

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

May 20, 2026
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: June 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

PRESENT

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

PRESENT

Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)

PRESENT

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

PRESENT

Vacant (District 4)

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

PRESENT

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair (District 6)

PRESENT

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA**26-0270 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 Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing item #26-0279 for separate consideration as requested by Commissioner Ellis. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Thorne

26-0271 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Melissa St. Joy Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**
May 9, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Kenya Tucker Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**
May 9, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Shanice Askew Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**
May 9, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Falun Dafa Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**
May 9, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "404CQ Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
dated May 9, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Taiwanese American Heritage Week."
(Pitts/Abdur-Rahman/Thorne)
May 10-17, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "District 44 Georgia Toastmasters Appreciation Day."
(Pitts) dated May 15, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Malcolm X Festival Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
May 16, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Rohan Dalal Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**
May 16, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Emanuel Guzman Appreciation Day."
(Thorne)
May 16, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Taranian Ramesh Appreciation Day."
(Thorne)
May 16, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Puneeth Sreerama Appreciation Day."
(Thorne)
May 16, 2026

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Bilal Mourad Appreciation Day." **(Ellis)**
May 17, 2026

Commissioners' District Board Appointments

26-0272

Board of Commissioners

FULTON COUNTY HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, CARE AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Twenty (20) members. Each Commissioner shall appoint two members each (14 members) and (6 six) at-large positions with nominees recommended by the Advisory Committee and appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Such appointees shall be residents of, or work in Fulton County, and shall have experience or expertise in public health, HIV prevention and/or care, or be otherwise deemed qualified to serve as an advisory committee member. The Advisory Committee has the discretion to create subcommittees to assist it with the assigned tasks. Appointees to the Advisory Committee shall serve three-year terms at the discretion of the appointing Commissioner, and members may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a successor is appointed.

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: 6/7/2023
Ken Adcox **(Hausmann)**

Commissioner Thorne nominated Hayley Belles for a District appointment to a term commencing June 8, 2026, and ending June 8 7, 2029, following the expiration of the current term on June 7, 2026.

Open & Responsible Government**26-0273 Finance**

Ratification of April 2026 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0274 Human Resources Management

Request approval to modify the classification section of the Classification and Compensation plan by adding the new title of Records and Documents Coordinator, Fulton County Warehouse (grade 12), and changing the salary range for the existing title of Senior Records Administrator to grade 22. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0275 Purchasing and Contract Compliance

Report: Contracts approved by the County Manager for the period March 7, 2026 - May 8, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Arts and Libraries**26-0276 Library**

Request for approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners authorizing the acceptance of the donation of books at the Fulton County Library System and approving the Memorandum of Agreement between Fulton County on behalf of the Fulton County Library System and Republic of China (Taiwan), through its Consular Officer, Taipei Economic & Cultural Office of Atlanta for donations to and programming within the Fulton County Library System; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

26-0277 Library

Request approval of an Art Loan Agreement with The Last Hummingbird Collective, LLC, for the temporary acceptance of the installation, maintenance and removal of art entitled, "The World(s) She Made: Composing the Radical Lives of Kathleen Neal Cleaver," to be on display at the Auburn Avenue Research Library. The term of this agreement is July 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**26-0278 Public Works**

Request approval to correct Agenda Item No. 25-0978 to correct the contracting entity's name for the award of 25RFP021025K-CRB, Progressive Design/Build for Boat Rock Road Sanitary Sewer Extension from Garney + Gresham Smith to Garney Companies, Inc. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**26-0279 County Manager**

May 2026 Justice System Update. **(DISCUSSED)**

ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION AND HEARD WITH ITEM #26-0299 AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ELLIS

26-0280 Medical Examiner

Request approval of a contract - Fulton County Office of the Medical Examiner and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of the University of Georgia College of Public Health to provide clinical education experiences for graduate students; 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. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**26-0281 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt the Second Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by revising item #26-0283 as requested by Chairman Pitts; and moving up item #26-0298 as requested by Commissioner Thorne. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

26-0282 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, April 15, 2026

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 6, 2026

Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 12, 2026

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

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

Absent: Arrington

26-0283 Board of Commissioners

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

~~* Proclamation recognizing "Atlanta Voice Newspaper Appreciation Day."
(Pitts/BOC)~~

Proclamation recognizing "National Preservation Month." **(Pitts/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "National Public Works Week." **(Abdur-Rahman/BOC)**

**removed during the meeting*

PUBLIC HEARINGS**26-0284 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 Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call). Non-Fulton County citizens will only be heard after all in-person Fulton County citizens, representatives of business and organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, have been heard and the time allotted for public comment has not expired, except as otherwise provided in this code section. County staff shall verify the residency of each public speaker prior to such person being heard by the board. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed sixty (60) minutes at the First Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed sixty (60) minutes at the Second Regular Meeting. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

37 Speakers: Michael Collins (PAD); Tanesha Door (PAD); James Jones (PAD); Joyce Farmer (Fulton Jail/Sheriff); LA Pink (Elections); Tenisha White (Fulton Jail); Sean Stielow (PAD); Hillary Phillips (Court Case Dogs); Helen Delilia Williams (Public Schools/Transit Fare); Devin Franklin (PAD); Denise White (PAD); Erice Montero (PAD); Andrea Hardge (PAD); Darius Hardy (PAD); Eugene Walls (PAD); Ashlee Heibel (PAD); Terry Thompson (PAD); Marcus Harper (PAD); Victoria Kendrick (PAD); Cameron Johnson (PAD); Mark Peters (PAD); Darci Jaret (PAD); Bobby Green (PAD); Eric D. Miller (PAD);

Quasha Zanders (PAD); Talia Coopersmith (PAD); Akil Brooks (PAD); Kathi Edwards (PAD); Larry Arnold (PAD); Ava Mobley (PAD); Yana Batra (PAD); Tiffany Roberts (PAD); Devin Barrington-Ward (PAD); Nicholas J. Burroughs (PAD); Jill Lindsey (Polling Location); Melodie Rossar (PAD); Trindalin Browning (PAD)

2 Zoom Speakers: Dominique Huff (MARTA); Robby Caban (Lifeline/Animal Services)

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)

26-0285 Board of Commissioners
MARTA Quarterly Briefing **(PRESENTED)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

26-0286 Purchasing and Contract Compliance
Ratification of Emergency Procurements. **(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, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis

Health and Human Services

26-0287 Community Development
Request approval of the 2026 Community Services Program (CSP) Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$5,363,958.00 to the non-profits identified in Attachment "A". General funding in the amount of \$5,363,958.00 for Community Services Program was approved by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners at the January 21, 2026, Second Regular Meeting (Agenda Item# 26-0032). The contract period runs from January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

26-0288 Public Works

Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement (CIA) between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the relocation of sewer facilities associated with the improvement of existing left turn lanes on Fulton Industrial Boulevard (SR70) at its intersection with Bucknell Drive in Fulton County, Project ID #0019648. The project includes relocating approximately 71 linear feet of 8-inch sewer lines and associated appurtenances within Fulton County. The estimated cost of the project is \$54,350.00. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

26-0289 Senior Services

Request approval to amend existing contracts - Department of Senior Services 22RFP035A-CJC, Aging Services in a total amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 with (A) Senior Services North, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.00; (B) South Fulton Senior Services (College Park, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.00; and (C) Visiting Nurses Health Systems (Atlanta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 for case management billable rate adjustments for contracts providing Aging Services for Fulton County seniors aged 60 and above. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Justice and Safety**26-0290 Police**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Fulton County Police Department and Fulton County Sheriff's Office, 26ITB1580280B-PS, Alcohol and Drug Substance Abuse Testing Services in an amount not to exceed \$160,000.00 with Piedmont Urgent Care by WellStreet, LLC (Atlanta, Georgia) to provide alcohol and drug substance abuse testing services to be provided upon BOC approval through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**26-0291 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to support the growth and long-term sustainability of local, independent small businesses as they expand and create jobs in South Downtown, to ensure that local small businesses are included in the economic opportunities provided by the 2026 World Cup, and for other purposes. **(Barrett)**
(APPROVED)

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

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

26-0292 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution directing the County Manager and Chief Financial Officer to redirect funds from the fiscal year 2026 budget of the Superior Court to the Magistrate Court in the amount of the unobligated portion of the \$780,000.00 previously transferred to the Superior Court's budget; and for other purposes.
(Pitts) (APPROVED)

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

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

26-0293 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to request the Fulton County Sheriff to utilize existing authority to decline certain misdemeanor bookings in order to address jail overcrowding, improve safety, and prioritize detention space for serious offenses; and for other purposes. **(Pitts)**
(APPROVED)

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

26-0294 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners challenging the constitutionality of Georgia House Bill 369 which provides for the nonpartisan election of County Officers and District Attorneys in Clayton, Cobb, Dekalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties beginning in 2028; and for other purposes. **(Arrington/Abdur-Rahman/Barrett) (APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Thorne, and Ellis

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**26-0295 Board of Commissioners**

REGION III EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES 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. The Council year will be from July 1 to June 30. The term of each appointment shall be for three years with one-third of the Council to be appointed each year. In order to have one-third of the Council appointed each year some appointments may be made for 1 or 2 years until such balances achieved. Members may be reappointed to the EMS Council with no limit on terms. (See EMS Advisory Council Bylaws updated on 5/13/2021).

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: June 30, 2025

Roderick "Rod" M. Smith **(BOC/Position 1)**

Chairman Pitts nominated Roderick "Rod" M. Smith for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2028.

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

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

26-0296 Board of Commissioners
REGION III EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL **(APPROVED)**

Term = 3 Years

Term below expires: June 30, 2026

Alex Robles **(BOC/Position 2)**

Chairman Pitts nominated Alex Robles for a Full Board reappointment to a term commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30 ~~July 1, 2029~~, following the expiration of the current term on June 30, 2026.

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

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

26-0297 Board of Commissioners
REGION III EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL **(APPROVED)**

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: June 30, 2025

Steven L. Moyers **(BOC/Position 4)**

Chairman Pitts nominated Steven L. Moyers for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2028.

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

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Health and Human Services

26-0298 Community Development
Presentation: The Fulton County Youth Commission initiatives for the program term 2025-2026. **(PRESENTED)**

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

26-0299 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: Utilization of funds committed for improving jail detention staffing and the detention staffing hiring process **(Ellis) (DISCUSSED)**

26-0301 Board of Commissioners
Discussion: Update - Implementation of five-point plan **(Pitts) (DISCUSSED)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION**26-0300 Board of Commissioners**

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

PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE, AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioners: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Arrington; 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, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

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

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington to approve the request for representation in item #6 as discussed in Executive Session.

motion failed for a lack of a second

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'

SECOND REGULAR MEETING

MAY 20, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC

“A Court Reporting Firm”

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone, this is the second -- second regular meeting of the Fulton Board of Commissioners. Today is May 20th, 2026; 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: "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

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

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Present."

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda: **26-0270**, 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 Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything, Madam Clerk?"

CLERK GRIER: "I don't have anything."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'd like to remove item 2 on page 4, 25 -- 26-0279, County Manager, May 26, 2026, Justice System Update off for further discussion. It can even be held until we get to the Commissioners' Discussion Item. I just have a few things I wanted to ask about within it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No Objections? All right. The motion on the floor is to approve as amended. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Barrett."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 5, Second Regular Meeting Agenda: **26-0281**, Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, I have one amendment to today's agenda also on page 5, removing a proclamation on 26-0283, Proclamation recognizing 'Atlanta Boys Newspaper Appreciation Day'. That proclamation will be brought back at a later meeting. And that's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We have a motion to adopt as amended by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- Bridget Thorne is in the queue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Do you have a question."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I would like to move up item 26-0298 on page 9, Community Development for Fulton Youth Commission Initiatives to come right after 26-0258, the MARTA Quarterly Briefing because we have a lot of young people in the audience that probably need to get back to school; 26-0298, on page 9, to come right after 26-0258, MARTA Quarterly Briefing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. No objections. Motion to adopt as amended by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0282**, Ratification of Minutes. Second Regular Meeting Minutes, April 15th; First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 6th, and Special Call Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 12th, 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to ratify by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Commissioner Ellis."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0283**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'National Preservation Month' sponsored by Chairman Pitts with Full Board support."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Will any and all individuals with the Atlanta History Center and all its supporters, please join us? WHEREAS, National Preservation Month, serves as an opportunity to honor the people, organizations, and institutions dedicated to safeguarding our shared heritage and promoting historical education and civic engagement throughout our communities; and WHEREAS, the Atlanta History Center, through its community collaborations, initiatives has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to preserving and amplifying the stories, milestones, and experiences that define the history of Fulton County and the greater Atlanta community; and WHEREAS, under the leadership of Dr. La'Neice Littleton, the Atlanta History Center successfully partner with Fulton government in the historic opening of the 2000 Fulton County time capsule, providing residents and visitors with a meaningful reflection on the county's history, growth, and progress over the past 25 years; and WHEREAS, this collaborative effort, also included the creation and resetting of the Fulton County 2050 time capsule ensuring that the voices, aspirations, and accomplishments of today's residents will be preserved with generations yet to come; and WHEREAS, the Atlanta History Center's Community Collaborations Initiative and Keenan Research Center further commemorated this milestone through its 2025 County History, exhibited a timeline which highlights significant events, leaders, and transformative moments that have shaped Fulton County in Fulton County's enduring legacy. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, hereby recognizes and celebrates the National Preservation Month and honors the Atlanta History Center's commitment of Community Collaborations Initiative; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday May 20th, 2026, as 'National Preservation Month' in Fulton County. Would you join me in celebrating them?"

LA'NEICE LITTLETON, RECIPIENT: "Good morning. I'm Dr. La'Neice Littleton, Director of Community Collaborations at Atlanta History Center, and a historian. I just want to say thank you so much. We are delighted that the Atlanta History Center to be able to partner with Judge Johnson and Fulton County to continue to document and preserve the stories of the county, right, that are also the stories of the city and the state. We are celebrating our centennial celebration at Atlanta History Center, where we are very excited about having been collecting and documenting the history of the city of Atlanta for 100 years now. So we thank you so much, we're so grateful, and we're honored at the recognition and at the opportunity to continue to collaborate. Thank y'all so much."

CLERK GRIER: "The last proclamation is recognizing 'National Public Works Week' sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman with Full Board support."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can all of our public works employees, the great men and women that keep us going, please come forward? This is for you. I take great pride in presenting this on behalf of Fulton County with my colleagues. Everybody in place? WHEREAS, National Public Works Week is a reminder of the many ways Fulton County Department of Public Works provides the foundation of our day-to-day comfort -- remember that, you all -- day-to-day comfort including roadways, traffic controls, sidewalks, airport, water, sanitary sewer and storm water management; and WHEREAS, this year's theme, 'Rooted in Service, Powered by Community' acknowledges the roots of a service run -- that runs deep in the public works and the efforts of all employees form the foundation of thriving communities; reminding us that every project seen or unseen, powers the connection between service and the people it supports; and WHEREAS, Fulton County's Department of Public Works, maintains sanitary sewer and water distribution systems, provides water and pollution prevention education to residents, businesses, schools, and communities; maintains roads and traffic signals in the unincorporated areas, and performs the maintenance of all access roads, runways, ramps, and parking lots at the Fulton County Executive Airport at Brown Field; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County Department of Public Works, is considered one of the premier -- I'll say that again, premier agencies in the state of Georgia with a dedicated staff and award-winning facilities that provide critical response and a support for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and they do not complain -- I know that's not a part of the proclamation, I just wanted to put it in there; and is committed to delivering great services to our community. I am so proud to announce that NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County recognizes and commends the Department of Public Works for their continued dedication and public service to the county; and hereby proclaims the week of May 17th through the 23rd, as 'National Public Works Week' in Fulton County, Georgia. Please put your hands together for these heroes and she'roes that make sure it gets done for us."

ADRIANNA BUSTILLOS, RECIPIENT: "Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and the Board of Commissioners. I'm Deputy Director Adriana Bustillos. And on behalf of our director, David Clark, and the more than 250 public work employees, we thank you for this proclamation. The 2026 theme, Rooted in Service, acknowledges the roots of service run deep in public works. Communities may not take much notice of the dedication of public works professionals, because some work, like maintaining roads and traffic signals is highly visible, while other public works contribution like maintaining water and sewer systems are sometimes hidden from the view. However, for 24 hours a day and despite the weather, public work employees quietly do their jobs without fanfare, working behind-the-scenes to respond to emergencies and to deliver great services. Together, these efforts form the foundation of thriving communities in Fulton County, reminding us that every project seen or unseen powers the connection between service and the people it supports. Thanks to the men and women of public works and the outstanding work they do every day to advance the quality of life for all. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 5, Public Hearings: **26-0284**, Public Comment - Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing by registering on the County website www.fultoncountygga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public 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 38 speaker cards. Will the first six speakers please come forward: Michael Collins, Tanesha Door, James Jones, Joyce Farmer, Tenisha White, and LA Pink."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Speakers, when you have 15 seconds, as you know, I will say 15 seconds; and that's your clue to begin to terminate your -- or conclude your remarks."

MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hey everybody, Michael Collins. I hope everybody got a good night's sleep after all the partying and celebrating the elections stuff last night. I wanted to talk about two things that we are here also to talk about today. One is calling on the Commission to get involved and fix issues around the diversion center as it relates to PAD. There has been, you know, foolish dispute between the city of Atlanta and the contract issues around PAD. It's causing the diversion center, which you guys heavily supported, to be put in jeopardy at a time when the World Cup is approaching and we need the diversion center to be as robust as ever. And PAD is, you know, an agency that has been at the forefront of diversion in this city, but for some reason, it's being pushed out, played with, whatever you want to put it, when it comes to contract issues with the diversion center. PAD is a key part of the diversion center and always has been, and it's up to the Commission now to step in and ensure their support with PAD. The second thing I wanted to say is there's a Resolution before you all today to encourage the Sheriff to use his power to decline certain misdemeanor offenses when they're brought to the jail. I know Commissioner Thorne and Commissioner Pitts have worked closely on this together. It's something that Play Fair ATL spoke about in connection with the World Cup and the need to take all measures possible to reduce the jail population. It would mean that when somebody on a minor offense is brought to the jail, they can simply be given a ticket or taken to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- another facility and we're not adding to overcrowding. So in the name of, you know, using all options available to reduce the jail population, we call on you to support this and support PAD. Thank you."

