

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

April 12, 2023  
10:00 AM



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



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## **MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: May 3, 2023**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robert L. Pitts **10:03 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)	<b>PRESENT</b>

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****23-0215 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing items #23-0222 through #23-0227 for separate consideration as requested by Commissioner Barrett. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0216 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Representative Letitia Neghise Remembrance Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
March 25, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Claybourne Evans, Jr. Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**  
April 1, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Tim Minard Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
April 1, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Dame Didi Wong Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
April 1, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "World Peace Revival Appreciation Day."  
**(Thorne/Ellis/Barrett/Abdur-Rahman)**  
April 1, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Say Their Names Remembrance Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
April 4, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Michael Jennings Remembrance Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
April 10, 2023

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**Commissioners' District Board Appointments****23-0217 Board of Commissioners  
FULTON COUNTY HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) (APPROVED  
UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

One (1) representative will be nominated by each of the Commission Districts for a total of seven (7) members; this includes one representative from District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Each representative will serve a two-year term and could be re-appointed to serve additional terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no term of any member nominated by a District Commissioner shall extend beyond the term of the District Commissioner who nominates that member.

Term = 2 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2022

Vacant (**District 3**)

**Commissioner Barrett nominated Debra B. Wathen for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2024.**

**23-0218 Board of Commissioners  
ANIMAL WELFARE HEARING BOARD (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE  
CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Animal Welfare Hearing Board shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Each Commissioner shall appoint one member to serve for two years. Thereafter, all members may be appointed for an additional term of three years and until their successors are appointed.

Term = 2 Years/3 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2022

(Vacant) (**District 1**)

**Commissioner Thorne nominated Frances Webster for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025.**

**23-0219 Board of Commissioners  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICERS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF  
THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 2 Years

Two-year terms pursuant to Section 34-67(a) of the Fulton County Civil Service Act

**Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Sterling Eaves for a reappointment to a two-year term.**

**23-0220 Board of Commissioners****COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Seven (7) appointees by the Board of Commissioners (one for each District); three (3) appointees from each of the non-profit umbrella agencies, which the County contracts with for aging services; and three (3) senior citizens elected by seniors in the three geographical areas of the County. The terms of such members appointed by the Board of Commissioners shall end at the end of the term of the appointing District Commissioner. Such members may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a successor is appointed.

Term = Shall end at the end of the term of the appointing District Commissioner

Term below expired: 12/31/2022

Stephanie Fiber-Sutton (**Hausmann**)

**Commissioner Thorne nominated Stephanie Fiber-Sutton for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.**

**23-0221 Board of Commissioners****COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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

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

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

Term = Staggered two (2) year terms

Term below expired: 12/31/2022

Derrick Tuff (**Morris**)

**Commissioner Barrett nominated Derrick Tuff for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2024.**

**Health and Human Services**

**23-0222 Community Development**

Request approval of a substantial amendment to Fulton County’s 2022 Annual Action Plan and authorization to enter a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) contract with cities (College Park (\$90,000.00), East Point (\$170,000.00), Fairburn (\$311,850.00), Hapeville (\$65,000.00), Palmetto (\$239,425.00) and Union City (\$311,850.00) to deliver community development activities. Total award amount is \$1,188,125.00. Authorize the Chairman to disburse funds, execute and administer 2022 CDBG contracts and related documents consistent with the federal program regulations and this Board action. Effective upon BOC approval. 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve items #23-0222 through #23-0227. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**23-0223 Community Development**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and the City of Fairburn in the amount of \$215,004.00 to perform improvements to the Fairburn Annex and acquire a vacant lot for drive up COVID testing; and to authorize the Chairman to disburse funds and execute and administer contracts, and other related documents consistent with federal program requirements and this Board action. Effective upon BOC approval. This is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve items #23-0222 through #23-0227. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**23-0224 Community Development**

Request approval to amend the Community Development Block Grant CV-3 contract with the City of College Park and the City of East Point to provide additional funding in the amount of \$76,427.50 each to allow the cities to continue to provide emergency assistance to constituents affected by the COVID 19 pandemic; to authorize the Chairman to execute the contract amendment; and to authorize the County Attorney to approve the contract amendment as to form and make changes thereto to protect the County's interest prior to execution.

**(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve items #23-0222 through #23-0227. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**23-0225 Community Development**

Request approval of a contract with the City of Palmetto in the amount of \$19,909.48 to purchase a Lucas Mechanical Chest Compression Device and Covid test kits; and to authorize the Chairman to disburse funds and execute and administer contracts, and other related documents consistent with federal program requirements and this Board action. This item is 100% grant funded.

