just a symptom reducer, correct?"

DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH: "Yes. This is not a sterilizing vaccine. A sterilizing vaccine is what you're kind of used to with like measles, mumps, rubella that, you know, your goal is to like completely prevent the, you know, the -- the acquiring of it. But what it has -- but what it is being shown to do, we absolutely know that it is cutting down on the, you know, it drastically cuts down on the risk of hospitalization, on the risk of -- of death. And so that, we know for sure. And it also goes that there is, you know, evidence is showing that, you know, even though it is not -- does not provide sterilizing immunity, it does, in the -- when it's been looked at in an ecological way that there are -- it does seem to provide some protection against actual infection too. So it's not a

complete wash. But it has definitely, definitely shown that it cuts down on admissions and deaths."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. How often do you have to get -- how long is it supposed to last?"

DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH: "Well, you know, I think -- I'm trying not to get too wonky. But the immune system, we do know that the protection from both vaccination and -- in antibody levels from both vaccination and from natural infection, do wane over time. Absolutely, we know that. That's -- that has come out. So what we -- what my expect -- but, you know, the thing about the immune system is that -- that it's basically a two-sided. There's like the B-cells, you know, which is that produce the antibodies. And with any infection that you get or any vaccination you get, those antibodies drop over time. That's just the way that -- the way that it works. But what the vaccinations and natural infection also do is, they rev up the T-cell system, you know, which are killer cells, T-helper cells, and the like. So they are primed for the next, you know, go around, the next exposure to the -- to the virus. So what we don't -- so we don't know, you don't -- you never know exactly how long it's going to take to, you know, for this to wane, you know that -- until you actually, you know, monitor it. But I don't -- I'm going to make a -- boldly go out there and make a, you know, a prediction. I think that from all the evidence that we're seeing with the past vaccines and the past ways of COVID, I think we're rapidly heading to the point where we're going to be doing probably recommending, like, once a year vaccination, like we do for flu. In that, you know, when the cold and flu season comes up, most likely we're probably going to be recommending that, go in, get your flu shot, get your COVID shot, and if you're over a certain age, get your RSV. That's my prediction. I don't know, I might be wrong."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else, Commissioners? Okay, so -- I'm sorry, Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you. I just have a question about FEMA. So --"

DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH: "FEMA?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Yeah. There's a page 58, and can you answer that, or --"

DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH: "I don't have --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Do I need Mike, Mike Rowicki?"

DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH: "-- it front of me. Maybe -- Matt Kallmyer -
-"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Matt Kallmyer or -- nobody's here."

DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH: "I mean, you can ask me the question. I
don't know what --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I just wanted to know if the recent flood qualifies for FEMA
because I've had churches and I don't know if -- how many people saw the videos of the
church where the woman was literally swimming in the parking lot, the water was up to
her neck."

DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH: "No. I'm sorry, I don't know. I can't --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I think we'll have to go research that.
Because it hasn't been declared as a disaster area, so I'm not sure it does. But -- but
let us go -- we'll go research that."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "See what we can find out."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Because there are a couple of locations like that. Thank you
so much."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So I'm going to entertain a motion for lunch and
Executive --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Chairman, Chairman, could we maybe just cover the
next item because, Chairman, Patrise has been here all day."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, no, no. She -- yeah."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "She's okay?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "For lunch and Executive Session, items of real estate, litigation,
and personnel. And we'll hopefully, spend as much time on the budget restrictions for
next year as we did on this public safety. So let's vote, please."

CLERK GRIER: "I need a second. Thank you. And the vote is open. And the motion
passes; six yeas, zero nays."

(Recess for Executive Session at 2:34 p.m.)

(Back in Regular Session at 3:30 p.m.)

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have two action items. First, is there a motion to approve the request for representation set forth in item 1 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, it is seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please cast your vote."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to deny the request for representation set forth in item number 2 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else, Madam County Attorney?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Are we going to go to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Where?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, this is the last section of the Operational Report, which includes the 2024 Budget Preview."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's the last section?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Do y'all want to -- is that -- let's dispose of that. We just spent adequate time if there are no objections on this budget. Come on down. Come on down. Which item is that?"

CLERK GRIER: "It's on page 8, **23-0628**, Registration and Election, Request approval to increase the compensation for the Fulton County Board of Registration Elections."

PATRISE PERKINS-HOOKER, ELECTION BOARD CHAIR: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. I'm Patrise Perkins-Hooker, a Fulton County resident and currently, the Chair the Board of Registration and Elections. Our Board Members took a vote to try to get an increase in the amount of the stipend that is paid only on a monthly basis from the \$300 a month for the Chair to \$600 a month for the Chair. And from the 250 for the members to \$500. And this is just because of the fact that it has not been changed since 2018. And there's just a lot of added responsibilities that we have as a Board of Registration and Elections especially in this particular climate."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Any questions? All right. Let's vote."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just want to take a -- I just want to take a point of comparing Cobb is only \$150 in stipend. But when I spoke with the other members that are no longer members of the board, they said they figured they spent about 62 hours a month working on it. So I just want to say, I think it's fair. And I wanted to thank Ms. Hooker for traveling all the way from the south part of the county from her meeting, through a flood zone, up to Alpharetta for my Town Hall. So I just wanted to take that opportunity."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any other comments? All right, let's vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

PATRISE PERKINS-HOOKER, ELECTION BOARD CHAIR: "Thank you very much, Commissioners."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "All right, Mr. Chairman, we'll go back and Madam Clerk, if you could go to page 55. And Sharon will cover briefly, the COVID Reserve and ARPA spend. I don't think there's going to be much of a question about that. We did include, per request, a list of surplus properties. You'll note that most of this is -- well, all of it is land except the one place on Strickland Road that we've had difficulty getting any buyers for, also leased properties. Again, most of that is either