TANESHA DOOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Tanesha Door, and I am a community advocate and a former participant with PAD; and right now, our city is having major conversations about Public Safety, homelessness, behavioral health, jail conditions, and neighborhood stabilization. And the truth is these are not separate issues. We see it in our MARTA stations; we see it in our parks, outside our libraries, in our emergency rooms, in our neighborhoods. We see people in crisis, and too often, the only systems available to respond are already overwhelmed. That is why PAD matters. Because PAD sits directly the middle of what Atlanta says it's trying to solve. This meeting may be framed around structure, oversight, contracts, metrics, and operational control; and, yes, accountability matters, transparency matters, efficiency matters. But while those conversations are happening on paper, real people are living the impact of every delay, every service gap, and every failure to respond before crisis gets worse. Atlanta cannot arrest its way out of homelessness. We cannot displace our way out of poverty. We cannot emergency response our way out of untreated mental health needs. If we are serious about public safety, we need to be serious about prevention. PAD does not replace Public Safety. It strengthens it. It helps creates another pathway before something ends up -- someone ends up in handcuffs in a jail cell, in emergency rooms, or a system completely -- completely lost to a system that has never been built to heal them. So if the concern is oversight, then strengthen oversight. If the concern is metrics, then improved metrics. If the concern is coordination, then build better coordination. But do not tighten the process so hard that we choke off the very service helping people avoid deeper system involvement in the first place. Supporting PAD is not about politics, is about whether Atlanta --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

TANESHA DOOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- is willing to invest in intervention before collapse. Support PAD, stabilize the system, and stop making prevention beg. Thank you."

JAMES JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. My name is James Jones, and I wanted to briefly share my experience with PAD and what this process has meant for me personally. Before working with PAD, a large portion of my life was focused on survival and instability. When you are constantly worried about where you are going to sleep, safety, transportation, or basic needs, it becomes very difficult to regulate yourself mentally, emotionally, and physically. One thing I've learned through this experience is that regulation starts with stabilization. PAD helped provide structure, guidance, and consistency during a time when my life lacked those things. That support gave me the ability to begin rebuilding not only my stability, but also my confidence, discipline, and long-term vision for my future. I especially want to acknowledge my care navigator, Denise. One thing that stood out to me throughout this process is that she genuinely listens, assesses my concerns, and situations, and then works towards navigating me through -- navigating me towards beneficial solutions. That matters

because when someone is trying to rebuild their life, being heard and having practical guidance can make a major difference. I'm a certified trauma informed yoga instructor, and over the last year I continue developing my development and movement in wellness practice rooted in yoga cycling, mobility, breathwork, and intentional movement throughout Atlanta. The work I've done with regulation through yoga became much more effective and once I had supported -- once I had a support system helping me stabilize an environment in my daily life. Because -- because of that support I've received from PAD --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JAMES JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- I was able to build my Facebook page where it teaches regulation through the Internet and hopefully one day in person. And that's what I'm currently working on. Thank you all for your time. Thank you."

JOYCE FARMER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chair and Commissioners. My name is Joyce Farmer, and I stand here before you because the people of this county deserve answers in regards to the condition of our jail. For too long, too many families have watched their loved ones suffer behind those walls from death, lawsuits, allegation of neglect. The jail should be a place that is secured, Constitution and humane. Inmates shouldn't have to worry about being injured or not receiving medical attention. Leadership means taking the responsibility when the system fails. Leadership means facing the public and not hiding. Leadership means coming up with solutions and not excuses. We need a stronger mental health and medical system. We need oversight. We need to build a culture from the top down on accountability. This is not just -- this is not just headlines; these are people's lives. These are mothers, daughters, sons, and fathers. So this is not political, it's accountability, transparency, and people's lives. The people have spoken, the family have spoken, and the Commissioner has spoken. The question is who will have the courage to change this? Thank you."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "The World Cup is about to have a lot of people in handcuffs because corruption, as we continue to tell y'all, done got too comfortable. But it doesn't really care about who it keeps around as long as it can have control and power. But as we watched last night, so many different things take place. We watched no one speak about what just took place over at Welcome All Park with the election ballots and the event that was taking place right -- 110 feet away that supposed to be 150. Now, we all know that Mayor Gumbs' and Helen Willis are real good friends. So we're asking for an investigation, because there is some type of ties off in there. This is the reason why no one believes in the integrity of the election because there is too much corruption being pushed up under the rug, being ignored. So why everybody is out here tallying, rallying about the redistricting, y'all better worry about the redistricting of y'all pockets that they're about to do. The redistricting of your bank accounts that you're about to have to be extra because they're taking your property. See this redistricting of these seats that they're trying to place amongst us. There's no way that Dana isn't up with Penny. No way. That right there is questionable. Like, you have not done one thing, but neither here nor there. Then Marvin Arrington, we're praying that

you don't get behind Mo mess because we know how the corruption goes. It's a Domino's effect. When one loses, they got to keep the other --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- but however, community, y'all better wake up because the devil's on the loose."

TENISHA WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello my name is Tenisha White, and I'm here to inform you on how your jails are being operated. April 20, 2025 -- from April to October 2025, I was arrested and I was locked up in Rice Street, but pretrial. And from the day that I walked in and I received my blankets and my sheets, to the day I walked out is the same blanket and sheet that I had when I came in there. They put up -- they posted up on the doors that they were going to weekly wash the sheets and the blankets but never did. We were barely able to get clean uniforms every week as we were supposed to. On top of that, you get one sports bra and one underwear. When you know women, we get the time of the month, so we struggle to -- having to keep our hygiene up with one sports bra and one underwear. And also, when I walked in, I noticed that for the women, we don't have nothing that shows us anything of bonding companies, lawyers, no type of information like that. When I asked an officer about it, the answer to me was that I had to ask another inmate for that information, and it wasn't put up or given or none of that. You have people in there that have mental disabilities that don't even need to be in there, but they're in there. The officers are rude, disrespectful, talk to you in any kind of way."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

TENISHA WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and I knew they took oaths -- I knew they took oaths, so for them to act like that, it's crazy. Ledbetter, she should not be where she is right now. The simple fact that they neglected her and left her there, when you say you're on suicidal watch, you're not supposed to be in --"

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

CLERK GRIER: "Next speakers, please come forward: Sean Stielow, Hillary Phillips, Helen Williams, Devin Franklin, Denise White, Erice Montero."

SEAN STIELOW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Sean Stielow. I'm a medical student, a master of public health candidate and a fellow with Stop Criminalization of Our Patients, better known as SCOOP. At SCOOP we provide educational research on the ways in which the criminal legal system impacts health. I'm here today to speak in support of evidenced-based alternatives to policing and incarceration, specifically in support of PAD. Based on 911 analyses, we know that the vast majority of community responses do not require police. When individuals, especially those already vulnerable, are forced into the criminal legal system, most experience further traumatization and marginalization. And a system rooted in (indiscernible.) really fosters lasting recovery and stability. I know this not only

academically and professionally, but personally as a nephew. My uncle struggled with the substance use disorder for much of his life. He cycled through systems that only perpetuated his trauma rather than addressing it. My uncle overdosed and died shortly after being released from prison. My mother and her siblings never got the chance to see what might have happened if their baby brother had been given the opportunity to take a different path. That fear of receiving the call, the one that no family should ever have to get, eventually became her reality. Right now, there are families all across Fulton County terrified of receiving that same phone call. Programs like PAD matter because they create opportunities for intervention before tragedies like this occur. They recognize that people experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders, homelessness and poverty are still members of our community when we create opportunities for all to heal, everyone in Fulton County benefits. I'm asking the Board to resolve PAD's contract with the Center for Diversion and Services. This is not just a policy decision, this is a decision to support the 126 people currently connected to care and navigation services and all the future ones that PAD will no doubt help. As a future physician, I believe we should always choose care and compassion over punishment --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

SEAN STIELOW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- it's not only the ethical choice; it is the most effective one. Thank you."

HILLARY PHILLIPS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. My name is Hillary Phillips and I volunteer at Fulton County Animal Services primarily spending my time with the court case animals. The dogs are held at the shelter as evidence pending the trial. Fulton County Animal Services currently has 63 court case dogs with some having been in the shelter for over 600 days. These dogs can't be adopted and they can't even be seen by the public. Many people are currently working toward shortening the wait times for these dogs; however, the truth is, there are far too many dogs that are spending far too long waiting. There's an obvious and relatively simple solution that already exists within Georgia law, and that's called the Cost of Care Petitions. These petitions require the owner to pay for the cost of care for the animal every 30 days while the case is pending or (inaudible) the animal. Well, this wouldn't bring a number of court case dogs down to zero; it would like significantly reduce the numbers. So you might be wondering, this seems like a logical solution, why isn't happening? It's because the county attorney's office simply is not filing these petitions. Myself and many others cannot comprehend this, when abused dogs are forced to remain imprisoned by a legal process that already has a path to resolution, simply because the agency won't utilize that resolution, that system is actually prolonging cruelty and not fighting to end it. Furthermore, the strain of housing these court case dogs impacts every single dog in the shelter, because the court case dogs going to the shelter capacity count, that sets the number of dogs based on the euthanasia list each week. This week there are 26 dogs with a deadline of tomorrow, because we are 26 dogs over capacity, with 63 of these spots being taken by court case dogs. With the high number of court case -- without the high number of court case dogs, there would be no capacity-driven euthanasia list. So my ask is this, I implore you to ask the county attorney's office to immediately begin filing the cost of

care petitions for the court case dogs. And my second ask is that you come visit the court case dogs in person."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

HILLARY PHILLIPS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I believe when you see them, you will agree that the effort it takes to file a petition is well worth the outcome it could have. Thank you so much."

HELEN DELILIA WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Helen Delilia Williams. I live in Vine City. I live at 642 Lester Street. I am a retired member of MARTA. I worked 30 plus years. I also worked for Home Depot for six years. I am here to -- for one, speak up for PAD, because it's well needed within the community. They have a great service. I was detained by the officers in reference of a tag. I really should have been sent to PAD to help me, but they sent me to jail. I got the bra and all that wonderful stuff and the bedding. I should not have been sent there. I will also like to speak about the schooling. There is a way that -- we need to find a way that we could sponsor are support not closing 16 schools within the district. It is so prevalent that our kids get a better opportunity. You have more charter schools popping up like one, two, three, but the only reason you can get in charter school is because sometimes people can afford more. Low income people really need public schooling, so would you consider using those schools for a better reason? Also, we have more gambling in the stores. Use that money and send it directly to the schools. Selling weed. San Diego dispensaries use it for the schools. MARTA, Mr. -- I can't recall his name right now -- MARTA, would you please allow the low income families to ride during the FIFA until they leave. Allow us to ride free. We've had several --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

HELEN DELILIA WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- CEOs leave with money, jump on trains, this, that and the other. Allow the public to move around, gain an opportunity to get jobs while this is going on through our city."

DEVIN FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Devin Franklin; I'm a senior movement policy counsel at the Southern Center for Human Rights. Today I am here to ask that you protect PAD's critical role in the diversion center by directly funding PAD's care navigation services using the funds that have already been approved for this purpose. To be clear, what I'm advocating for today is for Fulton County to solve a problem that has been created by the city of Atlanta's unwillingness to honor its contractual agreement as it pertains to the diversion center. Right now, PAD care navigators have not been able to accept referrals since March because of the city of Atlanta blocking PADS contract renewal. In the April diversion report, 34 percent of the people diverted to the center left without connection to services. That means more than one out of every three people walked out with nowhere to go and no real support. The diversion center was created to reduce unnecessary arrests and keep people out of jail by connecting them to meaningful support, but diversion only works with people who actually connected to care. We

cannot allow the diversion center to become a door to nowhere. As a former veteran public defender of more than 12 years here in Fulton County, I have helped literally hundreds of people be connected to services once they've been brought to the grasp of the criminal legal system. That includes wraparound navigated services like those provided by PAD, as well as self-service, volunteering engagement services, such as those provided by Grady that's in Park Place. While there's certainly need for diversity of tact at a level of care, one thing in my experience and expertise have shown me in the providing with firsthand knowledge of, is that by far, our greatest tool in providing care to persons in need in fighting recidivism is care navigation. Recovery and stability do not happen in a few hours. They require trust, consistency, and sustained rapport that is exactly what PAD provides."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

DEVIN FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I urge you to act now. Please ensure PAD's care navigation services are directly funded with the already appropriated diversion center money. And in my closing moments, I would also ask that y'all support the resolution calling for the sheriff to be able to refuse misdemeanor arrests. There is adequate research and legislative law behind that supporting that. Thank you."

DENISE WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board of Commissioners. I'm Denise White, the Deputy Director at PAD. Today, you're going to hear from our care navigation team, the people on the ground leading this work every single day. Our care navigators support individuals navigating housing instability, mental health challenges, substance use, trauma, and repeated involvement with the criminal legal system. The work they do every day directly contributes to reducing the jail population in Fulton County. When people are connected to services and long-term stabilization, they are less likely to cycle in and out of jail. When people have trusted relationships and consistent support, crises can often be addressed before they escalate into arrest or incarceration. I've had the privilege of watching this team closely. I see them celebrate the successes of our participants when someone reunites with family, secures stable housing, enters recovery, or reaches a milestone they once believed was impossible. And I also hear their frustrations when systems create barriers and resources are limited or when someone struggles to stabilize despite trying incredibly hard. But even in those moments this team continues to show up with grace, compassion, and commitment. You will hear stories of triumph, resilience, and transformation today. But what you will not hear stories about factory-style social services or people are expected to heal within unrealistic timelines, or move through systems as quickly as possible. Healing takes time, trust takes time, stabilization takes time. Our care navigators have the knowledge, expertise, and patience to walk alongside people for however long it takes to help support lasting change. We are proud of the work our care navigation team does every day --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DENISE WHITE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- to move people away from incarceration and toward healing, stability, and community connection. Thank you."

ERICE MONTERO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Erice Montero, and I'm a licensed master social worker working directly with individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health, and substance use challenges. As a legal navigation manager with PAD, I often support people during deeply challenging moments in their lives. Many of the individuals we serve have gone years without consistent support or access to the services that they need. I initially joined PAD as a care navigator. That role is more than just a title. We help people navigate systems that otherwise feel impossible to access alone. For many people we work with, we become the emergency contact, their support system, and sometimes the only safe space they feel they have. Through care navigation support, I've witness participants who were released from the jail to PAD with nothing but the clothes on their back, obtain permanent supportive housing, secure employment, and giving back to their communities. This year we've enrolled 26 individuals who were referred to us while incarcerated for quality-of-life related offenses and needed support instead of punishment. We recently housed a participant who was living on the street for years, struggled with substance use for over a decade, and has over 50 arrest cycles in the city of Atlanta. He now has his own place to call home and recently celebrated a year of sobriety. I can share countless stories like his. That outcome didn't happen overnight and didn't happen through arrest alone. They happened because someone stopped long enough to ask what support does this person actually need. The work we do benefits not only the participants we serve, but the entire community. When people are connected to appropriate services, we reduce the strain on law enforcement, emergency rooms, jails, and other public systems while helping people move toward long-term stability. This is why I'm asking you to continue supporting PAD as a critical part of Atlanta's public safety response. Thank you."

ANDREA HARDGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. My name is Andrea Hardge. I'm an Atlanta native, Fulton County resident, and a graduate of the Whitney M. Young School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University. What I want my legacy to be is that I'm an optimist and humanitarian; choosing to acknowledge the kindness and beauty in everyone I encounter. Throughout my life living in Atlanta, I have seen many unhoused individuals, and I have always wondered what their story is. About five years ago, I came across a care navigator position on Work for Good, and I was struck by PAD's unique approach; offering ongoing support and resources without discharging participants from the program. Currently, I am one of the care navigation supervisors, and I love how I get to show up for the care navigators. What many people do not see beyond our titles and responsibilities are simply people who decide to give the best of themselves through compassionate service, to our neighbors often beyond work hours. What many people do not see is how our care navigators are humans navigating their own lives while advocating for the best outcomes, and providing ongoing support to people who have been wrote off by society for having quality-of-life concerns. One participant I worked with struggles with his recovery from alcohol. When I met with him, I did not see his struggles. I saw a man trying to do better for himself, for his family; adding value to his community and becoming closer to God. The man I worked with love going to support groups, he loved community. While collaborating with the participant, he became a peer housing manager. Though time, collaborating with the

participant, I observed highs and lows. I realize even more healing is not linear, and there is no time line to healing."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

ANDREA HARDGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Everyone has test and testimonies. My ask is that Fulton County continues to support the excellent work of PAD care team navigation. Thank you for your all's time."

DARIUS HARDY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board of Commissioners. My name is Darius Hardy, and I'm a care navigator with PAD. I've been working with children, families, and social services for the past 12 years and with working with PAD care navigation team. We're on the front lines daily to provide (indiscernible.) support to individuals who experience quality-of-life concerns. Often times I am reminded of how we're able to serve these individuals effectively and efficiently. As a PAD care navigator, working with those -- working with those who possess mental health challenges, homelessness, or even repeated incarceration, it is important to have programs like PAD care navigation. For it is critical to have safety net programs that provide individuals with peer support networks and basic human provisions like food and emergency services. So I stand before you today asking for your continued support for PAD care navigation team. Thank you."