**(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve items #23-0222 through #23-0227. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**23-0226 Community Development**

Request approval to amend ESG contracts approved by the BOC on October 19, 2022 (Agenda Item #22-0761) to increase funding awards for the following non-profit agencies: (The Drake House (\$7,500.00), 24/7 Gateway, LLC (\$7,500.00), Youth Empowerment Success Services (\$18,394.00), Community Assistance Center (\$3,750.00), HOSEA Feed the Homeless (\$3,750.00) and Society of Saint Vincent DePaul (\$3,750.00). Total award amount is \$44,644.00. This item is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve items #23-0222 through #23-0227. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**23-0227 Community Development**

Request approval to amend ESG CARES Act contracts approved by the BOC on October 19, 2022 (Agenda Item #22-0762), to increase CARES Act award allocations to the following non-profit agencies: Community Assistance Center (\$6,258.00), HOSEA Feed the Hungry & Homeless (\$6,258.00), Poverty 2 Prosperity (\$6,258.00), and Society of Saint Vincent DePaul (\$6,258.22). Total award amount is \$25,032.22. This item is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve items #23-0222 through #23-0227. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**23-0228 Public Works**

Request approval of a change order less than 10% - Department of Public Works, 20ITB126798K-JAJ, ARFF, Phase II, in an amount not to exceed \$174,570.36 with Trident Construction Group (Atlanta, GA) to provide for additional rock removal, additional stairway lighting, millwork changes, and fire line additions at the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Facility at the Fulton County Executive Airport. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0229 Public Works**

Request approval to accept a name change and authorize the Department of Purchasing & Contract Compliance to reflect the name change of ThingTech to Trackstar. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0230 Public Works**

Request approval to amend existing contract - Department of Public Works, 21ITBC000023A-CJC, Water Meter Vaults, at no additional cost with Bartow Precast, Inc. (Cartersville, GA) to revise the unit prices for 4 of the 12 items as shown on the revised pricing sheet. Effective dates January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0231 Department for HIV Elimination**

Request approval of a name change and authorize the Department for HIV Elimination and the Department of Purchasing and Contract Compliance to reflect the name change of Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc. to Georgia Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc. Effective upon approval by the Board of Commissioners. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**



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**Infrastructure and Economic Development****23-0232 Select Fulton**

Request approval of a contract - Select Fulton Workforce Development Division, Metro Atlanta Workforce Board Regional Targeted Outreach Plan in the amount of \$20,000.00 with the Atlanta Regional Commission, Workforce Metro Atlanta (Atlanta, GA) to provide coordinated marketing outreach of WorkSource services among all of the Metro Atlanta workforce boards. The contract period runs from June 30, 2022 - July 1, 2023 with automatic one-year renewal options until June 30, 2026. This MOU is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0233 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 79,353 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from LWV TPA GA 400, LLC for the purpose of constructing the Lakeview Roadway Project at 0 Lakeview Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0234 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 75,395 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from LWV TPA GA 400, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Lakeview Roadway Project at 0 Lakeview Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0235 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 6,768 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from KFH Twin Shoals, LLC., for the purpose of constructing the Twin Shoals Phase I Project at 0 Stubbs Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30349. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0236 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 24,933 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Jen Georgia 18, LLC., for the purpose of constructing the Chiswick Park Project at 314 Thompson Street et al, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0237 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 23,483 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Jen Georgia 18, LLC for the purpose of constructing the Chiswick Park Project at 314 Thompson Street et al, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**



**Justice and Safety**

**23-0238 Sheriff**

Request approval of the 2023 Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification with the U.S. Department of Justice for the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office, establishing the requirements for participation in the Federal Equitable Sharing Program and the restrictions upon the use of federally forfeited cash, property, or proceeds.

**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**23-0239 Board of Commissioners**

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

a. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by revising item #23-0241 by removing Proclamations as requested by Commissioners Hall, Abdur-Rahman, Vice-Chairman Ellis; and with a super majority vote adding items #23-0201 and #23-0259 to the Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Barrett

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to reconsider the Regular Meeting Agenda to move up items #23-0222 through #23-0227. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**23-0240 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Regular Meeting Minutes, March 1, 2023

Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 15, 2023

Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 15, 2023

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett

**23-0241 Board of Commissioners**

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

~~\*Proclamation recognizing “World Autism Month.” **(Ellis)**~~

~~\*Proclamation recognizing “Able Mable Thomas Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**~~

Proclamation recognizing “Community Development Week.” **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing “National Reentry Month.” **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing “National Fair Housing Month.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**

Proclamation recognizing “Public Safety 911 Telecommunications Week.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**

~~\*Proclamation recognizing “Chandra Currelley Appreciation Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**~~

*\*removed during the meeting*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****23-0242 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

**13 Speakers: Sharon Follmer (Decorum); Julie Adams (Decorum); Susan Ortiz-Villajos (Decorum); Jeff DellaMaggior (Decorum); Mike Russell (Decorum); Brain Dunn (Decorum); Sarah Pedro (Decorum); Matt Rowenczack (Decorum); Kevin Muldowney (Decorum); Mara Gaudio (Decorum); Candy Muldowney (Decorum); Ginger Bradshaw (Decorum) and Robby Caban (Lifeline/Fulton County Animal Services)**

**3 Zoom Speakers: Lucia Frazier (Decorum); Jason Frazier (Decorum) and Ben Howard (Senior Services)**

**3 Emailed Comments: Linda Adams (Senior Services); Alvin Bailey (Potholes/Blanton Ave.) and Selena Cheek (Crime)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****23-0243 Finance**