dealt with, with the restacking, or is committed property like Board of Health and Library properties. But Karen -- or Sharon will spend most of her time on a preview of the 2024 Budget, as we talked about up front. Sharon."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Just, I guess, a few highlights on the COVID Response Report. As is normally the case, the greatest area of expense incurred in the last reporting period is in our Project ORCA. And we are continuing to execute against the original plan. And as part of our '24 budget planning process, we'll be looking at the wind down and close out of all of our ARPA projects and ensure that we have full utilization of the resources by the end of 2024, when we have to have them either under contract or expended. And then on page 58, slide 58, please. I just wanted to highlight here, what our current FEMA reimbursement looks like. To date, we have expended 29.4 million submitted, 29.2 for reimbursement and have been reimbursed 21.5 million. And we're still working with the -- with Matt Kallmyer and his team and representatives from EMSI to close out all of the requests for information and supplemental information from the FEMA review -- FEMA reviewers as they were reviewing our applications. So we're hopeful that we will continue to see the reimbursements materialize against the outlays that we've experienced. And next slide, please. Actually, you can go ahead and go to slide 61. This is just the standard monthly financial report. Just wanted to highlight here that through the end of August, actual expenses in 2023 were 494 million, that's about a 55 percent utilization rate against the current year budget. If we were just looking at this on a pure straight-line basis, and assuming that all expenses occurred rateable, we would be in about a 70 -- 67 percent spend rate. However, the last three months of the year -- if you go to the next slide. The last three months of the year, you can see on this chart that our spending does increase substantially, particularly the months of November and December historically have been where we see the most expenses as we wind down our fiscal year. And next slide, please, slide 63. This is the monthly review of our vacancy departmental funded vacancies. And as you can see, we're holding fairly steady, still at a 14 percent vacancy rate for the year, average vacancy rate for the year. And that is it. That's all that I was going to highlight on the monthly financial report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Go ahead, Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Questions."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair Ellis."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you. As the Manager indicated, slides 70 through 73 included the update on leased properties. I'll just pause here to see if anyone has any questions on that information."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Are there questions? None. Continue."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Okay, all right. Well, then -- if that, if we could move on to slide 77, please. We did want to spend a few minutes today, sharing with you where we're at in the 2024 budget process --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excuse me, before you get into this. Commissioners, this is, I think, this will set the table, so to speak, for going into the next year. It's -- it's very dire, and a lot of things that we've been accustomed to, we will be very challenged to fund everything that we've been accustomed to funding. And I think the Manager and Ms. Whitmore and others have done a great job in presenting this to us in a way that's very easy to understand. But in the final analysis, it's going to take the discipline on the part of the seven of us. We've already -- the revenue, available revenue, that's been set. So we got to cram all of this stuff into that."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we have begun evaluating the 2024 budget, we wanted to come to you today and outline where we're at, at the starting point. The departments have submitted their budget requests. At this point in the process, the Budget Analysts in the Finance Department are balancing those requests out, validating, ensuring that there are no duplications and things like -- things like that. So that in the next week or so, they can present to us the summary of the asks. Preliminarily, I can tell you that the enhancement requests are in the \$170 million range. But again, the budget staff is still going through all of the submittals, reconciling, and balancing all of that information out. And we have not yet received the summary of that, we've only gotten like the raw figure."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's a number, though, to keep in mind, 170 million, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Right. So as we -- as we began looking at our starting point, we used the multiyear view that we have been sharing with the Board as a jumping-off place, if you will, for building out the 2024

budget. And -- and we wanted to just sort of level set what we are basing our preliminary view on. So from a revenue projection, of course you know, the largest component of our revenue is property tax. So the assumption that we've used for the development of our property tax anticipation in the 2024 budget is a 5 percent billable growth in tax digest. That is consistent with what we had presented to you all in -- and decided upon in the offsite discussions on the multiyear -- the multiyear view. We also base that on a flat millage rate of 8.87 mills, assuming that the Board would not entertain any property tax increase in -- or at least a property tax increase related to an increase millage rate. So that is the underlying assumption with regard to the millage rate. And then a standard 96 percent collection rate for the amount of taxes that we typically collect, against the current year levy in the county's current fiscal year, with the balance being collected as a prior year receivable in future years, this in the -- in a future year. We also adjusted other revenue sources for any known or expected changes. So for example, we know that we'll get a little bump again in the sales tax. And as we continue to adjust that for the renegotiations that were taken in 2022, as well as the effect of the inter -- of interest rates on interest, earnings, and things like that. So we've made adjustments in those areas as well. From an expenditure basis, we've assumed status quo on the recurring expenditure budget. Meaning, if it's been in the budget as a recurring expense, we've put it -- we've built it into the base for 2024, along with carrying forward the same level -- the same thoughts around attrition as we had in the 2023 budget. Meaning, we will apply an attrition factor, and we will partially fund vacancies at the beginning of the year rather than fully funding the vacancies at the beginning of the year on the assumption that they will not all have been filled on day one anyway. And then 2024 is a -- an election year. It's a Presidential election year, which means we have an extra election cycle. So much like we did in 2022, we have funded four out of the five election cycles, leaving the General Election Runoff that would occur in December of 2024 unfunded. And it would be funded instead either through underruns within the Election budget itself, or underruns elsewhere in the general fund budget. And then, I guess, in advance of and understanding that there -- there had been some discussion around potentially, the need to increase our utilization of outsourced inmate housing, we did increase that budget by \$33 million. So that's included in our first pass of 2024 budget as well as a 5 percent COLA for county employees. Next slide, please. So with those base assumptions in mind, where that left us was about 140 -- \$154 million short, meaning that our revenue and available fund balance would be insufficient to support the expenditures, planned expenditures by 154 million. And so we have had conversation and discussion around how do we close that gap or reduce by either increasing the revenue or reducing planned expenses. So the thing that we looked at on the revenue side, rather than increasing the millage rate or projecting a true property tax increase, we are presenting perhaps a 2 percent bump in

our digest growth factor from 5 percent to 7 percent. If you'll recall, it was, I believe, 14 percent was the -- the gross change this year. And then when you got down to the net digest and the portion that just the real and personal property tax are based on after exemptions, it was about 11 percent. So we've -- we bumped by 2 percent from five to -- from 5 percent growth to 7 percent. That generated about \$13 million in additional revenue. The next box that you see in the waterfall chart is the affect on our fund balance requirement if we reduce expenditures. And those are the following three boxes. So the blue box is really reducing the fund balance requirement as reduced -- as we reduce the planned expenses. And so the first thing that we looked is, what were the items that we have built into the multiyear view that perhaps, we will not be able to move forward with now. As you'll recall, we had a number of items in there including incremental costs for public health, incremental costs for the Jail Bridging Plan, incremental cost for employee compensation in the form of a transition to the market-based salary plan, the Segal Study, as well as the -- the COLA. So we -- we've eliminated some items out of the multiyear view, totaling about \$54 million. The items that we've taken out are a reduction in the planned public health, increased public health expenses of about 24 million. That includes a reduction of the amount that we had originally anticipated needing, as a result of negotiations with Grady Hospital, reducing the amount that we would have available to support the ongoing costs of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center, and reducing the amount of resources that we would be able to put into addressing the healthcare desert by supporting the FQHC, like a copay plan for the FQHCs. And what we left in is the minimum amount that we're looking at currently with the negotiations with Grady, a minimum amount to address our contractual obligation with Morehouse School of Medicine, and a small amount as a reserve, should we find a need to supplement salaries for the third-party provider for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center. Because we know that those professional-level counselors, therapist and such, psychiatrists. In the Metropolitan area, we may need to pay more than what the state funding -- excuse me -- the state funding that has been provided would allow for. So we've left a small amount in to cover that. We reduced the funds that we had built into the multiyear plan to support employee compensation by removing or deferring the transition to the Segal pay plan, and instead just left in funds for a cost-of-living increase. We reduced the amount of funds that we had programmed for the Jail Bridging Plan, eliminating the continual funding of the facility improvements. We'll do one pass on the jail blitz, and repair all of the issues in the housing units currently. But then we would not have additional resources programmed beyond that first pass. And we also had originally programmed into the multiyear view a \$10 million bucket for funds to address any enhancements that came from departments during their budget submissions. So if they had submitted \$170 million in enhancement requests, our multiyear plan would have had at least 10 million built into address some of those.