EUGENE WALLS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board. My name is Eugene Walls; I'm a housing manager of PAD. I have dedicated my life to social services for over 18 years. I'm asking for your commitment to continue supporting PAD. As a housing manager, I'm responsible for oversight and development of all housing partnerships, service coordination within the agency. I actively work to increase the accessibility of housing opportunities in alignment with PAD's mission using the housing first approach. What made me choose PAD? PAD values align with the passion I have for service as a person with lived experience. Service is not a choice for me. It is a commitment I made a long time ago when I changed my life. I do this work because I know what it feels like to be unhoused and the need for support. PAD gives the participants hope and opportunity to change their lives when they are ready. As the housing manager, I'm honored to be a part of their journey. Last year, our team was able to provide short-term housing placements for 384 participants to work towards their long-term housing goals. But continued support is needed from you. Let's continue to support our community on their journey. Thank you"

ASHLEE HEIBEL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board of Commissioners. My name is Ashlee Heibel and I'm the legal coordinator overseeing the post booking process with PAD. I started at PAD about four years ago as a care navigator and working directly with people experiencing mental health challenges, substance abuse, homelessness, and poverty. Through that work, I began to understand how often people are criminalized for unmet needs and survival behaviors rather than being connected to the support they actually need. As I continued this work, I found my passion in the legal field -- in the legal side of PAD. I saw so many individuals being arrested and placed into the Fulton County Jail, sometime sitting there for months

because of unmet needs and quality-of-life concerns and lack of resources. That experience eventually led me into my current role as the legal coordinator overseeing the post booking process. This work is also very personal for me. I have struggled with depression myself, and that experience has deeply shaped the way I approached both my life and this work. It has taught me how important support systems, compassion, and human connection truly are. PAD has not only shown up for our participants, but has shown up for me too. Today, we currently have 26 participants from our post booking program this year who have been released from jail and remain actively engaged with their PAD care navigators; while working toward housing, mental health treatment, sobriety, stability and rebuilding their lives. To me, those are not just numbers. Those are people being given the opportunity to move forward with support instead of continuing to cycle through the jail system. I'm asking for your continued support of diversion and care based responses in Fulton County because these programs truly change lives. We need the right response for the right situation. Thank you for your time."

TERRY THOMPSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. My name is Terry Thompson, and I am a care navigator supervisor. I've worked in social services for the past 12 years and in the legal field for the past 18 years. I've been employed at PAD for the last three years. We need your support to continue our work and service to the community and the diversion center. Your support will allow us to continue participant advocacy with incarceration, housing support, disability, and mental health services, wellness, and many other health-related services. One example is the participant David Lee. He's an example of a life that was changed with the help of PAD. David was at his lowest when he was diverted to PAD in 2021. After many incarcerations, alcohol and substance usage, he was ready for change and we were there to help him. David was placed at Many Women of Human Excellence, a nonprofit and alcohol and drug rehab treatment for a variety of substance use addiction. He completed the program. He is thriving now and a motivational speaker. David is housed; he currently receives disability and attends church and weekly meetings at NAAA. He volunteers with WWJD to feed the unsheltered. David recently purchased a house, and he is getting married. We are so proud of him. Why does PAD work? We meet the participants where they are and thrive to make a difference in their lives. We don't give up on the participants. We work step-by-step and work with each participant at their own pace. We motivate, we encourage, we cry, we celebrate, and most importantly, we do this work together. Thank you for your support."

MARCUS HARPER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning and good day. My name is Marcus Harper. I'm a PAD navigator with over ten years' experience. I'm also a native of Atlanta, so this work is personal to me, because these are my people, my community, and our neighbors. One thing that makes PAD different is that we don't just do case management, we build relationships. We walk with people through some of the hardest moments of their lives. We stay connected even when progress takes time. I've seen the impact firsthand. I've sat with people in court rooms while they were facing life-changing situations, just making sure they didn't feel alone. I've helped with small things like getting medication, rides, or helping somebody with important phone calls. And sometimes the biggest thing we do is just simply show up, listen, when somebody

feels down. Right now, I'm supporting a participant who is incarcerated. We're already working together on a plan for when they're released, making sure support resources and program's in place so that they have a real chance to move forward. Just the other day the person's mother called me thanking me over and over just for being there and not giving up on their loved one. That's what PAD does. This work is beyond paperwork, beyond checking boxes. These relationships change lives. They help people believe in change -- believe change is possible. I ask that you continue to support PAD and the work we do in helping people in Fulton County, Atlanta period. Maybe, even some people that you know, personally. Thank you for your time."

VICTORIA KENDRICK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. My name is Victoria. I'm a master's level social worker with ten years' experience serving individuals and families in social services right here in Atlanta. I'm also an Atlanta native, growing up in Southwest Atlanta. I saw both the strength of our communities and the challenges that too many families and individuals face every day. Raised by single mother, I witnessed firsthand how life-changing it could be when families have access to real support, real opportunities, and people who genuinely care. I also saw what happens when those resources are missing. That experience is what led me into social work and fuels my passion for advocacy today. At PAD, we are unique in both what we do and how we do it. I often call PAD the unicorn agency, because we offer services that not everyone has access to or that everyone is able to receive. We understand that people are more than their circumstances. Our approach: secure is rooted in dignity, compassion, consistency, and meeting people where they are. We don't believe in temporary fixes. We believe in long-term transformation. Every day, we work with individuals who are facing different barriers that people often are unhoused, mental health challenges, substance use, unemployment, trauma, domestic violence, and poverty. But with the right support system in place, lives can and do change. A success story I wanted to share with you all today is about a participant that was diverted for criminal trespassing. I was able to work with that individual, was able to work with her on getting her basic documents, got her into emergency shelter, and she was able to regain custody of her daughter. Three month later, we were able to get her into rapid rehousing. And she successfully is employed and thriving. The reality of this work cannot continue at the level our community deserves without increased funding and investment. The need in Atlanta is growing and organizations like PAD are on the front lines responding to the needs every day."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

VICTORIA KENDRICK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "When you invest in PAD, you're not just funding a program; you're investing in safer communities, stronger families, and a better outcome for people who deserve the opportunity to thrive. You are helping create pathways to stability, hope, and independence. As someone who grew up here, works here, and deeply believes in the city, I know Atlanta is strongest when we take care of each other."

CAMERON JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board of Commissioners. I'm Cameron Johnson. I worked as a care navigator with PAD for

almost three years now. Every day at the diversion center I met people carrying trauma, behavioral health challenges, housing instability, survival stress that cannot be resolved through one interaction or one night of support. What makes PAD effective is not just crisis response, it's long-term case management that allows trust and stability to develop over time. I want to share one example. I worked with someone who had already come a long way. He had achieved stable housing, a place where many programs would have ended case management, but tragedy struck for him. Afterward, we temporarily moved him into our respite hotel so he could regain a sense of safety. When I went to check on him one day for what was supposed to be a brief visit became several hours. The trauma, paranoia, and everything combined with existing behavioral health challenges had pushed him into crisis. In that moment, he told me he needed me to stay with him that night, and that afternoon I remained with him well past work hours helping facilitate calls with Georgia Crisis and law enforcement so he could get the support that he needed. That experience reminded me that recovery isn't always linear. Stability can often disappear overnight. Without ongoing relationships and support, people can quickly end up back in crisis. So today, my request is simple. Please keep supporting PAD at the diversion center, especially the long-term case management that lets us help people, not just during a crisis, but as they work toward recovery and stability. Sometimes what really makes a difference isn't just responding in the moment, it's having someone who stays after the crisis has passed. Thank you."

MARK PETERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board of Commissioners. My name is Mark Dean Peters. I began a commitment of being of service to others in September of 1999 through a fellowship dedicated to supporting individuals and strengthening communities. Over the years, this passion for advocacy, recovery support, and empowerment has grown into a professional career centered on hope, resilience, and peer support. In 2012, I earned a certified peer specialist certification followed by forensic peer specialist certification in 2014, and a care of addictive disease certification in 2016. These credentials reflect extensive experience working with individuals navigating mental health challenges, and substance abuse driven by the belief that diversity is one of our great strengths and I'm dedicated to creating safe spaces, supporting spaces where individuals can rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose. Nothing is more rewarding than witnessing someone move from hopelessness to hope, and ultimately into a home of their own. Thank you very much."

DARCI JARET, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board. Nice to be here. My name is Darci Jaret. I'm a -- the training coordinator with PAD, and I'm also a person who served for two years as a care navigator with PAD. And so, not only do I have ten years' experience working in social services, but I'm also a person in long-term recovery. I'm a person who access services and experienced homelessness here in Atlanta. I stand before you today because I know personally what it means to need more than just a referral. It means we need someone who stays with us, we need to build relationships. When I was struggling, recovery did not happen because somebody gave me a phone number or handed me a deadline. Recovery happened because people built relationships with me rooted in trust, dignity, patience, and consistency. It happened because someone believed the life that I was living could be different and they saw that in me. This is why PAD's role inside the diversion center is essential. It

matters. The recent SAMSA homeless housing resource that you've just been handed, says clearly that people experiencing homelessness and substance use disorder need relationship-centered care, warm handoffs, persistent engagement, and long-term care navigation support. Especially, it warns against transitions and disconnections in care, which create an elevated risk of overdose. PAD is the agency that does this in the diversion center. We don't want to have a diversion center that expects change in one referral or one phone number. PAD is the reason the diversion center is effective."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

DARCI JARET, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Please support PAD. This asks comes not just from lived experience of myself, but from what we know and what we've heard from all these care navigators. Thank you very much for your time."

BOBBY GREEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Bobby Green, and thank you for having me to speak. I'm in a PAD program or whatever, and my request is for you to strengthen PAD or whatever. Ronald Reagan said it best: peace throughout strength. PAD is a program that you can get a lot of many different things from it, but you got to want to change and want to -- do the program or whatever. PAD is just -- what can I say? PAD is a great program. PAD help you, you can call 311, and PAD will come where you are, get you food, clothing, hygiene products. PAD is hands-on with the community, and I love to be in the program of PAD, and I wish y'all keep strengthening PAD; and my care navigator, Victoria, once told me, it's not how you start out in life, but it's how you end. Thank you."

ERIC MILLER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Eric Miller. I can remember when I became homeless back in 2017, and I ended up coming here to Atlanta in 2017 or the beginning of 2018. And I ended up going to jail. I let them know I was homeless while I was in there, and I got picked up by PAD after a two year stay. PAD did for me for what I couldn't do for myself. I didn't know where to look. I didn't know where to have these things provided for me, but I see PAD getting bigger. I see it being nationwide, because it helps a lot -- it helps a lot of people. Being entwined with the mental health system, because that's a big part of homelessness right now, I think that PAD will elevate, and thank you for your time."

QUASHA ZANDERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Quasha Zanders, and I am a resident of Fulton County. As someone who worked at PAD as a care navigator, I have seen firsthand that diversion only works when people are connected to real ongoing support. The care navigators at PAD do far more than hand someone a referral and hope for the best. They walk alongside people through some of the hardest moments in their lives. They build trust with people who have often been failed repeatedly by institutions and systems. They help people secure identification documents, apply for benefits, access health care, enter treatment programs, find housing, attend court dates, reconnect with family, and develop plans for long-term stability and recovery. Care navigators coordinate across agencies and providers so people do not fall through the cracks. They meet people where they are, whether that's at a jail or an encampment without judging -- without judgment, and continue showing

up even when progress is slow. Care navigation is not an extra service attached to diversion. It is the reason diversion succeeds. One thing I know for sure is Atlanta needs PAD, the unhoused population needs diversion services, and the care navigators need to be paid. I no longer work for PAD, but I will always stand behind them and the work they do for this community. So I am requesting and asking you all to provide PAD with the necessary funds they need so they can continue offering diversion services to the people that need it the most. Thank you."

TALIA COOPERSMITH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Talia Coopersmith, and I'm a medical student and fellow at Stop Criminalization of Our Patients. We research the ways in which the legal system impacts health and what we might do differently to support health and safety. Many people today have articulated the need for evidence-based alternative response programs, such as PAD, as a humanitarian and economic solution for a city tackling immense quality-of-life disparities. And with the release of 911 and 311 data over the past year, PAD's diversion tells the story of strong foundations with potential for incredible development. Over the past year, PAD has responded to over 1900 community requests through 311, leading to 1800 community response and 785 newly enrolled participants utilizing PAD's care navigation services. Beyond this, PAD has the infrastructure for growth. For every 311 call that goes to PAD in 2025, there were approximately 19 calls to 911 for similar quality-of-life concerns. Meanwhile, PAD's average response time remains over ten minutes faster than that of 911. And with the diversion's center potential to divert over 10,000 jail bookings from AC/DC and Fulton County Jail, the story of PAD is one of underutilization above ineffectuality becomes clear. However, it cannot be understated that the success of alternative response programs in Atlanta are contingent upon investment in growth, not regression. If PAD's contract for the center of diversion services remains unaddressed, up to six staff members will lose their job snowballing to accumulate 126 individuals who would lose long-term support from care navigators. This would mean cutting these individuals from the lifeline of connecting them with housing assistance, transportation, legal assistance, access to their own documentation, the rights and resources that protect livelihood and decrease recidivism. PAD is not just a pitstop in the cycle of incarceration, it is a way out. The infrastructure is present; the community support has been built."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

TALIA COOPERSMITH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "The room for expansion is wide. I'm asking this Board to resolve PAD's contract and ensure the work of diversion does not become a road to nowhere."

AKIL BROOKS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Akil Brooks. As a young black professional who's worked in tech as well as academia, I am often struck by the disparity I encounter on the streets. I travel between class meetings, or to and from offices or co-working locations. As a professional, I know I must stay focused on my duties. As a young black person, I realize that many of the people I see could be -- could have been like me once. The data overwhelmingly shows that black folk are most affected by homelessness. I began volunteering with PAD when one of my employers

offered volunteer hours to workers. I was happy to find others who are making the world a better place rather than increasing poverty and misery. Instead of merely throwing people back on the street after they recovered, PAD provides long-term support to folks by actively addressing the issues that led to their law violations in the first place. The diversion center needs PAD in order to handle case management and care navigation. This is how they help folks find housing, healthcare, and income after being diverted from arrest or from jail. The city of Atlanta can alleviate the pressure of the jail population and reduce the number people living on the street by renewing PAD's contract. Please ensure this aspect of the diversion center continues as an institution. Thank you."

KATHI EDWARDS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "How y'all doing? My name is Kathi Edwards. I'm a recovering addict who works for PAD, this fantastic organization behind me on both sides. Let me tell you why they are needed in the diversion center, the care navigation team. From my experience, we go in there; we've got no help, no direction, no case management, no suggestions, no nothing. We come out we'd be repeat offenders again. Today, I pay taxes. I'm tired of people going to jail for not having no help. I continuously keep paying for that. The care navigation team does everything they need to do. They need to be back in the diversion center. They need to have control of it, because they give people directions, they make suggestions, not demands, which works out better. They give case management, they give them information, they lead him today, not tomorrow, or later on. They are fantastic. They are awesome. Another reason why PAD is so awesome, they're the only organization in the state of Georgia that reduces jail time and can get people out of jail for nonviolent crimes. So that's why we need PAD, the care navigation team, which the heart of PAD, back in the diversion center. The people that booted us out, that said they were going do this and do that, they ain't doing nothing. While we stand on the sidelines still busting our tails to help not them people or those people, our village. We're all a village. We need help. This is why I'm with his organization. They are awesome. They do everything they said they going to do and more, even with less funding. That's why they need --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KATHI EDWARDS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- to be continued being funded. Whatever they ask for, give it to them, because they know what to do with it. They do what they say. Thank you."

LARRY ARNOLD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Larry Arnold. That's my name. I thank God, number one, for PAD. They had help me from Rice Street. That's when I found out about PAD. They come and visit you. They get you a store. They uplift you when you're in a place like that. Everybody ain't fortunate enough to get stuff. They do do that. Make me feel good, you know, by giving me a \$50 store, and then they turn around and give me a store. They sell it for strip. What are these strips, I don't know, because I don't do it no more. I used to smoke crack. I don't smoke crack no more and I definitely don't do that strip or whatever they do over there in the Fulton County Jail. Y'all know what's going on over there. It's sad. But PAD, you get with PAD, they uplift me. I've got my own place now. I'm not living in the streets. I was sleeping in U-Haul

trucks, sleeping under -- in folk's cars. I don't do that no more. I got my own place, Thank you God. Ms. Victoria, she helped me, she talk to me, she, like, Mr. Arnold, you got to do this. Mr. Arnold, you got to do that, and she right. You know, she a young lady, and look at me, I'm 67 years old, a young lady helping me how to live my life and what, and I should be telling her, she telling me. So I thank God for PAD. Oh, yes, I do and that's all I got to say."

AVA MOBLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. I'm emotional. I would like to say God is good all the time. Everybody's not in a situation, born into a situation. You get into a situation where people drift off and fall off. When you're a strong person, sometimes you need help as well. So you become the weak, nobody's there for you. So you like, where do I go to run for help? You know what I'm saying? And everything you done done you possibly can deal with anybody, they ain't nowhere around. I've been here for ten years and I've been up and down, but I woke up in the bed with the police taking me to jail for me being sleep in an abandoned apartment building, but instead of the police taking me to jail, he asked did I need any help? Nobody asked me that, and I don't want to ask anybody for any help because everybody help ain't good. I'm in this program for the last four or five years, and you work the program, it helps work you. You understand? Some people want it and some people don't, but at the same time, I am very blessed, because I'm not from here, you know what I'm saying? My family's not here, and I don't want to go back home, you know what I'm saying, but I still want to continue to build myself and be a better person, you know, and I'm grateful for the PAD place. So yes, you guys need the PAD place. You need people, you need us, you know I'm saying? We need people. We need help. You know what I'm saying? I appreciate y'all, and y'all have a blessed day."