Presentation, review and approval of April 12, 2023 Budget Soundings.  
**(PRESENTED/APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**23-0244 External Affairs**

Presentation of 2023 Legislative Session Update. **(PRESENTED)**

**23-0245 Information Technology**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Information Technology, 23ITBC1006B-PS, Fulton County PC Refresh in an amount not to exceed \$1,431,319.61 with CDW Government, LLC (Vernon Hills, IL) to provide enterprise business class desktop personal computers (PCs), laptops, monitors, docking stations, specialty computing devices and supporting peripherals. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2023, with two renewal options.  
**(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**23-0246 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB121622K-DJ, Industrial Racking for the Fulton County Central Warehouse in an amount not to exceed \$3,137,629.89 with McGee Storage & Handling (Norcross, GA), to provide and install industrial racking. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed for 270 calendar days or completion of project as determined by Fulton County. This is a one-time procurement.  
**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0247 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Contract #180200-C, Veterinary and Related Medical Equipment for the New Fulton County Animal Shelter Facility in an amount not to exceed \$270,945.39 with AmerisourceBergen DBA MWI Animal Health (Boise, ID), to purchase veterinary and related medical equipment for the new Fulton County Animal Shelter Facility (FCAS) located at 1251 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30318. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**Health and Human Services****23-0248 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 22ITB093A-KM, Fire Hydrants Maintenance and Repairs in the amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 with American Flow Service, LLC (Conyers GA), to provide fire hydrants maintenance and repairs. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2023 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**23-0201 Senior Services**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Senior Services, 21RFP000016A-CJC, Alternative Senior Transportation Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000.00 with Common Courtesy (Atlanta, GA) to provide transportation services/ride sharing to eligible Fulton County residents aged 60 and above. Effective upon BOC approval. **(HELD ON 3/15/23) (APPROVED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve adding item #23-0201 to the Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Barrett

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve item #23-0201. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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**Justice and Safety****23-0249 Superior Court Administration**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Superior Court Administration, SWC #47100-GBI0000165, in an amount not to exceed \$148,000.00 with Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, Inc., to purchase medical/drug testing supplies for random drug testing for Superior Court Accountability Courts, State Court and Juvenile Courts. This procurement is primarily grant funded through the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Effective upon BOC approval through June 30, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**23-0250 Superior Court Administration**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Superior and State Courts, 22RFP052A-CJC, Jury Management System, in an amount not to exceed \$298,000.00 with Jury Systems Incorporated (Simi Valley, CA) to provide and implement a cloud-based jury management system ("JMS"). The contract will commence as of the date indicated in the Notice to Proceed (NTP) and shall continue until the sooner of (a) a period of 12 months; (b) Final Acceptance; or (c) the Agreement is terminated as provided herein. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**23-0251 Probate Court**

Request approval of a Resolution to confirm the appointment of Marian Parker to the position of Associate Judge of the Fulton County Probate Court, and for other purposes. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**23-0252 Police**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Police Department, 20RFP125037A-CJC, Armed and Unarmed Security Services in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.00 with Universal Protection Services dba Allied Security Services (Atlanta, GA) to provide armed and unarmed security services for various County departments. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****23-0209 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution urging the consolidation of certain Fulton County Clerk of Court operations under the Fulton County Superior Court Clerk; directing the County Manager to assist with facilitating such consolidation; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 3/15/23 AND 4/12/23)**

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

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

**Nay:** Pitts

**23-0253 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager and County Attorney to develop a plan for the Board of Commissioners' consideration for Legislation authorizing a Countywide Special Local Option Sales Tax to support Healthcare infrastructure and foster stabilization on Healthcare services Countywide; and for other matters. **(Ellis) (HELD)**

a. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve with a friendly amendment by Commissioner Arrington to research all available funding option. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

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

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

**Nay:** Ellis

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

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

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



**Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**

**23-0254 Board of Commissioners  
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (NORTHSIDE) (HELD ON  
4/12/23)**

The Board of Commissioners shall submit a slate of three (3) names, per position, to the Hospital Authority of Fulton County, for selection of one (1) person to be appointed by the Authority for each position.

Term = 4 years, staggered

Term below expires: 4/1/2024

Dr. Thomas W. Gable (**BOC Position #2**) (**Deceased**)

**The Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County (Northside) submitted the following slate of names for the Board of Commissioners' consideration to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Thomas Gable (Position #2) ending April 1, 2024. (Ellis)**

**Position #2**

**Kenneth Kupke, M.D.**

**Marc Soneshine, M.D.**

**Jennifer Amerson, M.D.**

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

**Yea:** Thorne, and Ellis

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

**Abstain:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Hall

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

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

**Abstain:** Thorne

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

**23-0255 Board of Commissioners**  
INVEST ATLANTA (ATLANTA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY) (APPROVED)

Term = 4 YEARS

Term below expired: 4/1/2023  
Commissioner Dana Barrett (BOC)