But in this view, we'll -- we will be taking that \$10 million. Additionally, in the next box down, there's \$37 million of items that were added to the budget in January of this year that were funded from non-recurring funds. So those items are not being recommended for continued funding in 2024. And then that leaves us with, as yet to be identified, \$30 million. So in this view, with the steps that we've addressed so far, we've we bought down \$154 million by 124 million, and we have 30 million more that we still have -- will still have to present a plan to take out of the expenditure plan. Next slide, please."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is everybody following this now, where we are now? Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "And so --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Do you want questions at the end?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "If -- yeah, I think if we get through this, then we can -- we can take your questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I'll be fairly quick with this. So to address that \$30 million gap and be able to consider any enhancement request, over the course of the next two months, three -- two and a half months, we'll be continuing to monitor our revenue projections and evaluating the final tax billing amount back against what we had projected when we were talking to you about the millage rate to see if we came out where we thought we would or if we came out a little higher, or if we came out a little lower. So we just received some information from the Tax Commissioner's Office last night and we'll be finalizing that -- that review shortly. And so if that generates any additional revenue that will help to close the gap. We'll also continue to look at our current year, 2023 spend, and monitor all of our spending patterns and underruns in order to generate fund balance to, you know, potentially carry forward and improve fund balance position from where we we're at the midyear point. And then, you know, again, looking for any specific, targeted type of reduction that we could make. As I mentioned, we've already taken one pass at attrition. Maybe we take a deeper -- we apply a deeper attrition factor. Do we need to go in and make across-the-board reductions in operating budgets? That really won't -- in the operating portion of a department's budget, not their salary and fringe benefit, but the operating portion. That won't generate a lot, but it's something that we can address. Are there other areas of expense countywide that we could look at rolling back on? Do we go into Contracts for Services, CSP, those kinds of programs and give them a haircut? We have not done those type of -- taken those type of actions with what we're presenting today. But it is something that we will be considering as we continue to move forward in this process. And then lastly, we will do

a complete review of all of the enhancement requests in order to understand what departments are asking for, to identify anything that is a statutory requirement, something that perhaps is new, that cannot be avoided. And if we identify those, then we will have to find a way to fund them within the resources that we have available to us. Next slide please. And so with that, this is just the -- the schedule for the year and the arrow just kind of shows you where we're at in -- in the process. Our plan, as I stated, is to continue this review process. Last year, we did come back to the Board on more than one occasion with an update. We hope to be able to do that as we finalize our enhancement review, and give you the opportunity to hear our additional thoughts, update you on the revenue picture, continue to look at our expense patterns. And then we will have the proposed budget to you on or before November 15th. And I think this year, the Board meeting falls on the 15th. So we'll make our presentation to the Board at that point in time. And then in December, we'll hold the one legally-required official public hearing. That will set us up to be able to adopt the budget in its final form at either the first or second meeting in January. I would say that as we've had our conversations around approaching this, any underrun or any improvement, I guess I should say it like that, on our financial position between now and the end of the year and then once we present the budget to the Board in November, if we end up with any additional resources -- if we had to take out items from the budget that we have historically funded or there were enhancements that we were not able to fund within the resources that we had, our intent is to have, when we present you the budget in November, is to present it to you along with, if you will, like, if we get, you know, ten more dollars, here's the next ten items that we would recommend be funded with those ten dollars. So that's the plan as we have thought through it this year. And Mr. Chairman, we're ready to -- to take questions or comments or get some feedback from the Board on what we've presented."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Starting with Commissioner Barrett, followed by Commissioner Hall at this point."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Madam CFO. Just a couple of questions. You mentioned the 5 percent, that you're building on a 5 percent billable digest growth rate, but then actually not, because you're doing it on 7 percent, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Bumping to seven -- so bumping to seven would be one way to help close that gap, yes. But we started with five because that is what we had presented in the off sites, and what we had discussed, previously discussed with the Board."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Gotcha. I just -- I'm curious what kind of sort of economic environment research you all do to sort of come up with what seems to be reasonable? Because I mean, to your point, we -- I think the budget last year was on -- was it on 5 percent, or was it on three? And then -- and then we ended up with 14?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It was on three last year."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, so I think there tends to be -- I'm just feeling again, a lot of this is anecdotal for me, because it's still my first year going through the full range of the process. But there seems to be this, you know, overarching storyline, that you'll -- you all will find the money and we sort of have it hidden away in all these places, and it's just there, and somehow it's going to magically appear. And I think one of the reasons is because of the assumptions. And it just -- I'm just wondering how -- how, if we can be sort of -- obviously, we don't have a crystal ball, and we don't know what the economy is going to do. But there are a lot of people out there in the world making predictions, certainly, about where we're going to go. I'm just wondering how much of that you take into consideration when you're coming up with this percentage?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We have some historical perspective, I guess, that we -- we try to apply to it. And also, we will have a conversation with the Chief Appraiser to see if we can get a sense from him. My experience has been, we get general like, we're seeing increases in this sector or that sector, but we don't get a hard number to work with. We have to take into, you know, to consideration that a good portion of growth may be occurring inside a Tax Allocation District, where we will not benefit from that. And so we have to take all of that into consideration. And then look back and sort of look at the average maybe over the last five or six years. But the concern is if we go too high, and we set our expectations too high, then we will -- we would be in a position where when we get the digest next year, five or six months into the year, it may not be in the double digits. It could be single digits and we plan for double, and that could be catastrophic. So we would -- I think we tend to lean a little more on the conservative side of estimating on the lower side so we benefit from something that comes in higher than estimating more aggressively on the higher side and struggling then to make corrections, take corrective action when the digest information does finally come in. So oftentimes, we are developing next year's budget without even the benefit of knowing what the current year's actual billed amount is. I said, we just got that information in last night. So we've been talking about this for the last six weeks, without the benefit of, you know, really knowing what that amount will truly be. So I mean, we have to take all of that into consideration. I don't know, Dick, if you want to add anything to it."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, the only thing I want to add, I think, we take our own counsel. Because it's such a lagging indicator as property tax, value based almost exclusively. So unlike to state, who really does, I think, try to do a great job at what is the economy, what's the economic growth, and how does that translate to sales taxes and other taxes. Ours, you know, economic activity, I'm not even sure when it has effect on property tax values until sometime, perhaps down the pike. So it -- it is less precise, I think you -- you're stating it very well or asking the question that, hence, while they're more conservative than not."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I'm not --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And this is getting out there on the edge."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm definitely not asking because I'm criticizing, I'm really just asking to get a good feel for it. And also, just to sort of put it out there that it is -- it is imprecise. It is hard to pin down and -- but it does sort of give -- give us sometimes this look as if, well, we -- you know, either A, we didn't plan appropriately or - - or we kind of did it purposely and hid the money, you know. So, I wanted to sort of -- I just wanted to have that conversation."

HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, FINANCE DIRECTOR: "Commissioner Barrett, if I may just read out, you know, what net digest growth rates has been over the last few years for you so you can see. Because we did look at, you know, what the trend has been, as, you know, the CFO said. So if you look at 2013, our net digest growth was 1 percent. 2014 it was 3 percent. 2015, it was 10, '16 was 3 percent, '17 was 5 percent. And then '18 it was -- you know, which was -- there was anomaly that year, it was a 15 percent growth. And then '19 was eight, '20 was five, '21 was six. So you can see by us using 5 percent, you know, we're very close to what our average has been, you know, over the years, so --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I think, I get that. And I appreciate those numbers. But I think what I'm -- you know, if we're thinking through what, to your point, Mr. County Manager, the state can look at sort of the economy and a much broader brush, and say, okay, looks like it's going this way, therefore, income will go this way, therefore, the tax base will go this way. I mean, for us, it's the real estate market, right? I mean, to some extent, it's like, what are housing prices doing? How much building is going on in the county. And so there are things that we could certainly look at. And I think, if you don't line those things up with the numbers you just read out, then you don't really have a true picture of why it was five, one year and ten, the other and three, the other. So, I mean, I'm not saying we have a magic ball or a crystal ball here, I get that we don't. But I do

think it would be helpful to kind of take a look at the whole -- the full picture if we can of what the economic indicators are."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, I'm going to ask myself a question. But when we have the billing data, we have the data, right to predict what the growth rate will be for the current year; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "When we get the digest is when we know what the growth in the digest is. When we get the billing data, it's really to confirm our projection against that digest value. Because we still have to make an estimate for what the effect of appeals will be --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- which is another imprecise process. And then we have to calculate the effect or the impact of the Tax Allocation Districts, the growth of the Tax Allocation Districts that's in our gross, and it's in our net. But we don't actually get to benefit from the billings on that. We only collect on what was in there in the base year."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I didn't really mean to open up the entire can worms over there, but I did want to ask that. The other question I have is on page - - slide, I guess, 78 or 80? I can't really tell. Yeah, 78, that one. You talked through a lot of the details, but we -- is there a way to get that in a list or something? Because you listed it like you -- this is a very high-level chart. But you went into a lot of detail about which things you're adding, cutting, what have you. I think it'll be really helpful to see the list. And not that it isn't subject to change, I get that it is. But it would -- I think it would just be helpful."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yeah, we can share that."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, great. And then the other thing you talked about was sharing a list of kind of in priority order of the things that you would fund if there was additional money. And so I guess my question there is, is there a way to see sort of what all of the enhancement requests have been for all the departments, so that we can sort of make our own decision about what the priorities should be?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We typically provide the list of the Board when we present the budget, the proposed budget. So happy -- happy to do that. Right now, I don't even have -- I don't have a list. They're -- that's what I said, they're still reconciling the list and trying to make sure that, you know, there were no duplicate requests and things like that. And the department may have asked for

something that -- that we actually already covered as part of the base budget and all of that. So yes, we can -- we can share the list with you. But as we talked through it this year, we thought that it would be important that we provide something that let you know, in essence, here's where -- here's where things look in November. And when we come back to you in January, if the numbers have changed, these would be the next three things that we, you know, we would plan to recommend to the Board to fund and these are the reasons why."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. I think that's all I have right now. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Hall, please."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was looking at page 80. And just wondering, are we not doing the department budget presentations this year? Because I don't see them on here."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Hall, I think that we are planning this year to go through, as we did in the last two years, and have our COOs meet with each agency to explicitly review their enhancement requests, and to understand the enhancement requests. We have not, I guess it's fair to say, we have not finalized plans to have, like, the old-style departmental budget hearings. But instead, may -- may have a session with some of the elected officials, with the County Manager, Dr. Roshell, Alton, and myself. But we had not planned to go through the full departmental budget hearings, instead had planned to use the COOs in their capacity to review those requests with the agencies and to advocate for them in our internal review of their requests."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So are we going to receive -- let's see -- so, if you're reviewing all of their enhancements that they submitted as part of their 2024 budget request, are we able to see those? Is that going to be part of the presentation as well?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. We'll provide you with the enhancement request from the departments."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. The department budget presentations used to be a very good way for new Commissioners to get a complete look at the process and how the -- and what the departments were presenting, and get an overall understanding of why. Because you could hear about, you know, what -- why they were presenting what they were presenting and asking for certain things in relation to the work that they needed to do. So, I'm sorry to see that not be part of the process anymore. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. County Manager, not to put you on the spot there. We often hear the Chairman say, you know, we look at what we have, we look at what we need, as the decisions need to be made. Have we communicated across the board, or more importantly, do we need as a Body to communicate across the board that departments need to look at their department and see where they can cut, where they can save? I mean, I know no one wants to have that conversation. But that's a conversation that we're going to have to have. And so I'm just asking, as a Body -- I hear you saying it all the time, Chairman. But it's one thing to say it, it's another thing to communicate it to all departments. So I'm asking, is that something that we can do, or County Manager, that can you do at our direction? I just want to put that out there."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am, I think it would be helpful. And one of the reasons that it would be helpful most -- well, first of all, is to set the expectations across the board that there is not a lot of room in this budget for additional new programs. And that's first and for -- and that's one of the reasons why we would not do a complete dog-and-pony show for each department. Because it's equally frustrating to them to, quote, not be heard, as it is to be heard, and know that it's a charade at some level. If there are, you know, life and safety and regulatory issues that are unavoidable, then that's where our internal review generally services those. And then honestly, you may see something in a complete list that does rise to a level that it needs to be funded. But I think the message of, if you'll look at this, there's only two or three ways to solve this problem, more revenue, and we've limited that for the time being. We're off looking for alternative sources, like a sales tax, but that's probably 2025, at best. It is not adding new, because if you start with 150 million in a gap, you don't add another 170 million, and then try to solve for that generally. So that's a message that definitely could go out. And then as you can see, even after we go through this exercise of not adding anything new, and there's about 100 million in total, you're still left with 30 or so to solve for. How do you solve for that? Well, those are what you're referring to. They could be across-the-board cuts, they could be in specific areas. Or if someone has something, and this where the message, I think, could be turned into positive, that is in the minds of the department, and maybe in everyone's mind, a high priority. Well, the first thing that they should do is reprioritize within their own spend. So if they have a new idea, a new need, what we don't do a great job of is not reviewing that, it's we don't go and review item number 100 on their list, they could. And I think the only way, honestly, to do that is with a consistent message from the Board. Because what they have seen in previous years is, you know, we start tightening this and then one will say, I choose not to participate. Now, these are elected officials