YANA BARTA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, y'all. My name is Yana Batra. Thank you for having me here today. I am no expert, I'm just here as a community member because I love PAD. I know that they do incredible work and you've heard from so many people who are doing that work and who've been impacted by that work today. I've learned so much from them, and I'm asking you to listen to them and learn from them, too. And what I've learned is that, you know, the diversion center exists because we -- this community rightfully decided that for people who are struggling, arrested, in jail, aren't the answer, they aren't the solution to the problem. And PAD's prearrest diversion model is actually offering real support. It's offering real dignity instead of punitive measures, especially for members of our community that are homeless or struggling with addiction or mental health. It's such an important resource. And as aside, you know, as a young woman myself, like I feel much more protected with PAD around. I've called the 311 hotline before, and I've been so grateful for the amazing folks who just de-escalate it and made everyone feel safe in that interaction. And that model works best after somebody walks through the door of the diversion center, because like you've heard, these folks are building real relationships and they're doing the work to create long-term recovery and stability for people. Putting people in jail just does nothing to change the underlying conditions that are -- and it's creating a revolving door. It's punishing people for systemic issues, and it does more to overspend, you know, taxpayer dollars than it does to make our community safer. Through the diversion center, our community members can actually find help to

navigate the complexities of housing and substance use treatment and healthcare and legal assistance. But since March, PAD hasn't been able to accept referrals, and even despite that, you've heard like these folks have continued to show up for hundreds of people without a contract --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds.

YANA BARTA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- past their working hours because they're committed to the people they serve. The resources to fund this care navigation is already there. You guys already put it in the approved 2026 and 2027 budget. You named PAD as a core partner in the agreement governing the center. So I'm asking you to follow through on that commitment and fund PAD's contract directly. Thank you so much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It's six more."

TIFFANY ROBERTS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Tiffany Roberts, deputy -- I'm sorry. Policy Director at the Southern Center for Human Rights. You've already heard from Mr. Franklin, and I just wanted to share that Southern Center has been doing work for the last two years. We've launched a campaign called PAD and not politics when we saw that the Dickens administration was working really hard not only to defund PAD's mobile diversion services, but also to impair their ability to provide care navigation at the diversion -- at the Center for Diversion and Services. So we were able to kind of process some of the data that we received, and we're happy -- we shared some of it with you all, but I'm happy to share more as other results come in. Some of the things that we see is one, you know that the Fulton members, first, just want to say thank you to those of you who serve on the justice policy board and remain in contact with the members of the justice policy board for actually flanking PAD and the need for them to provide care navigation through the Center for Diversion and Services, and also pushing back against the notion that somehow contractors for the Center for Diversion and Services are authorized to act outside of the scope of the IGA. What I want you to be mindful of is an addition to sort of this direct attack on PAD. What we're also seeing is the degradation of the other infrastructure that would be needed to provide services to people who are experiencing homelessness, so that looks like increasing funding for APD, increasing criminalization of unhoused people even working with the folks who were supposed to be supporting them through erecting hostile architecture, asking APD for cover for the World Cup and so on. So --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

TIFFANY ROBERTS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- so much too much to share my public comment, but Southern Center stands 100 percent behind PAD and also are adamant about naming the attacks coming from the city of Atlanta, and we want to be thankful to you all for supporting PAD despite that attack. Thank you so much."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Devin Barrington-Ward. Congratulations to Chairman Pitts and Commissioner

Barrett for advancing to you all's runoffs. My hope is that the Commissioners will serve as the adults in the room when it comes to what is taking place with the crisis at the Fulton County Jail. It is a crisis due to mismanagement; it's a crisis due to a lack of vision, and it is a crisis because we are not using the resources that Fulton County taxpayers have already paid for. We've invested so much money in to the diversion center, and so to cut out PAD out of this process is abhorrent. The fact of the matter is that they deal with some of the people in this city that many of us don't have the courage to deal with. Many of us don't have the character to deal with. Many of us don't have the heart to deal with. So when PAD comes here and asks you as the county to step in and stop the city of Atlanta shortsightedness around these contract negotiations, it's a simple change. It doesn't require an act of Congress. It just requires an act of this Body right here, and I believe that there are members here who are willing to act because we see that what is happening at Rice Street is no longer sustainable. The world knows that we are home to the jail where people get eaten alive by lice and bedbugs; where people whose life and limb because of the mismanagement of our sheriff. We are also here in support today of the Resolution that is going to urge, demand, request, require the sheriff to turn away these low-level offenses that will be taking place particularly as we are on the cusp of the World Cup where we could see mass arrests in the ways that we saw in the 1996 Olympics."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "The city of Atlanta is willing to put Fulton County in a very precarious situation by not utilizing the diversion services to its full extent, and so that's why it's important that you all put pressure on the sheriff to ensure that he's using his authority to turn away these low-level offenses so that the jail does not continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, I still have speaker cards. I'm not sure if everyone had a chance to speak. Nicholas Burroughs, Matthew Nursery, Ava Mobley, Jill Lindsay, Melodie Rossar, and Trindalin Browning."

NICHOLAS BURROUGHS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Nicholas Burroughs, and I'm respectfully addressing your offices and tenure, and I appreciate your time in advance. I'm here on behalf of a group of homeowners who have had their homes stolen in the wake of the financial crisis of 2008. As we all know, homelessness is cyclical. This group proves it, and I'm sure either their parents or other loved ones have also lost their homes. And I'm here to advocate that we have our titles to our homes recognized by the state of Georgia. Our group has gone through the process of having our warranty deeds authenticated by the Governor, Kemp, and his office. For some reason, there's been no movement on behalf of the counties where this has happened; even the judges have been removed from the magistrate court who have unlawfully divested us. And to note, these were not courts that had jurisdiction to take our homes, but they did nonetheless. So I'm asking that our warranty deeds are enforced and that a commission is set forth to ensure that this stuff does not continue. I understand Governor Kemp wishes to have Atlanta continue to bring in real estate investment corporations. That is taking away from our young and future homeowners to

be able to get into the homeowners market, and it's costing unknown amounts of money for individuals to just enter the market because they're competing with individuals who have billions of dollars. So I'm just asking that we think about this and we think about how we pushed to shape the future of Atlanta, and I thank you again for your time and consideration. Good day."

JILL LINDSEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Good morning, Board of Commissioners. My name is Jill Lindsey. I live in District five in the city of South Fulton. I've adopted Old National Highway and other neighboring streets. I'm going to be short because I only have two minutes. We are requesting that the Commissioners and the Board of Elections remove Welcome All Park as a polling location for the citizens in our city. We found out that they are using that facility, and that it's less than 110, and it's supposed to be 150, where you're feeding over, they're saying 400 seniors. And that is serious, because the FBI is already investigating Fulton County and we don't want to be a part of that. So we're asking and requesting that the Election Board in Fulton County look at the fact of removing Welcome All Park as a polling location. Thank you."

MELODIE ROSSAR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Melanie Rossar, and I am the campaign and membership supervisor with Women on the Rise. I'm here because I'm concerned about how Atlanta continues responding to low-level issues tied to mental health, substance use, poverty, and unmet needs. Right now, police are still being dispatched to calls that could and should be handled by PAD. These are situations that often do not require an armed response, but instead require care, support, trained professionals who know how to de-escalate without pushing people deeper into the system. And this is before the World Cup. As Atlanta prepares for the increased pressure that will come with the World Cup, we should already be planning differently. Our emergency systems are going to be overwhelmed, especially the 311 not operating during that time. So we are still defaulting to police for low-level calls instead of dispatching PAD during PAD operating hours. Why are officers still being sent when there are other options available? And I also want to ask, do you know how many people in your districts are being arrested for low-level offenses right now? Because the public still has not received the data from APD on citation and arrests outcomes tying to city ordinances, violations, and misdemeanors, like substance use, trespassing, open container, shoplifting, and public indecency. Data that was supposed to be released under legislation that many of you supported. The public deserves transparency and you deserve transparency. We cannot police our way through the World Cup. Atlanta needs real care, response, and infrastructure --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MELODIE ROSSAR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and PAD should already be a central part of that plan, not treated like the afterthought. People deserve support; not unnecessary arrests. Thank you."

TRINDALIN BROWNING, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Board of Commissioners. My name is Trindalin Browning, and I am the reentry and office supervisor at Women on the Rise. And today I'm here to speak to you that someone

directly impacted by the criminal justice system, and now I do the work every day to help people that are coming out of incarceration. What I have learned is that too many people are still entering the system over low-level issues connected to poverty, mental health, substance use, homelessness, and just being able to survive. These situations often do not require police intervention, yet police remain the primary response even when PAD is operating and alternative services exist. As we prepare for the World Cup, I am asking you all to think differently, to think bigger, to think more than just policing as an option. We are about to embark on thousands of people coming here to Atlanta for the World Cup where visitors will come to Atlanta and our emergency systems will become overwhelmed. What is the plan to reduce the unnecessary police calls, police dispatches and to connect people to care instead jail? We know that we do not need to dispatch low-level 911 calls when we have PAD. Instead of police --- instead of calling the police whenever appropriate, especially during times when 311 is unavailable, let's allow our trained community responders to handle the situation that do not require police. So what I am asking is that you all would utilize PAD, that you would fund PAD, and that you would cut down on unnecessary jailing. We cannot continue --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

TRINDALIN BROWNING, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- to criminalize poverty and crisis while claiming that we want safer communities. Real public safety means reducing unnecessary arrests, reducing jail involvement, and investing in responses rooted in care, stability, and dignity. Thank you for your time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We're 12 minutes over the hour, so."

CLERK GRIER: "Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have six speakers on Zoom."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Okay, quickly."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The first person to speak is Dominique Huff."

DOMINIQUE HUFF, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Dominique Huff. Thank you all for listening me today. I know you have a person from MARTA coming up there to discuss a few things. But I do want you to ask them about what are we going to do to improve services for night and weekend riders, because I see all the people from PAD at the meeting, part of the reason why we have the PAD problems. We have people who can't get to work. We have people who want to work, but there's no reliable bus service. So I come to y'all today. I sent y'all an e-mail. Want to see more solutions in regard to improving our rail service and our bus service, and as you all have the contract with MARTA, I want you all to definitely ask some questions. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Robby Caban."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Great. I'm a Fulton County advocate and real estate broker. I'm here today because public trust in Fulton County government continues to erode, particularly the county handling of animal control, animal services and oversight of taxpayer-funded contractors, or NGOs, agencies operating under your authority. Recent ethics complaints alleging the city manager improperly used animal control resources for personal interests deeply -- raises deeply troubling questions for taxpayers. Animal control is not simply a nonprofit service. These are sworn deputized enforcement officers operating under law enforcement authority and connected to the Fulton County Sheriff's jurisdiction. There are official reports, official investigations and taxpayer-funded safety operations. Many taxpayers are asking how can residents trust the integrity of the system if enforcement resources can allegedly be redirected toward personal disputes, while communities continue to struggle with dangerous dog complaints, loose animals, attacks, neglect places, and lack of response. What makes this even more concerning is the parallel pattern. Many residents, whistleblowers, staff volunteers, and advocates have already described for years involving the county animal shelter contractor, Lifeline Animal Project. Residents have responsibly reported concerns, efficiencies, dangerous conditions, neglect and transparency issues and operational failures describe retaliation targeting, exclusion, intimidation, and dismissal instead of accountability. There are parallel patterns under your oversight as the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. This is why taxpayers have repeatedly demanded a full forensic audit of the entire county service operations including shelter operations, animal control, field enforcement, contract expenditures, policies, leadership structures, and contractor influences. Without transparency and accountability --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- lastly, I want to address PAD. We cannot continue treating systems, the root, the lack of divestment in the South Side, jobs, money for (inaudible) is ridiculous after generations of divestment. As a real estate broker --"

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Jenn Simmons. Jenn Simmons. All right. Next person to speak is Linda Nash. Linda Nash. The next person to speak is Megan Harris. Megan Harris. And this concludes our Zoom public comment."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 6, Presentations to the Board: **26-0285**, MARTA Quarterly Briefing."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Hello. Is that better? Sorry. I didn't mean to turn it off. I'd like to recognize my Fulton Board members Freda Hardage,

Elizabeth Bolton Harris, and with me today, Al Pond, in the audience. Can we go to the next slide? For our agenda today, we'll go through the items as noted on the slide. For item number two, the proposed FY2027 budget. I'm going to bring up my Deputy CFO, Greg Patterson, to speak on those items. Also with me today, staff, is our Chief of Staff, Stephen Parker additional governmental affairs support, Carolina Ramos, and Head of Planning, Bryan Vansickle. Next slide. Next slide. Under ridership: Our mobility ridership continues to show year-over-year growth and has surpassed our pre-pandemic levels. The streetcar and rail ridership estimates are now derived from manual accounts, and as you can see, the rail ridership has spiked to an estimated 4 million riders. We believe the jump in ridership in January is due to the fact that we changed this methodology where we are doing manual counts as well as looking at video, doing counts in that way and taking statistically significant samples. Prior to that point, a lot of those lost rides were due to fare evasion and malfunctioning gates, which we are addressing through our Better Breeze program, which I'll jump to later in the presentation. I will also, later in the presentation, go into greater depth around our Next Gen launch and MARTA Reach. With that --next slide. We have our proposed FY2027 budget. Mr. Patterson, if you'll join me."

GREG PATTERSON, DEPUTY CFO, MARTA: "Thank you, Mr. Hunt. Good morning still, Chair Pitts, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, and Members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. The proposed budget was shaped by MARTA's four strategic priorities: enhancing safety, improving cleanliness, increasing reliability, and what we added this year was improving our customer experience. Each decision to fund a cost center budget or a capital project went through the filter of these four items. If it was contributing to this, it stayed. If it did not contribute to this, it did not stay. And so, by grounding our fiscal plan in these pillars, we ensured that our resources are directed towards the actions with the greatest impact on rider confidence and daily operational performance. Next slide, please. Here we present the operating revenues forecast for Fiscal Year 2027; they total \$679.9 million. Sales tax remains our largest revenue source with federal assistance expected to increase due to grant awards connected with World Cup and enhance preventative maintenance reimbursements as well. Passenger revenues are projected to strengthen as regular service levels stabilize, and completion of the Better Breeze system will help us reduce our fair revenue loss. Modest growth is also expected in advertising and parking revenues. Together, these revenue streams create a stable foundation for MARTA's operations in Fiscal Year 2027. Next slide, please. For our proposed operating expenses, they total \$663.1 million. Labor costs inclusive of salaries, wages, fringe benefits, and overtime represent the largest part of our expenditure budget and operations, that's nearly two-thirds of all expenditures. That's also pretty normal for a transit organization. Contractual services make up the next largest category at 13.9 percent. That includes targeted cleaning of our stations, and vehicles, IT staffing support, and contractor paratransit services. Materials and supplies represent 10.9 percent when you add our fuel and propulsion together with the other supplies to deliver services. Next slide, please. All right. This shows our overall financial structure for the capital budget for Fiscal Year 2027. Across the state of good repair, more MARTA city of Atlanta program and more MARTA Clayton County expansion, total sources amount to approximately \$1.5 billion with planned uses totaling \$919.8 million. State of good repair accounts for the majority of expenditures and

includes both capital project investments and debt service costs. I do want to call a note on that. Debt issue is a pretty large piece of that, but that is because MARTA is also going through a generational improvement of the infrastructure that's in place, with the new trains, new buses. We are tackling our traction power substations. They're not exactly a glorious part of the organization, but they're very important to keep the third rail power and to keep the train going, so all of that is being invested in for renewal and replacement. The alignment of these sources and uses support MARTA's highest priorities, renewing our aging assets, advancing key expansion commitments, and maintaining physical flexibility for future capital needs. Next slide, please."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Now in the presentation, I'll turn to the capital program. Our Airport Station, we continue to see progress at Airport Station. I'm happy to report that the Ride Store is open and operating and accepting customers, as you can see in the photo to the right. And the second elevator has been installed, and we are on track to have all of this work completed prior to World Cup. Next slide. We'll now move onto the Rapid A-Line Project. The soft opening occurred on April 18th, and was very well received by the public. All 14 stations are in use. The yellow or gold colored circles on the screen are temporary stops being utilized at those four locations that are still under construction. We are in the process of installing red MMA or red paint on the Hank Aaron. It is installed all around this facility in downtown. We can move to the next slide. The next picture -- the next slide is pictured on the left is the -- I'm sorry. I apologize. One back -- is City Hall. It's just showing you how bright the Rapid A-Line Stations are, and the one on the right is the installation of the red paint or MMA at Georgia State station. We can move to the next slide. This slide is also a view of the Rapid A-Line at the capitol and the transit signal priority -- this is a section where the queue jumped or the bus gets to jump in front of the regular traffic. That project is coming to a close by GDOT and we expect that to be done prior to World Cup as well. It is in place now and operating, but they're making certain software and other improvements to that program. As part of Rapid, next slide -- our rapid response public engagement has been extremely active in the community. Given the soft launch, our engagement now is serving focused on educating the public of the temporary stops and where to stand and how to utilize them at those four stops. Also generally, how to use the fare, because this service uses an off-board payment and validation methodology where you pay for your fare and tap before you get on the vehicle. Since rides have been complementary on the soft launch, we encourage and invite everybody to go down to Terminal South, which is at our terminus down by the Beltline connection because they're offering local government employees a 15 percent discount on Mondays for their lunch. Myself and Deputy General Manager, Alan enjoyed that this Monday, in fact. Next slide. I'll turn to another very large scaled project in the county, Five Points Transformation. This is two projects in one. As a reminder, the first is the transformation project pictured in the images above, and the station rehabilitation which I'll get to in a moment. Briefly, we've relocated our MARTA police precinct in this area, to Ashby Station and our MARTA Hope Office and lost and found, those have been relocated to Lindberg, but all those services are still available. We're also partnering with Mercedes Benz, State Farm, the SODO Group, or the South Downtown Group, Centennial Yards, and doing beautification around Five Points; that project is going to launch at the beginning of