**Chairman Pitts nominated Commissioner Dana Barrett for reappointment as Fulton County's appointee to the Atlanta Development Authority d/b/a Invest Atlanta to a term ending April 1, 2027**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**23-0256 Board of Commissioners**  
Executive (CLOSED) Sessions regarding litigation (County Attorney), real estate (County Manager), and personnel (Pitts). (APPROVED)

**PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice-Chairman Ellis, Commissioners: Thorne, Barrett, Hall, Arrington and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; Deputy Chief Operations Officer Dr. Pamela Roshell; Chief Financial Officer Sharon Whitmore; DREAM Deputy Director Tim Dimond; Morehouse School of Medicine Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to authorize participation in and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding allocating funds in the national opioid suit against Teva, Allergen, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS, as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the request for representation in items #2 and #4 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

d. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to deny the request for representation in item #5 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

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

f. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve the settlement in the matter of DeMarcus Harris v. Sheriff Theodore Jackson, Anthony Richardson, Temeka Cherry, and Tyna Taylor in the amount of \$100,000.00 in item #8 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

g. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to authorize the Chairman or County Manager to execute the purchase and sale agreement and other necessary documents to effectuate transfer of the West End Arts Center to the City of Atlanta for \$1.00 and for continued use for public purpose. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

h. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to authorize negotiation to exchange property under the terms and as identified in item #11 as a like-kind exchange as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

i. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to authorize negotiation for the purchase of certain property under the terms in item #12 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**ADDED TO THE MEETING**

**Items Added to the Agenda**

**23-0259 Board of Commissioners**

Presentation and Discussion regarding how Fulton County should respond to WellStar closures and address the public health emergency. **(Pitts)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve adding item #23-0259 to the Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Barrett

**DISCUSSED AFTER PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2023  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning and welcome to the Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is April 12th, 2023; it is 10:07 a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, just a brief comment regarding decorum in the chamber. Probably, the last meeting was not our finest hour, but I remind all of us to be respectful of each other and the words that we use; and also for the public to be mindful of the words that they use. And to remind you also that the placards and outbursts are not permitted in the chamber. And I will respectfully ask that you honor this personal request. All right, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **23-0215**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters are listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, Commissioner Barrett has requested to move some items from Consent Agenda for separate consideration. They are the Community Development items starting on page 5 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- what page, Madam Clerk? Page 5?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 5, 23-0222: Request approval of an amendment to the Fulton County's 2022 Annual Action Plan."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, just sound the number."

**CLERK GRIER:** "23-0223, 23-0224, 23-0225, 23-0226. And on page 6, 23-0227."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything, Commissioners on the Consent Agenda?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*



**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two items that need to be added to today's Regular Meeting Agenda. The first item was an item that was held on March 15th, 2023 and it is time sensitive; 23-0201, Senior Services: Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000 to provide transportation services ridesharing for eligible Fulton County residents aged 60 and above."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve the addition of that item on today's agenda. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. I'd appreciate your favorable vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Second item to be added: 23-0259 , Presentation and Discussion regarding how Fulton County should respond to WellStar closures, and address the public health emergency sponsored by Chairman Pitts. This item is to be heard after public comment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Again, I'd appreciate your favorable vote. Let's vote, please."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 6 -- I'm sorry, on page 8, Regular Meeting Agenda, **23-0239**, Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an amendment to today's Regular Meeting Agenda. We're removing three proclamations on page 8; item 23-0241: Proclamations recognizing 'Able Mable Thomas Appreciation Day', 'Chandra Currelley Appreciation Day'; and 'World Autism Month'. These proclamations will be moved to a later meeting."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "No."

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0240**, Ratification of Minutes. Regular Meeting Minutes, March 1st. Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 15th. Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, March 15th, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "There's a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, it's seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0241**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Community Development Week' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Mr. Wilson, you got any other -- is this your team right here? All right. Come on down, everybody. Good morning. Come on in. Is that everybody? All right. Stan Wilson, you came in here blazing. (Clapping) Yes. Yes. Just doing an outstanding job and you already had an outstanding department of people. So, you know, to come in and do the work that you've done; you had great people behind you. So, it is an honor to present this proclamation and it reads: WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant Program has operated since 1974 to provide local governments with the resources required to primarily meet the needs of low and moderate income citizens. And WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant Program is among the few remaining federal programs available to address the needs of low and moderate income persons in small cities. And WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant Program has provided the State of Georgia with important and flexible assistance to meet the needs of low and moderate income residents of small cities by funding sewer, water, and street improvement projects, economic development projects, and other public improvement projects. And WHEREAS, Congress and the nation acknowledge the critical value of the Community Development Block Grant Program and the significant projects that rely on its funds for support. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes and supports the Community Development Block Grant Program for the positive impact its resources are making in our local communities; and

does hereby proclaim the week of April 10th through the 14th, 2023 as 'Community Development Week' in Fulton County, Georgia."