generally, or I choose not to adhere to that guidance. And so that creates a ripple effect across all other departments. You know, that is a confusing notion of why are they left out and I'm not. So I think a consistent message would be very helpful. And we can help, you know, develop more specificity if you'd like. But a general message would be good."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Well -- I'm sorry, go ahead, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, Mr. Manager, it seems to me though, that the department, they report to you. Why would the message come from the Board?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "About cutting --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "You know, to be, again direct, is because we will send them a message, like we did last year. Take, one of the gap-closing tools was, we would capture 25 percent of the attrition, and not fund it. So in other words, if you finished with -- you had 14 people, and you had ten at the end of the year, then we would only fund for 13. We'd capture 25 percent of that attrition. Right out of the gate, two elected officials say well, that -- I don't -- choose not to participate. That's why. Now, departments that work for the County Manager don't have the option not to participate. But you know, it creates a dissonance when they see that occur. So that would be the reason why, and of course we act at your direction. So if we're acting at your direction, and we're applying consistency across the board, I think that's helpful."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Well, my -- my purpose for the question was, I see it as being a problem later as opposed to now. So I thought if we at least get the conversation going that across the board, Chairman, I know they're going to be probably individuals that will disagree. But I think as a Body and an executive staff, if we at least have a conversation about expectations, and about what we truly are up against, and what we're going to need to see. Now it may come out to be something different. But what I'm hoping is that this Body, or should this entire Body, will in the spirit of understanding that we eventually going to have to tighten our belts somewhere. And so that's why I was saying, can we get ahead of that now? Because what happens is, you have some departments that say, well, I didn't put in an enhancement, because I was told there were no enhancements. And the other departments say, well, I went and I talked to the Commissioners. So I think in the spirit of what we see, we, as Commissioners, see what's going on that we do that now. We have those

conversations now. Where can you cut? Where can you prioritize? What do you absolutely need? And so that's why I was asking, more than just the Chairman saying it. Maybe in a meeting or maybe in a letterhead, or what have you -- I mean, an email. I really do think this is a conversation that we need to go ahead and have and, you know, let the sparks fly now, instead of on the day of it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I just want to sort of echo some of what my -- the last two colleagues who spoke said, and one is, Commissioner Hall mentioned that those departmental hearings were good because they were helpful to just kind of get a view of what they were -- what the departments were looking for. I understand why we're not doing them, certainly. And I understand the mentality of putting on a dog-and-pony show, only to be turned down, is not really a joy for anyone. I get that. But I will say last year coming in, and looking at the list of enhancements, which I remember getting, now that we're talking through all this, trying to understand it just by reading the lines was not easy. It's a very long list, that we didn't have the ability to, like, sort it ourselves, or, you know. And the idea of you all sitting one by one with us and going through it also seems sort of unwieldy. So I'm not quite sure, but I think maybe we should start thinking about some way to sort of express what all of the enhancement requests are, including the ones that, where departments are, you know, elected officials are sort of ignoring our requests for no additional enhancements. Where if we can sort of look at them all, and at least understand what they're asking and why, it'll be a lot easier to either just say, we're applying this rule, we're sorry, across the board. Or you know what, but this one thing really feels life or death. It does feel really critical and important, you know. So I don't know exactly what the right solution is there, but I think something --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And I'm -- honestly, that's where -- we've been from between pillar to post. We did all of the departments, Commissioner's staff participated, at the airport. So that was one model. Then we've switched all the way over to the CEOs reviewed it. We tried to consolidate it all and bring it forward. We have just been discussing, is there some middle ground where perhaps, it's not 40 presentations? Because these are -- these are several days then worth of presentations. Is there another way of doing it, where you get enough insight with departmental participation, but perhaps not 15 minutes per or 30 minutes per? So give us -- I think we've heard you. Give us the opportunity to bring something back at the next meeting in terms of a revised schedule. And then maybe we can couple that with messaging. Because I could see a benefit, quite frankly, to that consistent messaging

and those sessions. So you'd have more insight, and be able to deliver messages that would -- that would help the end product."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I'm, you know, continuing to echo Commissioner Abdur-Rahman too, just in the sense that, if some of them get the message, and others think -- you know, are following the rules, essentially, and others say, I'm not going to follow the rules, I'm going to come forward, I'm going to call you all individually with my request. If we hear them all in some way, then maybe we eliminate that. And I'm smiling, because I'm just imagining some of the, you know, startup pitches, where you have like three minutes to pitch. So they got to do it, and they got to do it in three minutes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, I mean, definitely some of the stuff said sort of resonates with me. I definitely think that coming up with a consolidated message that we would vote on as a group to give you direction, I think would be a useful thing, right? We go on record, it's our message, it's your message, this is what's going to get delivered back in terms of a budget presentation. I like the concept of -- I mean, I -- yes, we may find some new money or whatever. But you know, it's not going to -- it's not -- there's not going to be, we want to hold our millage rate the same, there's not going to be this ability to go and have the spending level increases that we saw last year, or the budgetary increases we saw last year, just practically, not possible -- potential -- but particularly when you lay on the concept of a 5 percent COLA plus elections. Math is not going to work on that. So I like the message of, hey, if you have different things you want to do with your department, think about reprioritizing within your own budget. So I mean, I like that message. One other -- one other alternative that I'll throw out there is that, if there are to be -- to entertain any enhancements, they need to be submitted by a particular date. Pick the date, end of November; not in before the end of November, not considered, period, end of story. Another thing to consider is, when we present this, when we get to the stage of presenting a preliminary budget, perhaps, we even vote on and approve a preliminary budget in December. And, you know, in terms of anything after that, any changes to that would only be dealt with in a midyear review process. Perhaps, we consider no enhancements this year and we would have a midyear review process if that -- and only at that point in time in which enhancements would be considered. So it's a better time to vet them, strike them up against, you know, kind of dollar availability, you know, are they really true need or not. That's another thing to potentially consider that would be a little bit different. But perhaps, could be a more beneficial process for us to -- for us to think about and consider."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'm good."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other comments, suggestions? I think the message was well received."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Thank you. That completes our report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, the next item that was moved up is Vice Chair Ellis's on page 11. **23-0642**, Request approval of a resolution directing the County Manager to not include or consider any budget enhancements, or budgetary increases for any justice department or agency, in the 2024 general fund budget and for other purposes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, the timing couldn't be better for this one to come up based upon that previous discussion. Commissioner Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, and I know we spent a lot of time, you know, kind of talking about different components of this within our discussions before lunch. But to me, this is largely a no-brainer. We increase collectively, you know, the budgets of -- budgets for the justice agency, 16 and a half percent. In addition to that, we're providing ORCA funding. We'll continue to provide ORCA funding next year. We've already seen that we really do not have a tremendous amount of budgetary flexibility. It's not sustainable from a, you know, taxpayer standpoint. And then we've also got pretty good detail showing that the activity levels and the results that are currently being generated by the justice system, merit or warrant any additional funding, you know. And I think we should go ahead and send that message now, that that's -- that's the way we're approaching the budget, with this group collectively, given the significant amount of funding that they've got. And the onus is upon you all, to figure out if there needs to be horse trading within you -- within your groups. You can maybe do some of that horse trading with some dollars. But to individually go and enhance this one because somebody else isn't doing this and that. I mean, going through it and being an arbiter again when we've applied so much additional funding to it. I think that 16 a half bump last year is more than enough to really serve the purposes for two years, particularly when you overlay the additional funding provided through ORCA, and the fact that we've also got this other large capital, potential large capital expenditure that presumably, we're going to continue to plan for and have need to spend money on