June, where we'll be installing beautification around the construction barrier, which will remain in place post World Cup. Next slide. Downstairs at Five Points, we have continued to make progress on all platforms. We've installed new seating, lighting; the work is going on feverishly prior to the Commissioner's meeting. Today I was walking through Five Points inspecting the work and this too will be completed prior to World Cup. Our next slide, the Cleveland Metropolitan Arterial Rapid Transit, or ART Project is pictured on your slide. The construction start is later this month, and we are very, very excited about that. We're going to start this work in East Point outside of the construction clean zone, which will allow us to get a jump on the project without interfering any World Cup operations or disturbing any visitors to the region. We anticipate the construction will begin in the city of Atlanta around September of 2026. Next slide. I'm going to move onto the MARTA Rapid C-Line, or the Campbellton/Greenbrier Transit Hub Project. Our final design consultant is on board and is already working with the planning consultant doing a handoff so we can get deep into design. We are going to continue our public engagement and outreach. We're taking a couple-month pause because of World Cup, and everybody's going to be very distracted to make sure that we get enough public engagement back. We're going to reignite that in August and we'll continue public engagement throughout the life of the design. In conjunction with that, at present, less glorious, we're going to be working on right-of-way impacts and utility impacts in trying to minimize those throughout World Cup with those working teams. Next slide. The Bankhead Station platform extension project, we're extremely excited about this. The current design is at 60 percent. We had a land swap, which was approved by our board in February, which allowed us to swap land that we had north of Bankhead Station, not pictured on the image, for land where you have in the image where it says bus loop and everything south of existing station. MARTA received that land. It allowed us to take the bus loop from underneath the station in that sort of purple, magenta color and move it away from there because it's a lot of cross pedestrian bus intersection, so it's a much safer station. It'll improve the flow and circulation of the station in addition to extending the platform to receive the new railcars. Can we move to the next slide? Now I'm going to move on to our partially funded, no less important, but partially funded projects. Next slide. Thank you. MARTA has continued to advance the Georgia 400 BRT project by working toward our 30 percent design on a proposed three in-line station for this very important BRT project. While we have a hundred million dollar state bond and a \$26 million commitment from the SR 400 Peach Partner's Group, the group is developing and building the Peach Pass lanes on Georgia 400, we still have a small funding gap to match. I'm going to get into some of the legislative actions we've been getting into to try to advance that later in the presentation. We have worked with the True North CID to update the cities and keep them well-informed about what we're doing, as well as the perimeter CID, on the progress of this project. You are on the correct slide -- the automated transit network pilot. As reminder, we are partnered with the ATL Airport Community Improvement Districts, or the AACIDs, in studying the feasibility of deploying ATN in the South Metro region. This study, in addition to the work that's ongoing, is going to determine the benefits, the cost, the impacts, the operations, the total cost of ownership number on where it might be able to be deployed. The second project governance committee meeting was held on January 26th of this year. Thank you, Chair Pitts, for participating and attending that meeting; and at that meeting, Phase Three of this project and

construction activities was unanimously approved. And we have another program governance committee meeting coming up in the coming weeks, very soon. Next slide. I mentioned the feasibility study: On the feasibility study, in conjunction with the actual pilot and the construction, as you can see on the right-hand side of the slide, we're studying -- excuse me -- where this could fit in the Southern Crescent. The stakeholder meeting was held on April 23rd, 2026, to update on the current project status. The route evaluation methodology includes a couple of tiers focused on network connectivity, the population, and employment access now and in the future; and then the second tier focused on the feasibility of implementation and constraints around deploying this type of service. Next slide. I'd like to move on in the agenda to other news. And in the next slide, we're going to move into NextGen. As I noted in the beginning, we're going to dive deeper into NextGen and MARTA Reach. The launch of NextGen bus network came after a five-year comprehensive process, so we included this slide just to remind everybody and remind the public where we began and how we got here. We are already looking at the NextGen's momentum, which I'm going to get into on the next slide. We've launched on April 18th. It was a wonderful weekend. Thankfully, the weather held out. There were 315 buses and have 315 buses operating across 81 routes. That weekend was historic for MARTA. It was the largest change to our bus service in our history, and we now have tripled the number of routes with headways of 15 minutes or better, and a third of our bus routes have headways, or wait times, of 20 minutes or better, which we are extremely excited about for our patrons. Next slide. Some of the statistics from that weekend show how team MARTA stepped up to help customers weather this change. We had over 900 ambassadors out in the system every day from the start of our service to the wee hours at the close of our service. Our customer service team fielded over three times as many calls as they normally do during this weekend launch; and just for some figures, the first three days of the NextGen rolled out delivered 15,000 bus trips and carried approximately 250,000 customers. The first week of NextGen delivered just over a million bus trips that carried nearly 700,000 passengers, both of which are increases over our normal numbers. The NextGen bus network had successes and some opportunities for improvement. On the next slide, I'm going to talk about those. Over the launch weekend, some of our successes and things we're most proud of, in addition to our patrons, are our transit ambassadors, our front-line workers who made conversions, some of which had to happen overnight just to get the buses out and operating properly, and our support center, in fielding all of those calls and questions. The same weekend that we rolled out the NextGen bus network, we also rolled out Georgia's first BRT line. I also want to speak about customers who may have lost service, or customers who don't appreciate the increased frequency maybe near their home, apartment, townhouse. I'm sure some of you heard from your constituents, and I know these conversations are not easy. We've heard from some of our patrons as well. We know the change isn't going to be positive for everyone, but this did come after five years of study, public outreach, engagement and planning. But what brings us some hope is that on balance, the benefits to the majority of our patrons accessing tripled the number of routes at 15-minute headways are better, has been beneficial. Next slide. Let's talk about next steps with the NextGen network. From the momentum -- from the moment, excuse me, the NextGen rolled out, evaluating the performance of the network has been paramount its very early days, but our evaluation falls on three pillar: the first being data focusing

on ridership, on-time performance and service delivery, and taking feedback directly from our patrons. The next is customers or patrons reviewing their concerns and comments coming through our customer service lines, or whether they give those comments to our operators or to our transit ambassadors on the system. And finally, operations -- operators, operation staff, and mechanics are all critical sources of feedback, and they share robustly with us about the safety, cleanliness, and reliability of the system. One of our main goals is to increase bus ridership throughout the county and throughout MARTA service area, and we expect this to take about six to 12 months to level out. The initial feedback and the initial ridership has been positive. It will take existing customers a little time to learn the new network. We'll increase outreach to customers who may not have always used MARTA, to see that we have shorted well times and better connectivity. But we do expect ridership on our bus network to improve. I mention NextGen on the next slide. I'm going to talk about Reach and go a little bit deeper there. Within the county, there are seven Reach zones, which are West Atlanta, County Line, Lakewood, Oakland -- excuse me, Oakley Industrial, Fulton Industrial, East Point, and then North Fulton. The first week of Reach all zones, that was March 7th through 14th, we launched Reach early, because it was also an additionally new service and we really wanted to spend some time getting our patron base and others used to using our MARTA Reach service, which is a shared ride, Uber-like service within those 12 zones, so we launched it. It was complementary and the first week we had 234 trips with 273 passengers. Not numbers you want to write home about. But since the launch of our NextGen network on April 18th, our average daily ridership on Reach is now 873 passengers; and to put it in perspective, that's been a tenfold increase over the average trips at the beginning of the launch. Let's move onto a Better Breeze because Better Breeze is coming on the next slide, and it is here. Construction and installation of the new fare gates and fare equipment continues systemwide. We ask that our patrons and the public do bear with us, do show us some patience. This is a very transformative change for our system. We're not only changing the fare gates, we're changing all of the tabbing validation on all of our rolling stock as well as the fare gates, all of the ticket vending machines, and the software and backup and systems that support all of this network. The new fare gates closed on May 2nd, and fare is now required. At a station where construction is ongoing, and old fare gates remain, you may see an open gate or you may see an open emergency entrance door. That does not mean the ride is free. We're still asking folks to tap and pay. At the end of the month, we will be closing all of the new fare gates, so you may not be asked to pay a fare at a construction -- station under construction when you come in, but when you leave, you'll tap to exit and that's when we can collect the fare. The good news is that the Better Breeze system is open payment, so in Google wallet, Samsung wallet, those Android devices, you can already add your electronic Breeze card to your mobile device. You do not need a Breeze card to access our system, just tap and go. iPhone will be following shortly. They had a systemwide app update to their App Store the same time we were launching, which is the only reason why they are lagging behind. Riders, who are unable to pay down their fares on May 2nd, can continue to transfer their balance from their current Breeze account to a new registered Better Breeze account through October 30th of this year. I do want to take a moment to address the story about our reduced fare cards that came out now two weeks ago. When we came out on May 2nd, and we did a lot of outreach, a lot of marketing, a lot of public

engagement about this transformation. We mailed out -- we have approximately 47,000 reduced fare customers on our rolls. We mailed out 38,000 reduced fare cards through the Wednesday prior to May 2nd. Why did we stop? We stopped because we didn't want a bunch of cards caught in the mail, and we encouraged people to come in. This is where we outdid ourselves with outreach and engagement, because people came in and they hit us hard on that Saturday and that Monday. Our wait times on average were about two to two and a half hours. That's unacceptable, and we apologized to our patrons. It should not have been that long and thus the news stories that some of you may have seen, I know we know the public has seen. We took action on that immediately that Monday evening. The leadership team got together; we had a two and a half hour meeting - a half hour meeting after hours. We kept the reduced fare office open to extended hours. The thing that we are proud about over those two days is that no matter what time a person showed up, as long as they stayed in line, they left with a reduced fare card. Nobody was turned away and nobody will be turned away going forward. We changed the process because the reduced fare office also was customer service, also handles lost and found, and some other issues. About ten to 15 percent of the people who came in to the reduced fare office, because of our engagement, were brand new to MARTA. They were seeking new reduced fare cards, or the reduced fare card, which last for three years, expired, and they needed to renew it. So that group, we segregated out -- we segregated out folks who needed lost and found to put those in different lines. We hired external resources and got some contracted staff to come in, and then we pulled in all of those wonderful transit ambassadors back into headquarters to service these folks. So we went from a two-and-a-half-hour wait time on Saturday and Monday and by Tuesday at noon, that wait time was between 20 to 30 minutes, and it has remained at that length since then. So for those who may be waiting for their card, or really want their card now and are nervous about coming down, the wait times are 20 to 30 minutes. Please do come in. You're allowed to wait inside of our headquarters. There is water, air-conditioning, it's a very comfortable wait. So do please come in and get your reduced fare card. I did want to address that because that was a very important story, and we want to make sure that our reduced fare customers are treated with dignity. Can we go to the next slide, please? Thank you. I'm going to shift to public safety for a moment. As of April 15th, our overall year-over-year crime is down 27 percent. There's been some upticks I am aware of between April 15th and today, because it's about a month lag, so that number is going come down a little bit, maybe into the 15 to 17 percent reduction area, but still a reduction over 20 percent reduction in crime we had last year. MARTA continues to be one of the safest transit systems in the country, and that's largely due to obviously our MARTA police force. It's also due to the strong partnerships that we have with our jurisdictional partners like Fulton, for example, next Friday, and thank you to Fulton and to this Commission as well as to the police force. MARTA's going to graduate our largest police cadet academy in our, probably, 20 last years, we have 18 cadets graduating next week, so we are very, very excited and they are all coming out of Fulton County's Academy. I did want to address -- we did have a recent shooting. It's the first homicide to occur on MARTA property in over 15 months. On Monday, April 27th, MPD responded to the Oakland City bus loop following reports of shots fired, where we came upon a victim who had unfortunately been shot and passed away at the scene. Our hearts go out to the family of this victim, and any incident, any tragedy like this is too much. And I want to

emphasize that MARTA remains committed to the safety of our system, but also to ensuring that our patrons are safe. The MARTA police conducted – has currently has three suspects in custody. They were able to arrest the first suspect the day of, the other two wisely turned themselves in, in the morning, and this one incident represents the first part one -- excuse me -- our part one crime rate is 1.4 per million passengers, to put it in perspective, regarding statistics. But statistics don't make people safe. Can we go to the next slide? As we continue to hear about non-destination riders on our system, we are tackling the problem. We'll take a moment to highlight the amazing, amazing work of our MARTA Hope Program. Our caseworkers, or case managers, you can see one in orange here, many of which have lived experienced. This is an outgrowth of the Atlanta Hope Program, where they seek to find folks who may be unhoused, maybe experiencing chemical dependency issues, or may be experiencing other issues, and partner those folks up into a warm handoff to social services. MARTA, ourselves, we paid for 10 shelter beds every night, five men, five women here in the city, which those beds remain full every night. But this group does amazing, amazing work to address some of the noncriminal activity, but we do have a very large service area. I'd like to move to the next slide. I want to shift to our legislative advocacy. During the session under the gold dome, we worked to advance our penny sales tax initiative. I want to thank the Commission for their support, and I'm pleased to share that we were successful in House Bill 298 in extending the MARTA sales tax by ten years from 2057 to 2067, and we've already placed bonds where that action has yielded substantial savings for the authority. I've asked our legal team to begin drafting and streamlining and implemented document regarding the 16th amendment. The passage of this penny triggers a review of the rapid transit contract and assistance agreement, or the contract between MARTA and all of our jurisdictional partners, so our legal teams are already working on that, and we'll be coming back to this group regarding a methodology and a framework for us to go through the negotiation process quickly. We also pursued legislation regarding bus camera enforcement around the Rapid A-Line, enforcing those red bus only lanes. Unfortunately, that did not pass. We are working closely with the state legislative council as well as the city of Atlanta about possibility of enforcing those lanes in the local -- the locally controlled streets, and we're making great advances there. There's nothing that I can report on at this time regarding the enforcement there, but I will say that on launch weekend, MARTA police, APD, and others were in the lane giving people warnings and periodically we'd go back to the lane, because this is a brand-new service for the entire state. We need to give folks some time to adjust to what a bus only lane is and what it means to them in their home state. Additionally, in early April, a picture on the left is myself, Chief Parker -- Chief of Staff Parker, AGM Arrington, along with a few board members, pictured up there as Board Member Pond where we went to DC. And in DC we were at the AFTA Legislative Conference, where we, as an authority, were called to share some of our best practices with the nationwide -- with the industry on some of the innovative things that we're doing, and we also took the time to get on the Hill and visit our legislative delegation where we advocated for project funds for projects like the Georgia 400 BRT project, additional support for newer and greater fleet of mobility vans while we were on the Hill. Next slide. Now I'm going to turn to the little games we have coming, the beautiful game, the FIFA World Cup. It continues to be a high focal point for MARTA, and we will be and are FIFA World Cup ready. Our focus will be on ensuring that fans, local and international, can focus their

attention on the matches, events, celebrations and let MARTA drive. We'll handle that. To meet the unprecedented demand of the global tournament, MARTA's implementing several things in our high-capacity demand service plan. We're going to increase our robust rail frequency, we're going to a five-minute headway on match days and the major fanfares days. And if you're in the trunk line, you'll see sub ten-minute headways on any normal day. We will also have a rapid response bus fleet in place for those days as well, a minimum of 30 buses located at specific stations around our system. We will also be implementing way finding and additional multilingual support. We'll be using iconography, as you can see in the picture in the lower left, where you see the MARTA, those are -- that's the iconography which will make it easier for non-English-speaking passengers to navigate our system. We'll have custom World Cup branding, which is currently being installed right now. We started this week, so you're going to start to see MARTA transform into putting its World Cup outfit on. The multilingual content doesn't stop there, we're also embedding that within our map, and our transit advisors will have multilingual cards at their disposal. We'll also have health relief stations and family reunification spots available around our system in case kids get lost. They'll have a point in which they can get to health services, police, and find their parents quickly. We're focusing on a world-class customer experience, and for that, our front-line workers and our transit ambassadors are going to be on their front foot. We have over 6400 transit ambassador slots that we are going to fill, so that for 12 hours a day during match days at fan fest days, we'll have transit ambassadors out, as well as transit ambassadors during nonmatch and non-fan fest days. On the security front: we will be working closely with several different jurisdictions across the region. We've committed to have police officers help support MARTA so we can focus in on the transit policing aspect. We've got lots of local jurisdictions as well as RTD or Denver's transit; they're going to send officers over to help us as well. We've been awarded \$3.4 million from the Department of Homeland Security to help with the cost -- offsetting the cost of overtime, and the FTA has allocated \$9.4 million under a grant that MARTA led to the region for transit to help offset transit cost. And now I think the next slide, take a moment to highlight our community engagement activities. Over the last quarter, next slide, we were pleased to host a MARTA one-on-one event at our headquarters on March 13th, for newly elected officials across all jurisdictions. It was very well received. We were invited by Councilwoman Dr. Latoya Rogers to an East Point -- to attend East Point's City Council meeting, which was excellent, on April 6th. We also presented at the city of the Palmetto at the behest of Mayor Thomas Smith and councilmembers. On April 7th -- on April 18th, we participated in Wellstar's know your numbers, be well health initiative, which is pictured in the lower right. And on April 24th, we partnered with the Atlanta Regional Commission to discuss partnerships, or opportunities, at East Point City Hall on a regional basis, focused in on the Southern Crescent. On May 5th we were honored to join Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman at her Annual Senior Tech Summit, the two pictures on the right show attendees and staff enjoying that event. Thank you, Vice Chair. We look forward to an even larger event next year in partnering with you throughout the year. With that, I think you've heard enough for me, and I want to go to the next slide and really say thank you, and do you have any questions for me or for any of our team?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Okay, Commissioner Arrington, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Hunt. Great proposal and, you know, I guess it certainly was time for this NextGen service, right? And so, glad to see that that is up and running, and that you guys are moving forward with that. I do have one comment from the seniors at the Darnell Center. Apparently, there was a bus stop right in front of the center and it's been moved half a block or a block up. And so, for the seniors with mobility issues, that is a challenge. And so, I don't know if that is an issue that you could look at as you're --"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "-- we could definitely look at it."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, during your analysis. Just trying to work with our seniors and the mobility issues that they may have. But it looks like you guys are, you know, doing a great job of implementing and rolling out this NextGen service and, hopefully, as you continue to do your analysis on it and the data and receive feedback, it would only get better and better, not only for you, but for the customers, so thank you. I'll stop there."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. First of all, I am highly offended that you would even put the Senior Summit on a slide as a successful event. Mr. Parker, thank you for being present here. Mr. Hunt, I've always been one of the greatest allies of MARTA. Today it's in the other direction. I'm getting ready to be a great big ole adversarial, and I'm going to tell you why. The Fulton County Senior Summit has arguably become one of the most anticipated annual events in this county for our seniors and for hundreds of stakeholders and vendors who serve this community. What started just five years ago under my leadership and has gained with the collaboration and the help of my colleagues, 1200 seniors coming out is a major attraction in Fulton County. Our seniors anticipate it every year. In fact, it pulls adults from all over the state of Georgia who want to be present, engaged, and collect critical life-changing information. This summit provides up-to-date education on how government works, how to avoid scams that specifically target our elderly population, and critical details on essential services that are often left out or overlooked elsewhere. Beyond the social aspect, the entertainment, the exercise, the yoga, the line dancing, and bingo are some of the most critical components of this event, giving our seniors direct face-to-face access to essential vendors and stakeholders from health and insurance companies to public transit. Up until our most recent summit on May 5th, 2026, MARTA was a regular expected partner in that network. Now, I want to be very transparent and, Chairman, please oblige me. I went back and forth on wanting to say anything publicly -- about your limited, because in my opinion, it was an absence. I thank Erica Pines for bringing herself at the 24th hour after I called her, otherwise you all would not have been there. I am so disappointed in the lack of respect for our seniors. I am so disappointed that something that has been built up and is a premier event, MARTA could care less about. It was a slap in my face, and it was a slap in the