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "Good morning. I just have a few comments I want to make. First of all, we celebrated National Community Development Week. I do want to thank the Board of Commissioners for their tremendous support of the Department of Community Development; also, the County Manager and Dr. Roshell as well. And I do have a great team, as you can see here. We have a range of services that we provide. I'm just going to talk about some of them: Youth services; we do mentoring. We do job training programs. We have a community services program where we provide direct services working with over a hundred and fifty non-profit groups. Also, too, we provide homeless assistance, rent and utility assistance, home repair, down payment assistance, park/public facility, and infrastructure improvements as well. And we do veteran services, and there is so much more that they can attest to. But none of this would be possible, obviously, without my great team. From the time that I joined Fulton County, they've been tremendous and they've been a huge support. And lastly, we have to thank our nonprofit and municipal partners for all of the assistance that they provide and the direct services as well. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'National Reentry Month' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. Do we need to even it out? She said just a few on this side. All right. All right. Well of course, I will be presenting this proclamation to the Sheriff's department. You guys are outstanding. And for National Reentry Month -- reentry is very important to me. Second chances for offenders is truly something that is important to me and making sure that people know that when they make a mistake that they have an opportunity to correct that and still have a successful life. So, this proclamation reads: WHEREAS, individuals returning from prison and those who have paid their debt after committing a crime face significant barriers, also known as collateral consequences, which cause them to struggle to find housing, employment, education, voting rights, and pay for significant debt that arises as a result of their conviction and incarceration. And WHEREAS, these barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety, and the stigma and legal barriers associated with the criminal record which often results in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States. And WHEREAS, Fulton County Sheriff's office reentry task force provides information and tools to improve the jail to community reentry process and has helped to reduce the recidivism rate and associated costs; and assist individuals in jail with educational, vocational, and job placement services to facilitate reentry into the community. And WHEREAS reentry breaks the cycle of criminal recidivism and increases public safety, rebuild ties between offenders and their families both while the offenders are incarcerated and after reentry into the

community, and promote stable families and communities. And WHEREAS, reentry initiatives -- initiatives have improved system performance by increasing coordination and information sharing among Fulton County's criminal justice agencies and community-based organizations which reduces the duplication of efforts and enhances the impact of existing resources that result in lower cost across the criminal justice system. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners support increasing public awareness about the need for closure of those who have paid their debt encourage opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations and communities to extend second chances; and does hereby proclaim the month of April as 'National Reentry Month' in Fulton County Georgia. Congratulations."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, FC SHERIFF, RECIPIENT:** "On behalf of Sheriff Labat -- good morning, first of all. I'm proud to be standing here to honor the hard work by our agency to put programs in place that help those placed in our care reenter society with valuable skills. This is a team effort from securing the grants to establishing the programs, from start to finish, we are dedicated to removing barriers and providing support and opportunities to those who strive to build -- rebuild their lives after incarceration. National Reentry Month provides the opportunity to raise awareness about those barriers and the stigma that surrounds those formerly incarcerated. The rehabilitation and reintegration work being done provides key tools to detainees after they leave our care. This ultimately leads to a reduction in crime and recidivism. Thank you for this honor."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation recognizing 'National Fair Housing Month' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "There you go. Come on, please join us, Stan. I just want to echo what Commissioner Hall said. You came in blazing. WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act enacted on April the 11th, 1968 enshrined into federal law the goal of eliminating racial segregation and ending housing discrimination in the United States. And WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, or familiar status, national origin, and disability; and commits recipients of federal funding to affirmatively confirm the fair housing in their communities. And WHEREAS, Fulton County is committed to the mission and intent of Congress to provide fair and equal housing opportunities for all. And WHEREAS our social fabric, the economy, health and environment, and strengthened in diverse inclusive communities. And WHEREAS more than 50 years after the passage of the Fair Housing Act, discrimination persists, and many communities remain segregated. And WHEREAS, acts of housing discrimination and barriers to equal housing opportunity are repugnant to a common sense of decency and fairness. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners is committed to fair housing and promoting appropriate activities by private and public entities to provide and advocate for equal housing opportunities for all residents and prospective residents;

and does hereby proclaim the month of April as National Fair Housing month in Fulton County, Georgia. Stan I know you want to say a few words."

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "The Fair Housing Act is 55 years old. And it's just as relevant today as it was when it was enacted. Fair housing benefits everyone because everyone should have access to housing, lending, and insurance services and every community should be a community of opportunity. In October of 2022, this Board of Commissioners approved the contract with Metro Fair Housing an organization that's been committed to fair housing for over 30 years. This contract gives Fulton County's constituents access to resources to file fair housing complaints, address landlord-tenant issues, receive case management, and other housing-related services. The Department of Community Development is thankful for the opportunity to recognize the significance of the Fair Housing Act."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing 'Public Safety 911 Telecommunications Week' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Good morning. Good morning. Can we get a few over to the left, to the left of me? We want to get everybody recognized in these pictures. Thank you for your patience. I wanted to make sure that all of these individuals -- this is so crucial that we recognize these individuals. WHEREAS, Public Safety, E911 Communication Officers are part of the critical infrastructure of the public safety framework and professional first responders who are selfless individuals that make lifesaving, split second decisions on a daily basis in order to provide response to emergencies. And WHEREAS, Public Safety Communication Officers deal with stressful situations each and every day sometimes involving life and death, and they handle such situations with compassion, empathy, professionalism despite many of these calls having a dramatic effect on Communication's Officers. And WHEREAS, Fulton County Public Safety 911 Communication Officers are put through extensive background checks including polygraph and psychological screenings; and must complete one week of peace officer standards training as communications officers. One week of emergency medical dispatch and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training and Georgia Crime Information Center and National Crime Information Center training. And WHEREAS, Public Safety E911 Communication Officers complete ten to 12 weeks of extensive interdepartmental classroom training with an additional three months of on-the-job training with a certified training officer; and they are required to complete Twenty-Four hours of continued dispatch educationally and annually. But I also want to add, they are not allowed to have a bad day, and I appreciate what they do. They are unsung heroes that protect all of the community from one end of the County to the other. And I want them to know the entire Board -- this was an entire Board proclamation, and we are very proud of them. Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Public Safety 911 Communication Officers as first responders in Fulton County, and shall be treated as