potentially in 2024. And I've -- explicitly, the resolution would carve out any sort of placing of reserves, design work, that sort of stuff that would be associated with a jail facility, that would not be contemplated in this resolution. So that's the resolution. Hopefully, you all will support it. We can send that message. And I think it will simplify the budget process for our -- for our management staff and for us. And also help drive some of the messaging that was provided in the first half of the meeting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I cannot support this item, as it's written, for a variety of reasons. The first of which is, it is written with a antagonistic and accusatory tone that for me, is not how you solve problems. The people who elected all of us, the Judges, the DA, the Sheriff, all of the elected officials on the justice side and us as Commissioners, expected us and expect us to work together. And this to me, is just as I said, very antagonistic, and an attempt to sort of shield ourselves from responsibility. I think collaboration is the key to progress here. And as my mother likes to say, you get more flies with honey. I also think that this is written with too broad of a brush. By including all of the justice partners in this restriction, you have the potential here to do more harm than good. Because there are going to be things where costs have gone up. And in order to even maintain the same level, let alone to make improvements, we would have to increase certain parts of the budget. So, you know, we had the whole Public Defender's department sitting here today. And this would affect them as well, as an example. And I think there's a lot of people over on the justice side, you may not agree with the work everyone is doing over there, but there are a lot of people on that side of the fence who are doing incredible work and are taking this challenge of improving their system and reducing the jail population very seriously. So hampering them, even just with the first part of what this gets at, which is to not raise their budgets at all. The second part is to be punitive to say, we put these standards in place six months ago, you haven't met them, you haven't shown improvement. So in order to -- because we have -- the only thing we can do to punish you, we're going to take money away. I don't see how that solves the problem. I -- that seems like a slap on the wrist that actually again, could exacerbate the problem, create a new backlog, and make things even worse. And lastly, for me, what this does, is it takes the power and decision making away from us, individually as Commissioners, as a Body to vote on specific enhancements. And it also takes it away from the County Manager's team, who we entrust to do this kind of work, to prioritize and decide what is critical and what is not. And I believe that Mr. County Manager and Madam CFO and the whole team over there, have done an excellent job of doing that all along the way. So making this hard line in the sand, I don't think is, again, useful. I don't think it takes advantage of the tools we have as a Board or the tools the County Manager has as an

executive. And I think to the point that -- all the points that were made in the last agenda item, we don't have money for anybody's enhancements. So there is no reason to pass this. We're either going to have an across-the-board, no enhancements that -- and except for the emergencies and the things we must do, or we're not. This -- this is unnecessary to me, and I can't support it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis, followed by Commissioner Thorne."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. We want to go on record of, you'd like more of the same from our justice -- justice partners, then go on record with that. Last year we had a process, the Manager and their team brought forth what I thought was a reasonable budget, more people added significant more funding outside of their recommendations last year. Also, want us to go on record now and give them clear direction. So I stated before, if we had not provided significant amounts of funding, it'd be one point -- it would be a different discussion. But the fact of the matter is, we provided significantly more funding to these operations than we did other operations within the county. And this -- I think, this is a year, which if we're going to entertain anything and look at it, it should come from other areas of the county. Also, I will say this about, you may view it as antagonistic, hurt somebody's feelings. Okay, sorry about that. I don't really care. Because the people that are -- that I represent, are coming to me saying, we got to have results, and demanding that I take some action on behalf of them to foster the accountability that's needed. So if it takes being very direct, given where we are right now and the lack of results that we have seen so far, then I will be, and I intend to for today and for the foreseeable future until we start to see results. I want to share just a few things I shared earlier. And one of the things that I wanted to encourage us also to think about in arena of justice until -- I also think until we ever do anything more with any of these budgets that we have a clear baseline with every one of our justice agencies before we consider changing it. We did -- we have not had that, and we have acted anecdotally year over year, as opposed to looking at something, and saying, is this really justified. So that data, the 2019 data, criminal trials, got it from David Summerlin, so I didn't make this up, right, you saw it? We were on track to do less trials today, criminal trials, today, then we did in 2019. Think about that. Think, just think about that, okay. And, okay, we had somebody come to us last year at budget time. They made a specific budget enhancement request that their professional services be increased by 1.1 million because the Chief Judge had indicated there would be 150 to 200 criminal trials this year. That was the District Attorney. That was the request that she was granted. Guess what? That number of trials is nowhere near happening. Yet, we fund it based on that representation. We have no trail to go back and look at these things to look say, was that even merited? It's all done in a vacuum, frequently last minute, with some anecdotal appeal. And until we get to some true activity level baselines, we're

going to continue to get less than optimal results, and probably pay too much money for them. Is it tough to put everybody in the same boat? Potentially. But it's a system. Might some people be performing a little bit better than some others? Potentially. But it's a system. Yes, we had a lot of people down here from the Public Defender. But their budget has been increased 36 percent since 2020, got 27 additional ORCA positions. Their salaries are the highest in state in terms of what we got them raised up to, got them different -- you know, more increased facilities, better technology, et cetera. So it's not like we haven't supplied additional funding to it. Other areas, which don't have anything to do with this, somewhere somebody like, Probate Court. But their budget increased 57 and a half percent since 2021. So they've seen a lot of resources too. State Court, they got 237 people in there on misdemeanor charges, barely moved since last year. We've already discussed this stuff with the Sheriff. We already discussed this stuff with the DA. It's a system. And so collectively, the system gets together. We can talk about playing nice with them and all that sort of stuff. But I don't do their job. I don't -- I'm not the person they need to collaborate with. It's the Public Defender and the DA and the Judges, the Sheriff, those are the ones that need to be collaborating. If this forces them to do a better job of that, fantastic. I sat -- where we have the Project ORCA stuff, and I've sat down on some of those meetings, people don't show up. Alton's doing a nice job of running it, trying to facilitate stuff, there's no collaboration. We created an environment, an opportunity for them to collaborate. Until that happens, it doesn't -- you know, we don't need the -- we don't need -- we're not the ones that need collaborating with. They need to collaborate with each other with this collective pot of money they have and the collective set of resources they have to generate a better result."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Thank you. I just kind of want to reiterate what Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair Ellis just said. I mean, if you say this is an antagonistic tone, this resolution, it seems very factually based to me. It does not seem antagonistic. Like he said, we got to make some tough decisions. And it's not easy to bear down. But we cannot keep doing the same thing. Every time someone comes down here, they have a justification for 5 million, 10 million, now \$33 million. And it all seems good, and we've been giving them all the money. But it's been the same old, same old. It's the same as it was before I was a Commissioner and listening in on these ORCA studies that -- reports that come through. And this resolution is -- will be only through midyear budget of 2024 to evaluate. So it's not even a full year. This is, let's try something new. If someone comes down here, and they have an emergency and they can justify that they need extra money and they have nowhere else in their budget to find that money, we'll be compassionate as Commissioners, I believe. We're not going to, you know, let