face to the seniors. The seniors had become to lean on the fact that they could get good information yearly, they could get half fare and a whole slew of other information, MARTA was considered a partner. This year you all went silent on me, you all were disrespectful to me, and I don't appreciate it how hard -- I speak up for MARTA daily. That was a slap in my face. Also, I want to say this to you: I asked you, standing here in front of me, what you all had done, because anything that could possibly happen can, as far as the transition. You assured me that you had the customer service end covered; you all were going to make sure you had people in place. If, in fact, I had to give you a grade on what happened with our disabled and our seniors, you would have an F. You should have prepared better. There is no excuse for any senior or any disabled person to be in a line wrapped around a building. You have too many resources here. Fulton County could have been a resource; we have several centers that we would have been willing to stand to the task of helping that situation. Here again, I'm speaking on behalf of the less of these. Our seniors and our disabled must rely on MARTA after FIFA leaves, and we want you to understand that right now, what we're seeing is a disrespect of the community. I find it deeply troubling when I consider how MARTA positions itself overall. MARTA likes to brand itself as a staple of Atlanta and Fulton County. Your leadership regularly comes here before this very Board to present, to make your case, and to remind us why you are supposedly a very integral part of Fulton County families and employers. Yet, when it came to showing up for seniors, when it came to looking out for the disabled, when it came to doing what you needed to do, you wrote them off, you wrote off the Senior Summit, and you did it without in as much as a courtesy text message or phone call with one of your biggest, biggest allies. Mr. Parker, you and I go back a long way. That was a slap in my face. Just like I can stand here and fight for MARTA, and in the six years that I've been here, I have fought for MARTA. That was a slap in my face, and that was a slap in the community's face. I hope that me being very transparent with what I felt like was intentional, maybe it wasn't, but let me tell you why I felt like it was intentional. There was a Commissioner on this board that spent 14 months here, and you all had no problem doing a community event with her. With somebody who's been here six years, who has been the host and founder of an event for our seniors, nobody engaged me but Erica Pines. That is unacceptable, and it must not happen again, and that's after me reaching out. Now, our seniors and our disabled have been calling my office, and I have in the earnest of trying to look at the past relationship we have, have been ensuring them we just need to give MARTA a chance to get it together. But I'm telling you today, I am disappointed. I have received several, several calls of people who were given incorrect information; information that people were given and told what to do, then when they did what they were told to what to do, MARTA told them, my bad, you can't do that now. You're not going to get it in the mail now. You have to come here, we're so sorry. No, y'all got to do better than that. Also, MARTA Mobility I have been increasingly getting calls about it; even to the point our Commission on Disability Affairs has voiced concerns to us about MARTA Mobility. I'm going to need to see in these reports an effort to make sure that MARTA Mobility is treating our community with the respect and they are doing what they need to do. I'm not concerned with any excuses today; I'm not interested in hearing why you walked away from this event that was a big event that had grew with the help of MARTA. What I want to hear today is what you intend to do to fix one: it takes a long time to get a reputable image in the community of

which MARTA had. It takes overnight to ruin it. And so, I'm giving you all fair warning, that I would rather be a strong ally. This conversation I'm having open today, we had a call in today from Dominique Huff. He has e-mailed all the Commissioners here, he's concerned -- Commissioner Arrington, I think he may have said something to you about it, about the lack of services on the south or the overlooking of the south. So please, I want to be a partner with MARTA. I want us to have the relationship that we've had for six years. CEO, you got to change how you do some things. Mr. Parker, you must, must let this organization know that community engagement is important. And sometimes, sometimes it's not what you do; it's how you do it. And so, in closing, I hope you have a plan to restore the trust of our seniors. I hope you have even a bigger plan that when I come back to the next meeting, I'll be able to say something good about MARTA, which I can't do today. Thank you, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. I got two or three areas that want to explore. If you can go back to that ridership slide. I just want to understand while she's pulling it up. So if I look at this, and I just want to make sure I'm not misinterpreting this or -- is there a suggestion here that the ridership that was being recorded of about two million is understated by two million, and you run a new estimated methodology to determine real ridership?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "So our ridership is -- thank you for the question. Ridership is up until we started doing the construction on Better Breeze, it was by tabs. Our old traditional legacy breeze system was a lot of broken fares, a lot of fare evasion, people pushing through. When they do that, there's no recognition of those riders. So during the construction period, we have to adopt a new methodology because we have to report numbers to the FTA, among others, on the ridership. We're doing that now by doing manual counts from our data group as well as reviewing video on the riders. It's capturing, so when somebody taps and pays, we capture that; if somebody walks through, we capture that. We would take a statistically valid sample, are we watch every single bus, every single rail station, no. We take a sample and extrapolate that for the system."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So we're suggesting -- this graph which suggest that things were being underestimated by two million?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Correct -- not underestimated. People using the system without paying."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So two million people were using it without paying? That's what that graph says?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. I just want to make sure I was reading it correctly and understanding it. Okay. So this thing is going to be fully implemented when?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Better Breeze?"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "The end of the summer, early fall we'll be completely done. Every fare --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- so we should expect that number then -- a real number -- then we're going to go back to reporting real numbers after?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Yes, 100 percent. And as we collect taps, those are in there as well."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. All right. That was number one. Number two, on the -- and I think we may have talked about this last time, but I can't recall. On the NextGen stuff, what is the -- does MARTA have a stated goal for increased bus ridership as a result of the NextGen program?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "We do have estimated numbers. Our budget is off of the prior numbers, not the jump up you see in rail, but off of last year to be as prudent as possible, but we do expect an increase in ridership from the conversion on NextGen."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "What's that stated goal?"

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "I do not have the number off the top of my head, but I will get it to you."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. I think we asked for that last time. I think that that will be kind of important to see. And then on the financial slide, I just wanted to -- I appreciate you walking through that, but can you verify, and maybe the CFO can verify this. If I did the math right I think roughly, you know, kind of overall sales tax receipts from operating income comes to about 780 million annually; is that about right, if I did my math right?"

GREG PATTERSON, DEPUTY CFO, MARTA: "Just about right, 779."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Seven what?"

GREG PATTERSON, DEPUTY CFO, MARTA: "779."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "779, yeah. Okay. And I just sort of raise that and note that. It's like -- I mean, I appreciate you facing the music with some of the stuff that Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman had shared, but you know, in relative terms, you know, 779, whatever, that's what MARTA receives in sales tax revenue. This governmental body, which I realize serves a slightly, you know, smaller footprint then what you serve,

receives 35 million, okay? Just for relative sort of scale. It's a lot of money. It's a lot of taxpayer money. People have used in terms of, you know, sales tax being a regressive thing too, right? So there's a lot of funds that you're entrusted with, and that in turn, you know, should breed a lot of accountability back -- you know, that citizens expect a lot, right? I think there's definitely gaps that people feel, and I appreciate your knowledge some of that stuff, but it's something I just think we're all necessarily -- all of you and everybody in service to MARTA needs to be aware of. And you know this slide to me is about kind of the ROI on a lot of this stuff, right? I know it's not the only thing, but you know, I think in particular, you know, whether it's the NextGen or whether it's the Breeze fees, when we start having the full implementation of that, you know if these numbers aren't moving, then that's a huge, huge, huge problem for this system. And I know there are other things that are going on along with that, right, that would also be additive to it, but you know, I've talked about this since I've been on this Board, and I know there have been changes and different trends with ridership around the country and all of that stuff, right? But the fact of the matter is, we've got a limited amount of funding to fund all of the stuff we do within local government, between schools, county government, city in transportation-related stuff, and this is not cutting it, and I think everybody knows that. I think you know, in terms of the stuff that you're annotated in here, but, you know, that's got to change."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "We completely agree which is why we launching all of these initiatives."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, and so it's the measurements on it, that they're actually coming through in the work. So again, thanks for facing the music on it, and thanks for being transparent. It is appreciated."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne? No? All right. Any other questions? Thank you. See you next quarter."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "Thank you. And may I, Chair Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

JONATHAN HUNT, INTERIM CEO, MARTA: "I know Commissioner Abdur-Rahman is not here, but I want to put it on the record that will not happen again next year."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "The next item on that -- brought up on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting on page 9, **26-0298**, Presentation The Fulton County Youth Commission Initiatives for the Program Term 2025 through 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, where are they? Come on up."

REGINALD CROSSLEY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: "Good day, Commissioners, Executive Leadership, and guests. My name is Reginald Crossley, and I have the honor of leading an amazing group of young leaders called the Fulton County Youth Commission. For those who are unaware, the Youth Commission was founded in 1999 through Board of Resolution to give youth a voice in government and an outlet for young people to have a means of communication with our county officials. Youth Commissions helps create laws, policies, and solutions to youth issues. And today, we'll share some initiatives that are helping move the needle for areas in need throughout Fulton County. I'll start by -- next slide -- oh, this slide. The Youth Commission is broken into four committees, the legislative committee, social progress, environmental, and health. Youth Commissioners will share briefly on some high-level details on how we're helping move the needle in areas in need throughout the county. First up will be Nathaniel D'Silva, he's the Chair of our Legislative Committee, and he'll take it from here."

NATHANIEL D'SILVA, YOUTH COMMISSIONER: "Hello, everyone. My name is Nathaniel D'Silva. As Mr. Crossley said, I'm the Chair of the Legislative Committee. What we do is turn youth ideas and their voices into policy actions, specifically. We specify in the area of children and families. But we've gone really broad in the way of several different clusters to help children, youth, and families across the state of Georgia and in Fulton County. Next slide. So just in the last three years, we've done a ton of amazing policy change. Specifically, this is our social media initiative that you see up here. And we did this with a lot of the help from State Representatives. I'm sure, a lot of you actually remember voting for Senate Bill 351 and approving two years ago. But this is our social media initiative, and what we did was we noticed a problem in our schools and we, like, pointed the finger at ourselves and said, social media is something that is detrimenting the quality of learning in classrooms. It's hurting us outside of schools, and phones and things like these are becoming distractions. And it's time for us to take action. Using that, we passed four separate Bills Senate Bill 351, House Bill 340, House Bill 1296, and House Bill 1009. What these do is they put age limits across the state of Georgia to make sure that those on social media are there with their parents consent and are the correct age. And they take phones out of schools from K through 12th. This has been an incredible experience as a youth. And this is such an amazing program, because what we've been able to do is use our voice. We spoke in the halls of the Georgia General Assembly. We worked with representatives to draft, to write these Bills, to defend it on the floor session. And it's been a truly incredible experience to see our voices actually conveyed into policy. We do this through several initiatives all throughout the year. On the next slide, you'll see a picture. Next slide. You'll see a picture of all of us at the Day of the Capitol. So we met with various State Representatives, we looked into the halls of Congress, we learned more, because not just an advocacy program, this is also a built-in growth program. And what

we do is we look into, because many of us want to be politicians, we want to be Commissioners, serving our community as y'all are right now. So what we want to do is see how internally all of these processes take place. So an example of this is the Day at the Capitol. We met with State Representatives. This helped understand our legislative process understanding. And this was an entire Fulton County Youth Commission event. Next slide. And if you see here, this was House Resolution 1452, where we worked with other Youth Commissions from across the state, and we were recognized with the House Resolution in the House. So that was, that was an incredible experience. Next slide. And along with the vein of this being a growth and development program, we also do regional debates, because speech and discussion are critical to making policy change and to making an impact in our community. So we hosted a regional debate, we called Youth Commissions from all across the state. We brought them into this very hall today, and we had the debate. And we used these to guide the policy decisions and the policy advocacy that we would later do at the Capitol. So what we do at the Legislative Committee is a very simple process. We research, we debate, we speak, and then we advocate for these policies. And through that, we make sure that every youth, every family, and every children has their voice represented, is being cared for, and is being helped by the government that's there to serve them. Next slide. So like, these are some of the photos. If you see like, we've debated. We were in this hall, it's just an incredible experience. We all really appreciate the Fulton County Commission's support as well for our program, especially for our legislative initiatives. It's been really, really helpful. Next slide. So now, I just want to introduce the Chair of the Social Progress Committee and the Chair of the Fulton County Youth Commission, Sanaa Scipio."

SANAA SCIPIO, YOUTH COMMISSIONER: "Good afternoon. So this is the Social Progress Committee, and so this year we decided to focus on three major points, homelessness, family support, and school literacy rates. All three of the things, all three of these things are things that our Commissioners have personal experience with, whether it be all three, just one of the three. But we decided that this year was the year that we were going to focus on just three things, and make sure we really lock down on how we can help youth and families and children in Fulton County with these issues. So for homelessness, Fulton County Youth Commissioners, there's a day every year where we do a hope box initiative. And what that looks like is giving out hygiene packs full of toiletries, shampoo, washcloths, all of the things to people who are homeless around this area. We literally maybe walk one block down the street, and we can give out these hygiene -- these hygiene packs to hundreds of people. Moving on to family support, this is one of my favorite initiatives this year. We got the chance to give Christmas toys to kids who can't afford them and to families who can't afford them. I've been the Commissioner for two years, and I think one of my favorite memories was this year was being able to give a boy Spider-Man bicycle. He was definitely a little too

small for the bicycle, so he'd probably need to get some training wheels. But to see the joy in his face, to be able to know that I am contributing to my community and contributing to just one smile is what really makes the difference. And I think that's one of the special things that FCYC gets to contribute to Fulton County. And then moving on to school literacy rates, around 3 percent of all children in the state of Georgia are illiterate. We see that as a major problem. Reading, writing, learning how to spell are all key things that are trackers for your success, that are trackers to just how you become an adult, as to how to -- as to how you function in Atlanta, in our city. And so we thought that this was really important. So we have developed multiple school literacy rate programs to make sure that the children all across the Fulton County can read, can write, and know how to do so well. We can move to the next slide. And so these are some pictures from, again, two of my favorite initiatives. One of these is Hosea Feeds the Hungry, that's the pictures on the left. And so that is full of -- that, we go on Thanksgiving Day morning, we give out turkeys, collard greens, all the things that you could want that come in a Thanksgiving meal to people who really need it. We make sure that we do it with a smile on our face, we put our gloves on and our coats on, and we get to really help and serve our community in that way. And then on the right, that's a -- those are images of our Christmas drives and our hope initiative, where we give, like I said, hygiene care packages to the local community, and we give Christmas toys to kids who can't afford them. So we can move onto our next slide, which is the Environmental Committee as well. When I was first in the Fulton County Youth Commission, I got placed on an Environmental Committee, even though I wanted to be on the Legislative Committee. I was like, I have nothing to do with the environment. I think we should save the trees. I think we should stop using plastic. I know nothing else. But the environment -- the Environmental Community -- Committee was a great learning point for all of our -- for all of our students who are in the program. But so we do multiple things, like tree planting, environmental stewardship, and murals. So tree planting, we've done two tree planting initiatives this year. We've planted over 100 trees in Fulton County with the help of the organization, Trees Atlanta. So our Youth Commissioners and Flesh and Blood, we take our picks -- our pick act -- our picks acts and shovels, and we dig through the ground to plant trees. I've been there for both events. And they've definitely difficult, so shout out to people who plant trees and do that kind of stuff for a living. But it's such a rewarding experience to see the communities who now fresh greenery, now get trees in their environment. And so moving on to environmental stewardship, we've done multiple PSAs this year that air on the Fulton County Network that are about how we can conserve energy, how we can conserve water, how can we make Fulton County greener. And so those are some really important programs that we think are especially important to children who I -- really have no access to how they can be environmentally stewards, how they can protect our environment. And so to be able to do that is really a refreshing experience. And then lastly, we also do murals. So we did one on the Beltline. We've done one in

local high schools. It's really about not only the environment, how do we protect that, but how does it look like to steward the environment that we're in? How -- what does it look like to make sure that our schools are a place where we want to be, where my schools looks like someone where I can see my face on the wall and not people that I can't connect with. And so our meals are another great way to kind of reach out to the community around us, and the way that we steward that environment that we have to be in every single day. So we can move on to the next slide. And so this is actually a picture of me. We got to build a greenhouse at Banneker High School, and so Banneker has now, now has a greenhouse that is full of fresh produce, that is full of fresh food, especially because it is in a food desert. A food desert is an area that has -- that really has no fresh produce or no healthy produce for the people that live in that area. If we have to go to school, we should have fresh greenery. And so that's kind of what that greenhouse is. And so me and Mr. Crossley and multiple other Commissioners worked for multiple days on this greenhouse. We built it with our own power tools, and it was really an exciting experience, because I never built a greenhouse. I don't know if you have, but it was an amazing experience to make sure to be -- to give back to our community. And then on the right, we have more pictures from our tree planting initiatives. That is me with the pickaxe, throwing my back out, doing all the things. And so it's a really fun experience, but that is one of the joys that we get to do. We get to serve, and we get to help our community in all sorts of ways. We can move to the next slide. And so these are our PSAs and our murals that we paint throughout our Fulton County Schools, and murals that we -- and PSAs that we recorded right in that back room with scripts that we wrote, things that we produce. And so another way to make sure that we reach our communities. We can move to the next slide. And so now we're going to move into the Health Committee. I'm going to introduce Rishab, who's one of our -- who is one of our new Youth Commissioners, but has made such an impact in our committee."