such, and all policy decisions of the Board of Commissioners regarding first responders to the extent allowed by the applicable federal and state law; and does hereby proclaim the week of April 9th through the 15th, 2023 as 'Public Safety E911 Communication's Officers Week' in Fulton County Georgia."

**RECIPIENT:** "Good morning. First of all, I want to thank the Board of Commissioners for having us this morning. We really appreciate the recognition. So there's a national push across the country and the nation to recognize 911 personality and tele-communicators as first responders, and they really are. They're the first ones that receive the call. They make sure that they process that call adequately, timely, and they also make sure that police, fire, and EMS respond to that right location. And that's the key, making sure that the help gets where it is needed to be very quickly and as fast as we can. So I want to thank my crew, my team -- they're excellent. The command staff that oversees this division is exceptional, and I can assure you that Fulton County is very lucky to have our bold and courageous 911 operators. So I do appreciate that, and I want to say thank you to them. I also want to say thank you to Mr. Dick Anderson and Mr. Alton Adams for their support and we appreciate it. Standing before you today is our brand-new class. So our class just started last week, and they are in the midst of their training, and they will go through a rigorous training process, and they will be released, I think, sometime in June, and we look forward to them hitting the floor and serving the public as best they can in Fulton County. I again, appreciate your listening and thank you for your support."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Madam Clerk. Actually, before we do that, let me remind Commissioners that immediately following -- actually, 15 minutes after the conclusion of this meeting, we'll have a Special Call Meeting which will be a work session. So, I want to try to keep us on schedule. We did great so far with respect to the proclamations. One other thing let me recognize State Representative Esther Panich. Where is she? There she is. She just came by to say hello, doesn't want anything; but thank you for being with us today. Madam Clerk. Madam Clerk."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I want to take a point of personal privilege before --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "A friend of mine asked if I'd read a letter that she sent to me yesterday -- that I read it aloud. It's from Dr. Alveda King. 'Dear Commissioner Thorne, it was good to see you at the dinner to commemorate World Peace Revival. Thank you for your heart-felt efforts on behalf of the people you serve. As you've read the proclamation, my heart was touched as I remember the days when my grandfather, Reverend Martin Luther King, Senior, worked so closely with elected officials and city leaders during his lifetime in the midst of a tumultuous city embroiled in racial strife. Together, their efforts to bring about an environment of communication, repentance,



forgiveness, and reconciliation caused Atlanta to be known as the city too busy to hate as they laid foundation that need to be remembered and strengthened today. My uncle, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., once said we must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools. He understood the scripture, Acts 17:26, of one blood God made all people to live together on the earth. As the one blood human race, we must get past the racial dissension that can easily divide us. My parents, Reverend A.D. King and Mrs. Naomi King taught me well that the process of human reconciliation must always include repentance, forgiveness, and positive communication. Having served as a Georgia State Representative with House District 28 for two terms from 1978 to 1983, and twice as a presidential appointee, I have experienced many days of remembering and practicing the lessons learned from my parents, grandparents, and uncle; it is truly written that love covers a multitude of sins. We must all count the costs when we lay down our lives in service to others. Commissioner, again, thank you for your commitment to human dignity. Please be encouraged as you continue your journey of service. My prayers and prayers of many who join me are for your success and indeed, the success of the whole Commission that you will successfully communicate and build bridges of reconciliation on behalf of those you serve. God bless, Dr. Alveda King, concerned citizen?"

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 9, on page 9, Public Hearings, **23-0242**, Public Comment. Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing. By registering on the County website [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov), priority to 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 30 minutes. In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached, prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we'll start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 13 speaker cards. Will the first seven speakers, please come down: Sharon Follmer, Julie Adams, Susan Ortiz-Villajos, Jeff Della Maggior, Mike Russell, Brian Dunn, and Sarah Pedro."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, now speakers, as always, when you have 15 seconds remaining up to two minutes, I'll simply say 15 seconds. That's your key to conclude your remarks. There are 14 -- we have 30 minutes for public comment for those in the auditorium today. There are 14, that's about 28 minutes. It is 10:42. You have the floor, ma'am?"