them fail. But it has to be justified, it can't be a simple, let's give me ten more million dollars, I need this. We got an email -- I requested to try to get data that contradicted what was in here, because some people say, oh, this is a lie, it's not correct. I'm like, well, present me the corrections, give me the correct data. I didn't get it. And none of them -- none of our justice partners except for the Sheriff came here to refute anything that's in this. So to me, I'll have to take this as fact. And I'm very much in support, as hard as it is to support. But I think we need to send a message that we can't keep throwing money at a problem until we start seeing results. And Alton mentioned that there'd been recommendations made and not accepted. Those were adoption of case management standards, expanded use of diversion, and then the mental health aspect. Am I missing one? I think there was a fourth one that I didn't quite get."

ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS: "Court standards, expanded diversion, civil slash criminal court in Superior Court. And then the fourth one, I'm sorry, it's been a long day. But I will bring back, there's been a series of recommendations consistently, (indiscernible names) JIRI was here, Barry Mooney was here 20 years ago. The recommendation are pretty -- are pretty consistent."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And I believe these are good recommendations, and we need to try to play a hand to make them try to make a change and work together and accept some of these recommendations. And I see this as the only way we possibly can. So that's why I support this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anyone else? Anyone else? All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Back on page 8, bottom of page 8, **23-0629**, Real Estate and Asset Management, Request approval to award a contract without competition in an amount of \$2,000,600 to provide postage services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, it is seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "23-0630, Request approval of an acceptance letter for Georgia Power's Makeready Program."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, 23-0631, Request approval to increase spending authority in the amount of \$1,230,530 to provide support services for the Jail Bridging Plan."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Hall, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is anyone here that can answer this?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I just wanted to know what are the preventative and predictive maintenance services that will be provided at the County Jail and South Fulton Regional Jail."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM: "So the -- Commissioner, the overall contract that we have currently with Johnson Controls for maintenance, provides maintenance services at all three jail locations, of which the Union City location is one. The current contract requires Johnson Controls to complete all scheduled preventive maintenance based on the current equipment that's installed in the building and the manufacturer's recommendations. It also requires them, with the same labor, to complete all corrective maintenance, that is, repairs that are needed, using the same labor that's assigned to the facility for preventive maintenance. It allows for them to bill the county just for materials used at a proposed markup that they put in their bid as a response to the original RFP. So essentially, it only -- the only difference between the South Fulton location, the Alpharetta location, and the main jail is the size of the building, the amount of the equipment to be maintained, but the approach is the same. I hope that answers your question."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Absolutely. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0632**, Request approval to amend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$25,300 for an increase in fees for interior -- interior design, furniture, and installation of items for the Peachtree, MLK, East Point Library expansion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0633**, Request approval to amend an existing contract in the amount of \$7,400 to Wayfinding Programming, Design and Construction Administrative Services for the East Point Library."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0634**, Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$555,397 to cover the cost to support Phase 2 for the relocation of the Clerk of Superior Court, Sheriff's Office, Information Technology, DREAM, Police, and Marshal's Office to the County Central Warehouse."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **23-0635**, Community Development, Request approval to increase spending authority in the amount not to exceed \$662,401 to provide housing rehabilitation services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, **23-0636**, Public Works, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to provide standby utility pavement patching and paving services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0637**, Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 to provide building code administrative services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0638**, Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to provide small water meter installation services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Justice and Safety, **23-0639**, Public Defender, Request approval of an MOU with the United Way of Greater Atlanta in the amount of \$100,000 to support a select group of chronically homeless individuals released from the Fulton County Jail."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0640**, State Court -- 0640, Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 to provide substance use disorder monitoring services."

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays. Six yeas with Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, Commissioners' Action Items, **23-0510**, Request approval of a resolution to rescind a motion previously passed by the Board of Commissioners to refrain from taking any action regarding the composition of the Board of Ethics until certain matters are no longer pending before the Board of Ethics and for other purposes, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner -- motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Hall does not want to second that, so remove her name as a seconder. What's your question, Commissioner Hall?"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted more of an explanation as to why we're rescinding, or that you're rescinding."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The reason for the resolution was because the Board of Ethics, based upon the original resolution that was approved, we held up confirming any new nominations that were coming to the Board until such time as the issues that were be litigated, I guess would be the proper word, were -- were resolved. And in order to accommodate their request that we approve new nominees from certain organizations, we would have to reverse the previous action. So that's why it was introduced. And I was going -- that's why it was introduced. But I was going to ask, has there been any -- any activity?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So if you'll recall, the original action establishing the moratorium was done at a time when we anticipated that the matters involving

Commissioner Arrington would be resolved shortly. That has not happened. The Board of Ethics Attorney has informed me that there may be some discussions regarding resolution by agreement. And that until they decide whether or not that is going to occur, they declined to answer the most substantive questions that we posed to them because they believe that that would give away litigation strategy, is what he told me. But that's where it is now. There's been no final resolution of Commissioner Arrington's matters. And we don't have substantive responses. But it does remain a fact that the -- the resolution is taking a bit longer than was originally anticipated by this Body when the moratorium was put in place."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So we didn't take action because we were waiting for resolution?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So I think, out of an abundance of caution, this Body decided to not take any action on the composition of the Board until those matters, which were ripe for decision, were decided, so that it would avoid any appearance that you were entering into that fray. At this point, it has now been, I think, more than a half a year since it's been ripe. And it does not appear that the matters will be resolved in the immediate future. Or we have no way of knowing how long it's going to take to be resolved."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "That still goes back to what I just said. So we did not take action because we were waiting for a resolution --"