RISHAB ANAND, YOUTH COMMISSIONER: "Hi, everyone. My name is Rishab Anand, and I'm a sophomore at The Westminster Schools. And like Sanaa said, I'm a first-year member of the Fulton County Youth Commission. And specifically, I'm a part of the Health Committee in the Fulton County Youth Commission. So my three main focuses this year were A, drug prevention, then also prom safety and mental health crises that we see in our own high schools. But we got these main struggles not from predetermined categories that we set for ourselves at the beginning of the year, but we saw these own problems in our own community, our schools, our homes. And just in the Fulton County area as a whole, we were able to observe these three problems and see the true impact that they had on not just us, but families as a whole. Next slide, please. So to start, in order to tackle this problem, overuse of drugs and drugs in our own school communities, we attempted NEO tour, which stand for not even once, and these NEO tours went to different schools in these areas as a way of spreading the

impacts and the harms that drugs had on these individuals and as a way of just reminding these people at their own areas that -- of the dangers of drug use and attempts to stop the spread. Next slide, please. Then at the same time, another one of our main focuses this year has been a prom safety. And one-third of teen driver accidents throughout the entire year occur during the two months of prom season. And this is largely because of, first of all, driving at night, because in the prom season these individuals are let out of prom at such a late time that it poses serious detriment to their sleep quality, which in turn, causes even more accidents. Then at the same time, because of the use of drugs and other alcohol -- and alcohol and other substances, which can cause loss of focus and other distractions in the car. And as a result of this, we were committed this year to helping to spread -- we were committed this year to spreading the potential dangers of prom driving. And we did this through the help of our sponsors, such as AAA, as well as the govern -- the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. And this allowed us to give a \$1,200 bonus to the school who produced the best creative work that demonstrated the impact that prom safety -- that prom driving can have on someone's health. Next slide, please. Then at the same time, a personal mission of mine was creating an app that could help promote teen driving safety in Fulton County specifically. And this app that I created was named DriveQwest, and was recently released two to three months ago the App Store. And again, it's a free and downloadable app. But I just want you guys to imagine this, your phone rings, it's your teen, but it's not their voice. There's been an accident, screeching tires, shattered glass, flashing lights; your child was in that car. At that moment, nothing else matters. But this isn't just a nightmare, it's reality. Every day, eight young lives are lost in car crashes. The leading cause of teen deaths isn't illness, it's the road. But teen driving deaths often come down to one thing, unsafe driving habits. This is where DriveQwest comes in. DriveQwest is a sensor-powered app that helps build safer teen drivers from start. We take the sensors that are already present in your own phones, for example, speeding, acceleration, rotational data, and combine this, providing a seamless experience for teens to know exactly how they're driving. These screenshots up here are taken directly from the app. And our main way of communicating our messages to the users is through -- is through active feedback directly after they're driving. This allows them to directly absorb the knowledge that they've gained from their drive, and at the same time, know exactly where they need to work on. In future updates, we're also adding courses, and these courses can include things like quizzes, as well as reading sections and videos. And these courses will allow these users to be -- will allow these users to have direct impact on their own driving skills. And at the same time, to ensure that all data is accurate and up to date, we're taking everything from the Georgia DDS driver's manual, just to make sure that we can have a true impact on these teens and their education. Thank you so much. Now, I would like to bring back Sanaa."

SANAA SCIPIO, YOUTH COMMISSIONER: "So this is the end of our presentation. But as a final conclusion, we would like to thank you, one, for listening, for giving us your time, for hearing what we're passionate about, and what we care about. But I think we would also like to emphasize that all these are projects that we start, all these are projects that we are passionate -- passionate about, that we see need for, that we think need to help make a change in Fulton County. We're not doing this because we need service hours. But it's because we're here, we signed up for this program, and we see a way that we can make an impact. We're so excited to make all of these changes, and it is truly one of the joys of my high school career, and I think the rest of us as well. So thank you so much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you very much. Commissioner Barrett, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, and Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say thank you, Mr. Crossley, for running such a great program. And you guys are, I mean, I don't know, but clearly, future politicians, more professional than a lot of people that come in front of us, and maybe a tech entrepreneur too, I don't know. But very, very impressed with the projects you've chosen, the work you've done. It, like, seems like it's both written, it's hands on. Your presentation -- presentation skills are amazing. The legislative work is amazing. So just super impressed, and congratulations to all of you for a great, great body of work."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I just want to say, how impressed I am. I feel as though I see the future VP, the President, and the AG standing in front of me. And so, all I would implore for you all, please, let Georgia keep y'all talents here, please. Please come back once you've done everything from an educational point of view, we need you, Fulton County needs you. You are the reason that the Chairman says, Fulton County is a big deal. You all were just amazing. And I am so proud of not only the subject matter experts that you are today, but how articulate you all were. Thank you. Keep up the good work, and keep making us proud."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "All right, thank you, Mr. Chair. All right, well, these two have been mom, I'm going to be a little bit of dad, okay? You know, so I will let go on their comments. I mean, great work, definitely, for sure. But don't be going and getting a big head, okay? You got a lot more work to do, and a lot of stuff ahead of you. And I do want to just make a comment, though, on just one of the things that you touched on, and I hope that maybe something can be continued focus for some of the folks that are continuing. The literacy piece, we not only have a youth literacy issue, we also have an adult literacy issue. We got a sort of a literacy problem nationwide. And certainly, it's

been more pronounced in youth, particularly post-pandemic, and we've not even -- we've not got back to those rates that we needed to be. Fortunately, they're probably not as severe as those ridership trends we saw at with MARTA. But -- but they're a problem, right? And so I appreciate you calling that out, and I think that's something this initiative on the phone stuff is, I think, a -- I think it's a great one that you went down the path of. And I think those, those two things could have some correlation, they likely do. They might not, but I think we'll probably find that they likely do, right? So I would encourage y'all to continue to sort of lean into those things, and figure out a ways to sort of build upon that, particularly that literacy component. Because I also think that there are opportunities for, you know, resources within the Fulton County Library System, et cetera. Obviously, you know, you all, many of are functioning and living, living in environments that are literacy rich, you know, in many of the great schools you go to. But there's great opportunity to build upon that. So thanks again for all the great work, and but keep on plugging ahead. There's a lot more work to do, so."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I'll go back to echo the mom comments, because the dad comments -- thank you for all the work you've done. And I appreciate you guys coming to all my town halls and showing everybody the work that you're doing and making the public more aware of it and get the interest going in other youth. Because you are role models in your schools to the other youth as well. So well done with that. I hope you'll continue to come to my town halls, you're always a highlight whenever you speak. I always get the comments, like, I can't believe the youth that we have in Fulton County and the work that they're doing. When a lot of other youth could be doing a lot of bad things, you guys are on the right track. And Nate, I just want to call out you, want to thank you for the continued work that you do, not only on the Youth Commission, but as an intern with my office. And we are going to be working with homelessness this summer as a summer youth project. And Nate will be heading that up. So I just wanted to put a plug into that for any interns. We usually have the Youth Commissioners coming intern. And Mr. Crossley, I know the application process, is that over with for next year? I didn't know if you could highlight that as well."

REGINALD CROSSLEY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: "The Youth Commission application is open until May 22nd. Students can apply online, fultoncountyga.gov, forward slash FCYC. Everything can be submitted online. You must be a Fulton County resident and attend a school within Fulton County lines."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: And it doesn't have to be -- it can be a private school as well as a public school, correct?

REGINALD CROSSLEY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: "Correct, public, private, or charter school within Fulton County."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, great. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Crossley for the great work you do in leading the Youth Commission. And certainly, thank you to our Youth Commissioners for your outstanding presentation today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you very much. All right, 12:53, yes, no?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Lunch, recess?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We will -- I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch. And we may take up some items in Executive Session of real estate, litigation, and personnel."

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

Recessed for Executive Session at 12:54 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 1:53 p.m.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, without objection, we will resume the order of business. Madam, Madam County Attorney."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From Executive Session, is there a motion to approve the request for representation in items 1 and 2 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation of item 6 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington. Is there a second? Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, fails for lack of a second. Anything else?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Back on page 6, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **26-0286**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance ratification of emergency procurements."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Madam CFO, where is she?

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "These are Purchasing items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm sorry."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yeah, they're Purchasing, sir."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT: "So these are -- these were three items that were done because the first two, the emergency services for the janitorial services, we received 13 proposals. The Evaluation Committee is trying to complete. We did do a 90-day extension, but that extension was set to expire before we could bring it to the Board for an action, so we had to act to continue that essential governmental service to keep those buildings operating and clean. And so we had to exercise the County Manager's authority under 102-420 for extraordinary circumstances to keep the services so they would not expire."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. I'll entertain a motion to approve. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **26-0287**, Community Development request approval of the 2026 Community Service Program Evaluation Committee's recommendation in the amount of \$5,363,958."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0288**, Public Works request approval of a contract item agreement between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for the relocation of sewer facilities. Estimated cost of the project is \$54,350."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0289**, Senior Services request approval to amend existing contracts in a total amount not to exceed \$90,000 for contracts providing Aging Services for Fulton County Seniors, aged 60 and above."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "A motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, Justice and Safety, **26-0290**, Police request approval for the lowest responsible bidder for alcohol and drug substance abuse testing services in an amount not to exceed \$160,000."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Action Items, **26-0291**, Request approval of a resolution to support the growth and long-term sustainability of local independent small businesses as they expand and create jobs in South Downtown to ensure the local small businesses are included in the economic opportunities provided by the 2026 World Cup; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Colleagues, this is very similar to the resolution that we brought several meetings back to support some small businesses. Within blocks of Mercedes-Benz Stadium, there are three small minority-owned businesses that are getting this opportunity through the West Side TAD small business grant, small business improvement grant, and our portion is, it comes up to a total of 37,500. So I am asking for your approval on this. And I do want to note, Commissioner Ellis, that I did remove that similar language from this as the others that you had requested. All right, thank you."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0292**, Request approval of a resolution directing the County Manager and Chief Financial Officer to redirect funds for the fiscal year 2026 budget of the Superior Court to the Magistrate Court, and the amount of the unobligated portion of the seven -- \$780,000 previously transferred to the Superior Court's budget; and for other purposes sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I just had a question about what's changed with this. I mean, like, we had -- we had set this procedure up at the request of Superior Court. And just sort of curious about what -- why this is coming before us."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "We'll both answer. We met with Judge McBurney yesterday. He confirmed that this is the desire of the Superior Court, that their working relationship and expectation -- working relationship has improved and expectations are being met. So there was no longer a need from their perspective to have this convention in place. Sharon, anything else?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I think you covered it all. Other than that, it was a Board Resolution, which established it, so we need the Board Resolution to reverse it. And if approved, we'll bring it back in the next budget soundings."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0293**, Request approval of a resolution to request the Fulton County Sheriff to utilize existing authority to decline certain misdemeanor bookings in order to address jail overcrowding, improve safety, and prioritize detention space for serious offenses; and for other purposes --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion --"

CLERK GRIER: "-- sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0294**, Request approval of a resolution challenging the constitutionality of the Georgia House Bill 369, which provides for the nonpartisan election of County Officers and District Attorneys in Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties, beginning in 2028; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. Commissioner Arrington, thank you for bringing this forth. I would like to be a co-sponsor on it, please."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No objection. Happy to have you as a co-sponsor."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. I also would like to be added as a co-sponsor, and thank you for bringing this."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No objection. Happy to have you as co-sponsor."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, motion is to -- Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, there's a typo on line 12 that should be corrected. I don't know if that really matters."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "We can correct that when we add the co-sponsors."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, 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: "On page 8, Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **26-0295**, Region III Emergency Medical Services Council, Chairman Pitts has nominated Roderick M. Smith for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2028."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0296** Regional III, Chairman Pitts has nominated Alex Robles for a Full-Board reappointment to a term commencing July 1st, 2026."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**26-0297** Regional III Emergency Medical Services Council, Chairman Pitts has nominated Stephen Moyers for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2028."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, Commissioners' Presentation and Discussion Items, **26-0299**, Discussion, utilization of funds committed for improving jail detention staffing and the detention staffing hiring process sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, could we also just, I think, just tie this in with the item coming off the consent agenda, the Justice System Update, since they're related."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. On back on page 4, bottom of page 4, **26-0279**, May 2026 Justice System Update."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, thank you. I'm certainly not looking for you to go through this presentation. I just, just really just had -- I wanted for this for particular component, the utilization of some sort of graphical representation of that to be sort of in the continual Justice System updates. And so, Mr. Hermon, I know you provided some detail at the last meeting. And I'll just ask to confirm this again. And I just want to reiterate, again, the importance of this. And I've said this before, you know, what -- what gets measured, gets focused in this stuff. The lack of this happening is costing us material amounts of money and also creating material amounts of risk. I think at the last

meeting, one of the things that -- I'm not sure it came out in the floor session or not, but one of the things that was shared with us related to facilities themselves was that we have this fixing of doors, it goes on, which doesn't have anything to do with the age of the facility. These are doors that get repaired, and Mr. County Manager, I think this information was shared back for us from Mr. Davis, I believe. It was not here, but that information was shared, it was 35 of the 80 doors that they had repaired within three weeks were damaged again. And that sort of speaks to things not being supervised and monitored. And if you run that out, we're on pace to spend \$3 million, \$3 million, again, \$3 million on door repairs due to vandalism. And we know kind of like, all of this stuff that's coming before us that we've had to turn down or find out, you -- find unique ways of things to do, whether it's, you know, youth job programs or whether they're senior-related things, but you know, things that we would like to do and put priority in, but we're not able to do them because we're having to incur some costs like this that could be avoided if we have proper supervision, which ties to this initiative of getting this 200 net new people in there. And so I do want to kind of continue to keep this front and center. At the last meeting, again, sort of the target on this with this additional, you know, just under \$20 million footprint that was set aside for this, was to get to a net new 200. At the last meeting, we had -- we had a net new of 27. And where are we at today in terms of the net new hires?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Kenneth Hermon, Chief HR Officer. As of today, the numbers dropped slightly. We're projecting net new of 25. We had some --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: "-- additional separations."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So we're closing in on five months, and we're at 25, on a target of 200. So just want us to all kind of keep that, keep that in focus. And keep this in these reports, so that we can kind of continue to understand what's going on with that and the impact that has by not meeting it on our overall system and implications for the entire county. Thanks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'm sorry. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Do we -- do we know why, like, how long it takes if a candidate is interviewed by the Sheriff, the whole hire -- the length of the hiring process? Like, when are some of these candidates presented, and then how long is it taking for them to go through the process?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: Commissioner, I don't know of that information. But I can go back and look at the 11 folks that have been hired -- sorry, of the 19 -- of the 44 individuals that have been hired, I can see when they started the

process to when they actually became on board and provide you that information on average that it's 60 days or 90 days. I know, in a conversation with the Sheriff's Office, I think they were trying to be no more than 30 days outside of the county's normal 60-day hiring process. But we acknowledge that their process is protracted because they do have to do a number of different validation steps than that we have to do for a normal hiring of a Clerk, for example.

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, anything else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "26-0301, Discussion Update, Implementation of the five-point plan sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, sir."

BENJAMIN MCCARTY, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Hey, good afternoon. Benjamin McCarty from the Strategy Office. I think we have a PowerPoint, if we can wait for that to be pulled up. All right, thank you. As I said, my name is Benjamin McCarty. I'm here from the Strategy Office. I recently started with the county, excited --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Can you speak up a little bit, please?"

BENJAMIN MCCARTY, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Excited to be here and be doing this work. And so I -- we wanted to, of course, kind of provide an update on the five points, but wanted to start with this slide to give us a little bit of additional language to show that we are continuing to think through what a broader and more structured jail reduction plan could look like. Because of course, we're going to need to continue doing jail reduction work probably in the future. So one of the things that I wanted to note here, and you'll probably be seeing this in future updates is this focus areas on the bottom left of the slide. So we have the pre-arrest, pre-booking, and post booking. So pre-arrest would be things like the Diversion Center and the work that PAD is doing. And then we have pre-booking, which would be one of the five points, which is the Diversion Hub. And then we also have strategies that would be focused on post booking. And I bring this up just to show that there are -- we can do things to reduce the jail population that is currently in jail, but also the inflow as well. So that just helps us think about the additional measures that we could do to help reduce the number of people that are coming into the jail. I also wanted to point out here, although it is not one of the five points, we have the Data Working Group. This group is almost all of the justice partners who have met, I believe, three times now, and we're meeting every Thursday. And we

are going through the justice data to identify an inventory of data points, key data points that we can use to effectively measure our progress toward jail reduction initiatives. So I've heard over the years that there's a need to have the partners aligned on the justice data so that there's standardized definitions, so that we can use them effectively when we're communicating with one another, so that we're pulling the same numbers. And so in the future, you can expect that we will hopefully be able to show you a prototype of what a new dashboard could look like, which would have some of those aligned data points focused on jail reduction initiatives. And we can go to the next slide. All right, so moving to our five points, we've got one slide here for each of the five points. So the first one being in -- reducing our pretrial population through increased utilization of our ankle monitors. We know that we have capacity to place people, additional folks on ankle monitors. And so we've had some conversations with the District Attorney and Public Defender's Offices. And we've reached out to provide support, because they'll be the ones who would primarily be leading that effort. After those conversations, we have -- we believe that a reasonable or realistic number of placements that we could achieve on a monthly basis would be a net of 20 to 25. And so if we are able to do that through the end of the year, we think that we could reach a point where we have a net increase of up to 150 additional monitors. And so we'll continue to support that work. As I say, we've reached out to provide support to those offices, and so we'll continue to do that. So next slide, please."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Wait a minute, before you leave this. So when we originally talked about this, there were some five or 600 that were eligible to be put on ankle monitors immediately. The District Attorney sent a memo, email, which I saw a copy of. But what's happening with that?"