**SHARON FOLLMER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Sharon Follmer. I am a resident of Fulton County. I just want to start by telling you that I know I've got two minutes to make my point, so I'm going to ask you to listen very, very carefully to what I have to say. I was so excited when I read your resumes. Commissioners, they're outstanding. They spoke of people who are exceptional. I was excited because I thought; okay, now we're going to have some Commissioners that might actually take the reputation of Fulton County, which is the lowest in the pit of all 159 counties -- it might actually change it. It might actually turn it around. And then I heard the unbelievable meeting on March 15th. Do you realize the damage that you did? Do you realize how you took everything that was racial and made it the center of that meeting? Do you realize that your temper tantrums actually cost your constituents? You took racial relations backwards. You use your elected office, and our tax dollars to create a platform for your own racial bias. Because of that bias, you didn't even hear what Commissioner Thorne said, because actually, what she was suggesting --"

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

**SHARON FOLLMER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- is that the litigation would take away from the opportunity to move forward for your hospitals in South Fulton. So I'm going to ask you again, do you realize the damage you did? And Commissioner Pitt --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker. Next speakers. Next speaker -- Ms. Ms. Thank you. Next speaker. Now just a minute. I see a placard. May I remind you that there are no placards in the Assembly Hall. I'd ask you respectfully -- I ask you to put it down. Thank you."

**JULIE ADAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. My name is Julie Adams. I'm a Sandy Springs Fulton County resident. Commissioner Pitts, I want to thank you for mentioning last meeting and the lack of decorum. I was just appalled by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and your behavior towards a fellow Commissioner. I believe that you said that she was not suited to sit on the Commission. That is just insulting to everyone. Your comments -- your comments were just unbelievable. And I do believe -- I agree with the first speaker that you put Fulton County way behind now. I think it's an embarrassment to Fulton County. Commissioner Arrington weighed in as well, which was horrible and just disgusting to watch. It was just unbelievable. And as the first speaker said, Commissioner Thorne made very good points, and I don't think bringing the DOJ and the IRS down on WellStar is something that should be taken lightly. And I do think that it would hurt Fulton County. What I think hurt worse was Commissioner Pitts not stopping this lack of decorum that was just above and beyond. I believe that our County Manager, Dick Anderson, should have stopped it as well; and I just think that you're just making Fulton County a disgrace. And I want to say two things about Commissioner Thorne that I know well. She is one of the smartest, most thoughtful kind people --"

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

**JULIE ADAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I've ever met. And in public or private, she would never say anything racist or mean about any of you. Thank you."

**SUSAN ORTIZ-VILLAJOS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, public servants. My name is Susan Ortiz-Villajos. I just want to say couple weeks ago a Commissioner on this Board honored a woman during the proclamations -- a woman who did not let the fact that she was born with no arms stop her from living life to the fullest. Growing up, she was told if God didn't give you arms, he must have thought you don't need them. And now this very same Commissioner who brought this wonderfully inspiring woman before us, is bullying another woman on this Board because God made her with this a skin pigmentation a little lighter than her own. But maybe it isn't about skin color at all, because another Commissioner with the same light skin tone said she's not bullied. So maybe it is purely political. If you agree with the issues and ideology of the majority, then you're, okay. If not, the easiest card to play without having to reason with one another is the race card with highly charged emotions that tries to shut everyone up, including the gavel of the Chairman; the very gavel that comes down easily when a little clapping occurs by citizens who agree with the public comment. And, of course, we're all subjected to another emotionally charged absent Commissioner with unprofessional name-calling. All of this emotional rhetoric against a Commissioner who found out the reason behind a decision made by WellStar; she merely presented her findings. One cannot reason with two very unprofessional members on this Board --"

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

**SUSAN ORTIZ-VILLAJOS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and it seems Martin Luther King's dream in which he said, I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. This dream has become a nightmare in Fulton County."

**JEFF DELLA MAGGIOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Jeff Della Maggior, and I'm a Fulton County resident, and I thank you for your service. Like so many others who have spoken before me: when I was watching the live stream last month, I had to rewind it and go back and look at it. Did these professionals just speak to each other this way? Like petulant children? I couldn't believe it, and all I kept thinking about was all the challenges that are ahead of us and how much we have to work together. And calling each other names, it's just not acceptable. And from where I sit, I've been an Atlanta resident for long time, most of my life. I've been hearing about the hemorrhaging of money by these two healthcare facilities pretty much my entire existence. And from where I sit, we could sue them. We could tie up in court; we can

spend gobs of money and get nothing done. But this probably could have been addressed in years past in administration past. I thank you for your time."