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

COMMISSIONER HALL: "-- and there still is no resolution. So why are we about to take action -- why are we putting it back to taking action when we don't have a resolution, and that was the whole reason for us not taking action in the beginning?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So if this resolution is approved, I think the rationale for the change would be that at the time when the initial action was taken by this Board, you anticipated, and had every reason to anticipate that those other matters before the Board of Ethics would be resolved in very short order. And that has not happened. So at this juncture, you would have to decide whether you want to continue the moratorium or proceed with filling in the Board so that they can conduct their business in the meantime."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And did we have some appointment that was made? I don't recall, was there --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Well, when I spoke with the Chair of the Board of Ethics, he indicated that the Chamber of Commerce, the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce may have someone that they want to put forward."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the Greater North Fulton Chamber has a nomination that's pending as well as the South Fulton Chamber."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I'm going to support this. When it originally came to us, one, it was supposed to be a temporary measure. However, I think we're going on a year now. My understanding on my level of communication is that it is interfering with their ability to do what they need to do. And so I think it's prudent at this point and this juncture, since we did hold it up, we did wait, I think to -- to linger this, we do more damage than good. And so I'm going to support this. And I think it -- we have to send a message that the Ethics Board is a different entity. And we have to be very careful that we're not interfering, even though we do want them to do their job. And depending on who you talk to, you may get a different answer. But it is not our authority to keep them from doing their job. Our authority is to make sure that we're not blocking them from doing their job. And so I will supporting this -- I will be supporting this, and I will ask my colleagues to please support this as well."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions? The motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0512**, Request approval of a resolution requiring contracts or other written agreements to accompany agenda items appearing on the meeting agenda of the Board of Commissioners to uphold transparency and governance; providing exceptions for those contracts or agreements processed by the Department of Purchasing and Contract Compliance and for those excluded under the Georgia Open Meetings Act, or for emergency situations."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, it is seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Hall, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to know, have there been any additional changes since last time we heard this? Because I know the last time, I think it was Felicia Strong-Whitaker, had offered some changes."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "It's the same. But Felicia, we met with Felicia to go over. I think her response confused people that it did -- we specifically took out anything that would affect her in her work out of the contract. Whereas, most of our contract and agreements go through Purchasing, we eliminated that any effect on her work. Which initially when I first was proposing this, I don't know, back on 8/2, I held it because she came up to me before the meeting and said, hey, this is going to hinder my work. So I worked with her to go and draft the new one. But then it kind of got convoluted, confusing in the question response. But we did meet with her yesterday to confirm. And unfortunately, she had to leave. But I can verify that we did meet with her, and she's good."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. Thank you."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**23-0595**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend the Fulton County Code of Ordinances relating to budgetary controls for Members of the Board of Commissioners by reducing the travel-conferences budge by the Members of the Board of Commissioners and for other purposes, sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, and I seconded that motion. No comments? Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Now, let's -- let me refresh everybody's memory. At the last meeting, the original legislation was to cap it at 30,000. If I recall correctly, Commissioner Thorne made a friendly amendment that for first year -- first-year

Commissioners, it would be 50,000, and that was accepted. So that's what's technically before us. Go ahead, you have the floor, Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And then what is it after that?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Back to 30, after that first year."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So just 50 in 2024, and then 30 for all remaining years?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "First-year Commissioners."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "First-year Commissioners."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh, for first-year Commissioners?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes. And going back --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah. And going back, going back three or four years, including year to date, there's only one time has any Commissioner used more than \$30,000 for travel. That one year was 31,000 and some change. All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **23-0599**, Fulton-Atlanta Land Bank Authority, Commissioner Hall has nominated Anita Harris for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending August 7th, 2027."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall. Is there a second? Is there a second? Is there a second? All right. Fails for lack of a second. And I'll make a motion to -- substitute motion to deny. I'm sorry, Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Madam County Attorney, the last time this came up, you said there might be a conflict because this is my Chief of Staff. But it was brought to our attention by Commissioner Arrington that there are -- and by the Executive Director of the Land Bank Authority, Chris Norman that there are

government employees and there are elected officials, including County Commissioners that have been on this Board. So how does that not create a conflict?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So I believe what I said last time was, not that there would be a conflict of interest, but that there could be a question raised about that in terms of the level of influence that someone on a Commissioner's staff might have on the Body that is potentially going to be voting on funding. I think I made it clear that I did not see any direct conflict that I know of was -- was indicating that there would be a conflict of interest, or that Ms. Harris would not serve well in the capacity. But that there was a possibility that that question could be raised, based upon the relationship."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So that question could not be raised from elected officials, such as Commissioners being on that Board? That question could not be raised by other staff of other elected officials being on that Board, since that is something that has happened in the past and confirmed by the Executive Director of the Land Bank Authority? How is this different from what has happened many, many years before?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I would have to take a look at the specific examples to compare and see how those do compare. I was not aware of Commissioners serving on the Authority. So unless I had specific examples, I wouldn't be able to make direct comparison or speak on that."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So you can review it, and make a recommendation or you cannot? I'm sorry."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I hear you asking me to review it, so I will look into who has served and then provide you with a -- with a response as to how those situations compare to this proposal."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, I appreciate that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on floor is to deny. I made the motion, it's seconded Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "23-0643, Fulton-Atlanta Land Bank Authority, Chairman Pitts has nominated Edith Ladipo for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending August 7th, 2027."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 13, 23-0644 Beltline Affordable Housing Advisory Board, Chairman Pitts has nominated Cora Dunston for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending -- upon commencement of approval of Atlanta City Council."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "The next three are Region III EMS Council 23-0645, Chairman Pitts has nominated Steve L. Moyers for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2025."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's take all three of these together. These are reappointments, including Matt Kallmyer and --"

CLERK GRIER: "And 23-0646, Chairman Pitts has nominated Roderick Rod M. Smith for a Full-Board reappointment, term ending June 30th, 2025. 23-0647, Chairman Pitts has nominated Matt Kallmyer for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2026."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other matters to come before us?"

CLERK GRIER: "We have the one emailed-in comment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "I can either read it or email it to you. How would you like to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You can just read it quickly."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. Comment from Lisa Jones: Thank you, Commissioners for allowing my comment. I represent myself and over 150 county residents on behalf of Fulton County animals, in support of amendment to ordinance 23-0641 to prohibit outdoor animal sales. As the ordinance states, according to UGA, the overpopulation of pets -- pets in the state of Georgia has reached crisis level. Year to date 2023, Fulton County Animal Shelter has taken in over 5,000 animals. After four years, 2019 through 2022, of no-kill status, we are sliding backwards. Outdoor pet sales place profit over welfare, driving overpopulation of un-vetted animals, burdening taxpayers with sick animals. This honorable Board of Commissioners has shown its dedication to Fulton County animals with the opening of our state-of-art Animal Care Facility, slated to open November 1st. We urge you to continue the commitment by prohibiting outdoor sales. No further --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any further matters to come before us?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No further matters to come before us today, we are adjourned. Thank you so much."

(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.)