BENJAMIN MCCARTY, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yeah, I believe they did have some initial meetings where the District Attorney and the Public Defender did meet, and they - I believe the District Attorney identified about 200 people, and that, those people were shared with the Public Defender, and they met and they did review them. I believe that they were able to coordinate release through ankle monitors of about 15 people. And I know that they're continuing to have conversations to establish a mechanism by which they can coordinate review of those people. I will say that as we may pull 200 people. But as we go through that list, it may not always be that simple because there's going to be other reasons why if someone's eligible or appropriate for ankle monitor release, it may not be realistic to do so because they have other reasons to be held in jail. And so that may be that they're not able to post their bond. So a Judge would have to reconsider or lower that bond, or they may have to be -- seek some other assistance to be able to pay that bond, so."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I mean, I mean no disrespect here, but this is a simple matter that will help us to immediately decrease the jail population. And I was encouraged

when I saw the original, initial memo that was sent by the District Attorney. But I don't see any progress. We started this, what, two, two months ago, three months ago?"

BENJAMIN MCCARTY, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yeah, I believe so."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And this will be -- and it's July or -- it's -- I want to do like Commissioner Ellis here. I'm going to have this on the -- on our agenda at every meeting, and I'd like actual numbers. I appreciate the, you know, the words on your PowerPoint here. But I mean, we have a problem that we're just all trying to reduce the jail population. And we can do this quickly. Now, I don't want to talk about why I'm hearing there's a problem, or not a problem, but reluctance to -- to do so. But this will be back on the agenda. If you want to go through -- you want to be heard? Yeah, go ahead."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, could I also say, we would benefit from some encouragement from this group to the two principals that are responsible for this, the DA and the Public Defender being here to explain what's the disconnect between the memo and the practice."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, I thought we had asked for that before, but we --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, we did, and we were turned down. So we need some encouragement from this group to make that happen."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah. All right, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I just had a question about that application, the people that qualify for this. Because I know Commissioner Thorne and I were on the same Sheriff's update this week, and the numbers that they went through, I believe there were some number over 500 of probation violations or parole violations in -- in currently at Rice Street, and like another 100 that were failure to appear. And those just, you know, not being a lawyer, you know, or a DA, or any of those things seem like logical places where ankle monitors could be applied. They were clearly out and are only back in because they didn't show for a court date. I know we have the text strategy that we're working on. But it does seem like those would be a really good fit for ankle monitors, again, without going case by case and really understanding that. But is there a reason why that is not correlating nearly as well as it seems like it should?"

BENJAMIN MCCARTY, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yeah. I'm not entirely sure, to be honest, and I don't want to speculate on the different policies or reasons why those folks may not have been selected in that initial list of 200 or additional conversations. I'm just not privy to those conversations or to that at this point. But as I say, we have reached out, and I think we will continue trying to support and trying to get to the bottom of why we can't move a little faster on this."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Do you know anything further on that, Mr. County Manager?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No. I was going to ask Benjamin, is that part of the jail population review exercise that Judge McBurney talked about yesterday or not?"

BENJAMIN MCCARTY, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yeah, so there is -- so the Jail Population Review Committee meets every two weeks, and they've been doing so, I think, for many months now. And so they have a list of folks that is referred to them. And so they work with Georgia Justice Project, PAD, and Superior Court, they have partners there as well. So they come together and they go line by line in a list of people and say, you know, can this person be -- is this person, you know, a candidate, a good candidate for to have some sort of expedited release process. And so ankle monitors may be part of that, but that with the DA not being there and not part of the Jail Population Review Committee, I don't -- I don't know how to what level they would be able to address ankle monitors directly as part of that effort."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "But this conversation is a great example of why getting to a single set of numbers that everybody agrees to that you've talked about, you know, much previous to today is so critical, because you get a memo about 200. You went meeting about 500, the Committee may or may not have looked at either. And everybody's -- it's the tyranny of the anecdote. Somebody comes up with something, and says it, and then we run that direction, and then we run back another direction. Meanwhile, Mr. Chairman, we're not really making substantive progress."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So those, what Benjamin was talking about up front, I am encouraged by, even though it seems amorphous, but getting a data group that represent -- is representative of all different entities, and getting everybody to agree is fundamentally a step one. And then getting the principals to assume ownership. And then lastly, to help at least to report out to this group on, you know, monthly or whatever time frame you think most helpful. Yep."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I would -- I will formally ask that a letter comes from this Body, requesting their presence. Because at the end of the day, Mr. McCarty can't answer that question. The County Manager can't answer. And it does disservice, Chairman, for us to sit up and have these presentations, and then questions, legitimate questions, like the one Commissioner Barrett asked, and we don't have anybody here that can answer it. And so if we're really seriously talking about working together to make sure that this five-point plan, I think a letter needs to go out,

respectfully. I don't imagine it'll go out any other way. But I just -- let me just say what's on my mind, and I'm going to say it again, and I'm going to keep saying it over and over again before I got here six years ago. Commissioners asking you to come and speak before the Board is not a bad thing. It is an opportunity for you to say yea or nay, this is the reason for, this is the reason against. I do not run your department, so I need some input from your department. And this Fulton County as a whole, we have to get out of this thing of, oh, they're asking me to come down. I remember when we had a -- I had another situation where I asked for a person to come down just for clarification, and they talked to everybody but me, and they never came here, because they automatically got in their feelings about it was something bad, Chairman. And I just want to talk about the elephant in the room. As Commissioners, and as being the mentee of Commissioner Darnell, she would call anybody down here at a moment's notice to just answer a question. And so for us to be a governmental entity that wants to work together collectively for the best of Fulton County, we need you to come and answer these questions. So I'm humbly asking, Chairman, that a letter be sent, and it be sent to say, hey, this question was asked, and it's other things that we need to ask you in reference to this, and would you please come before the Board end of discussion. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll work with the County Attorney to draft something that will capture the sense of what the Board is talking about today. All right, Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "The Sheriff in his meetings has always talked about the Inmate Advocacy Unit, are you familiar with that unit? And who comprises that unit?"

BENJAMIN MCCARTY, STRATEGY OFFICE: "I'm not super familiar with the details of who comprises it. But I am generally familiar with it. It is part of -- so the Sheriff is part of the Data Working Group. And we have been putting together some metrics for that. So I think we could probably get back to you if -- with some clear information on that. But I don't know personally, I'm not super familiar with the --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

BENJAMIN MCCARTY, STRATEGY OFFICE: "-- Inmate Advocacy Unit."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, just another question to get answered. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Madam Clerk. What?"

BENJAMIN MCCARTY, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Yeah, I've got updates on the remainder of the four, if you'd like to hear them. Yeah. If we want to move to the next slide. Okay, so on the text, the court date text reminders, I think a little bit of a more substantive update there. We did meet with some folks from Superior Court yesterday and got the -- some information that they are in the final stages of implementation of

those text reminders. So they've come across some technical glitches that they're working through with Tyler and the Odyssey system. And then they also have some process questions, you know, related to who should -- who should be receiving text, what makes sense for the different types of cases. And so they are nearing, again, nearing implementation, full and -- full implementation of that. And the expected timeline was by the end of this summer. So I think we can expect those text notifications to start going out to folks in early fall. So we can move to the next slide. So the next two initiatives, releasing people held on low bonds and then people with specific conditions that are preventing their release. Those two kind of go hand in hand. One of the approaches that seems to be -- have the most legs at this point or be the most potentially effective is the weekly or twice weekly bond review calendar. And so that would be a Senior Judge who would be empowered to look at individuals, probably 15 to 20 per calendar, who have low bonds, under 10,000, and who have few or no conditions probably that would prevent their release. And so the Judge would be able to look through that and coordinate the release of those folks as they go through those cases. I will just note that we've kind of touched on the Jail Population Review Committee a little bit. But they do similar work, so I think this is something that we want to make sure works hand in hand with that and it does not, you know, overlap or kind of work against it. So that's going to be some of the next steps. I know that we're kind of tossing around different numbers and also talking about the Data Working Group. But I'll just note that one of the things that we're -- we're doing here in this regard is just getting more familiar with the data that we're pulling. I'm relatively new still, so I think we're just getting comfortable as we pull. You know, let's say we pull a report that says there's 900 people with low bonds. If we actually go through that list and look at them, there may be, you know, fewer people who are actually eligible to be released because they may have some other condition. Maybe it's another charge for which they've been denied bond, maybe it is another hearing that they have coming up, and a whole host of other things that may prevent that. So that is just, you know, something that we're going to continue trying to get more familiar with the data and understanding what the true potential impact could be. So we can go to the next slide, please. As I said, this would be a similar approach here with this. It would be a Senior Judge of some sort of situation we're going through and having a mechanism that is a recurring process for a Judge to look at those folks with hold conditions that may be able to be removed, things like an FTA or a probation violation. And then we can move to the last slide. And so this is the one I think we probably have the most potential, the one that I'm most excited about at this point is the arrest and warrant review hub. And so this is also being called the trailer. And so this is an idea that came out of a trip that a number of folks took back to Pima County, Arizona in 2020. I believe it was late 2022, early 2023. And so we're trying to bring this idea back to life and building out a proposal now that it is part of the five-point plan, and so that would include an operational model, a cost proposal, and then thinking about what staffing and oversight reporting could look like for the Diversion

Hub. This is essentially a -- an additional intercept that would be pre-booking. So when an officer brings someone to the jail, they would go through this hub, and they would have the opportunity to offer that individual diversion and transportation to the Diversion Center if they consent to it and if the charge is eligible for diversion. So and I think in a future update you can expect to have a full proposal from us on that. And with that, that's all of the updates that I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Well, I'm going to have this on our -- our, again, no disrespect to you. But it's like, what's that expression? We're doing -- what's that, Rome is burning? Anyway."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Cart before the wheel?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, there's -- anyway. Commissioner Ellis -- because we're -- we have live -- these are -- they're human beings in this jail who should not be in there or could be released. So we take all of this will come into fruition in November or December, that's six or seven months. You have live people, live individuals sitting in that jail who are fathers, uncles, brothers, just waiting, while we're fiddling, fiddling -- that's what it was, fiddling while Rome is burning. That's it, yeah. commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, we -- yeah, it definitely needs to be repeated. We -- it does not feel like there's a reciprocal sense of urgency, just to, you know, put the elephant in the room out there. Not directed at you all, but at the people that need to execute it. I've got another unrelated thing, so y'all are good. I just got another question for the Manager, just going back to the updates. So, thank y'all. Do we know just -- just one question. Do we know when -- or have they, tax assessment notices are going out? What is the current -- typically, that's --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Thank you for that question."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "-- this week."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Sharon, let's pull that schedule out. We have finished, we believe, now working with them, we have the dates for setting of the millage rate, and then the public notice, and then when bills would be released. Won't steal the headline, other than to say, after a lot of work and a lot of, I think, cooperation between Tax Assessor and Tax Commissioner Offices, we are on schedule for an 11/15 due date. That was the primary thing that we were focused on. But Sharon, go ahead, and this gives us an opportunity to talk about special-call meeting requirements, and the like."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, I just -- and all that's great. I just want to know when the notices are going out. That's my -- that's my only question."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Well, that was item one."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "According to the current draft tax digest work plan, June 16th is the annual notice of assessment mailing date."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "June 16th?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "June 16th."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We would plan to come to the Board for approval of the proposed millage rate authorization to advertise the proposed millage rate, the five-year tax levy, set any required public hearing dates. We would plan to come to the Board on July 15th with that item, then we would ask the Board to consider holding a special call meeting on July 29th for us to hold the first and second public hearing, if necessary, one at 10:00 a.m. one at 6:00 p.m. And then we would be back to the Board at the first meeting in August, August the 5th, to hold the third and final public hearing, and to adopt the millage rate for 2026."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "So was the -- was always the assessment notices were being mailed out the week of June 16th? For some reason, I thought they were being mailed out in May."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "The original plan was for them to be mailed out earlier. But due to the changes in legislation, there were some additional programming requirements that were necessary. And we are still finalizing the processing of homestead exemption applications and a few final land packages for the year, trying to make sure that we have as much of the value in the digest as possible, as well as -- as many of the final exemptions in place as well. As you know, or you may not know, but the -- last year, with a piece of legislation, the time frame for homestead applications has shifted and individuals can now file a homestead application up until the last day to file an appeal of your current year tax values. And so we're trying to make sure we have as many of those that have been already received, processed and included when the notice of assessments go out. And then, of course, there will still be others that will have to be processed and input as property owners continue to file them through the last -- the last day to file an appeal."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay, all right. So just, again, just big headlines, sort of the notice of assessments are going out the week of June 15th; is that correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. So we meet on June 17th, so there'll be no action related to any of that on June 17?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, sir. Although the notice of assessments will go out on the 16th --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- we will not have even received the estimate package that we need to --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Got it, got it."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- determine what the rate would be."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "All right. So nothing that week, and then on July 16th or 15th is when we meet in July, correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "And then at that meeting, we will do what?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "At that meeting, the Finance Department will present to the Board the request to establish the proposed millage rate, advertise --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- the five-year tax levy, and set the hearing dates, if necessary, if we're not going with the rollback rate, then we would be required to hold three public hearings."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay. And then a plan for adoption of the rate is on August 5th?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "August the 5th, yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "And would require one special-called meeting on July 29th in order to hold two of the -- two of the three required hearings, one at 10:00 a.m. and one at 6:00 p.m."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "On July 29th?"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Great."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We're also working with some extended advertising requirements because of the change in the Atlanta Journal

Constitution no longer being in print. So we're having to use the legal organ, which has a different notice and lead time requirement."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I just had a quick question. On the -- because last year was the first year that you could file your appeal later, or your homestead exemption, rather during the appeals period, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I think so, yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Do we know -- did we get a significant number of people that filed in that second set of time essentially, do we know?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Several thousand, I believe --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So significant, yeah."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- but I can ask for that information. They may have already provided it, and I just don't remember it. Do you remember, Mike, if you're still down here? But several thousand is what I'm thinking about."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And that's part of the reason that a lot of cooperation and work between the two offices was necessary --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- what was that driver."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I mean, I know half the reason they wanted the deadline where it was, is so they could get everything else and make the estimates in a timely manner, and all that. So I was just wondering how much it's impacting their ability to estimate. So, sounds like somewhat significantly. Yeah, okay, thank you."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Have we -- and just -- Jessica, Ms. Corbitt, you may, you may can answer this or at least give an idea. Have we looked at the potential of the Atlanta Voice being an option as that organ that we need in order to meet the requirements?"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Thank you, Madam Vice Chair. The legal organ is selected by the Clerk of Superior Court, Sheriff, and Probate Court. So we do not have the opportunity to select the legal organ. A couple of years ago after the Fulton County Daily Report ceased printing their newspaper, that group looked at several options. My understanding is that they selected the Fulton County Neighbor or the South Fulton Neighbor based on, I guess, their ability to quickly

implement that legal ad process. But that, that decision and law rests with those constitutional officers."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And so my question to you is, do we know that the Neighbor, the South Fulton Neighbor is -- because I know at one while, there was even an issue with that, some, some lead time or whatever, I didn't know if they cleared it up or whatever. And they don't -- first of all, let me be crystal clear, they don't have to as constitutional officers, tell me that information. But it would be good for us to know --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Understood."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- given the fact that Atlanta Voice has such a rich history here."

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Yes."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And so we do we know if that's --"

JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "So the Neighbor paper is currently serving as our legal organ for Fulton County. They print once a week. They do have -- we have been in touch with them about this ad in particular. We have also just -- this isn't really to your question, but we've also been in touch with the Department of Revenue about looking at this issue. Because across the state of Georgia, many newspapers have ceased publishing a print edition. And so this doesn't only affect Fulton County, but other counties around -- or us -- around the state who are dealing with this, and they're looking at that as a possible legislative topic for this coming session. But currently, to answer your question, the Neighbor paper is printing, they are -- we have been in touch with them about their deadlines for this ad, and we're prepared to move forward with that."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, I appreciate that."

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

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "My only other question, slash comment is, Madam Sharon Whitmore, we have a midyear review coming up for the budget, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, Madam Vice Chair, we typically do that also that first meeting in August once we've had the opportunity to get our June 30th numbers, get those reviewed, and make some projections."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. Those department heads and individuals that we need to work with the County Manager and their staff to get some of these questions answered especially with the five-point plan, I would ask, in a sense of being fair, that please give that the same priority that you would give for your budget review for the midyear return -- I mean, midyear review. Because it's not fair, as a Body, for us to be

down here and asking people to, to the point of almost begging for them to come for something that's as simple as all us getting on the same page. But these same individuals will be here for the review, and I said that, you all didn't. So out of a sense of fairness, because I'm going to be fair for anyone that comes and asks me, hey, we use a particular amount of the budget, can we get an increase? So whatever your question may be, I'm going to be fair with that. So please, those that hear my voice, the letter will go out. Please come and give us your input. Commissioner Barrett asked a very valuable question. We just need answers, and we need to move on and in getting this done. So I'm just putting that out there. If anybody -- nobody else has any questions, Clerk, is there anything else?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items, Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "We are adjourned for today."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.