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Mike Russell, and I'm a Fulton County resident. What transpired on the 15th of March was appalling. It was a repugnant personal racist attack against a member of this Body. It was a hate-filled diatribe. And make no mistake about it, it was hate speech. And hate speech like that has no place in America. Particularly, in this city, in this county the home, the cradle of a nonviolent civil rights movement. We pride ourselves on the statement that we judge people by the content of their character, and not the color of their skin. And those racist, outrageous remarks were all about skin color, not about the facts. Because Commissioner Thorne only repeated the facts. And I think there's two reasons why the response was so violent and full of vitriol. When you can't compete in the arena of ideas, people resort to name-calling like a petulant child, and that's exactly what happened on the 15th of March. And the second reason I believe that happened is because she exposed the truth. That the reason WellStar is closing is not because of race or redlining, it's because of poor governance. Because you did not do what you should have to prevent that hospital from closing or finding a replacement. And so, I believe that those who engage in that racist diatribe owe the Commissioner an apology. They owe her family an apology and they owe the residents of this County an apology for failing to do their job and denigrating the memory of all those who have suffered and sacrificed --

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

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- for this County and for this state and for this nation to make this a peaceful and unified community. This is not the end. This is the beginning until those apologies are made."

**BRIAN DUNN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, I'm Brian. I'm a Fulton County resident. Some may not agree, but being elected officials on the Board of the Commissioners is a privilege for those of you who serve. Your duty and responsibility to all people is to all people in Fulton County, many of whom pay considerable taxes from their earnings to support your objectives and salaries. We expect all of you at the very least to set an example and not represent Fulton County as a place where adults resort to personal attacks with unfolded accusations and derisive name-calling. Last month, a member of this Commission lashed out at Commissioner Thorne saying she did not understand an issue due to her white privilege. And another Commissioner chimed in with a racist and derogatory term when he insultingly asked her; do you know what a Karen is? It is incomprehensible that people who truly feel privileged to do and say whatever they want to accuse others of coming privilege, it hypocritically says the rules are for thee but not for me. Perhaps even worse, no one on the dais -- on the dais spoke up to remind these Commissioners that their behavior was unacceptable. I was taught that all races and all people should be treated with dignity, goodness, and

respect. Ancient wisdom tells us to treat others the way you would like to be treated. Bridget has been nothing but polite, respectful to all of you; attacking anybody, anyone in this manner exposes who you really are; your own bias and entitlement. Entitlement is not a racial issue. It's a personal one regardless of age, race, gender or creed. Were the people and words were reversed, it would all be over the media and Bridget would be attacked –"

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

**BRIAN DUNN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- that cries racist and other divisive terminologies. I would have more respect for these two Commissioners if they had the grace to publicly apologize in the same manner that they so publicly degraded and insulted another member of this commission. Thank you."

**SARAH PEDRO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Sarah Pedro, and I'm a Fulton County resident. And first I want to note -- I want to thank Commissioner for actually being here as of what happened last meeting. I'm disappointed that another one chose not to be here and listen to the comments. This taken from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, let no corrupting talk about of your mouth, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion that gives grace to those who hear it. This is a verse my 9-year-old has memorized and quotes often. He gets it and he's nine. As a mom, I have a responsibility to teach my children the importance of words, character, and kindness. Watching two adult elected Commissioners tear into a fellow Commissioner like what took place at the March 15th meeting was truly a life lesson for my children regarding how not to treat people. Once again, Fulton County makes the headlines and not in a good way. Contrary to what our schools are teaching, I would like to address concept of white privilege, a completely false and made-up idea to make black children feel that being born black is somehow detrimental to their potential future success, implying that they could never overcome the fact that they were born black and that being born black is somehow a bad thing. That's shameful and false. Most of us do have some kind of privilege, it's true. The privilege of living in a country that values individual freedoms and opportunities to end up better than we started. Some of us have two-parent home privilege, we were born in a home with two parents --"

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

**SARAH PEDRO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- others have supported stable family privilege, but the best privilege of all is the privilege to live life set free from the bondage of sin through the sacrifice of God's only son on the cross. This privilege, Christ privilege, is available to all with a heart willing to receive it."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next six speakers in Assembly Hall: Matt Rowenczak, Kevin Muldowney, Mara Gaudio, Candy Muldowney, Ginger Bradshaw, and Robbie Caban."

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Matt Rowenczak, Fulton County resident. So we may have heard before of the year's, right, that a child that comes from an abusive household or a parent is at an increased risk of doing the same to their children. I believe the same can also be true for those that witnessed mistreatment or injustice. And we have to be careful not to commit the same mistakes that we are so quick to point out and accuse others of doing. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I read your bio on the Fulton County website. And it talks about how you witnessed your mother being a fighter during the Civil Rights era, including your mother being arrested in an Atlanta School Board meeting. What I find so ironic and shocking is that your behavior in last month's meeting appears to be the very thing that your mother fought against. And judging someone based upon the color of their skin and treating them differently because of it. You list your name -- well, it was supposed to happen this morning as responsive for the proclamation recognizing the World Peace Revival, which is a movement based on prayer, kindness, and unity. Your behavior last month was none of that. As they say, actions speak louder than words, and you can put your name next to a hundred proclamations, but all of that means nothing when you, yourself, commit such heinous behavior. Do you know what that reminds me of? Another lousy politician and people are tired of politicians. They want people to represent them and act accordingly --"

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

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and Mr. Arrington isn't even here. It seems like every time there's an issue that pertains to him, he's not present. Fulton County residents deserve better, thank you."

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, Kevin Muldowney, Fulton County resident. To dress down a fellow commissioner with racist remarks of white privilege shows intellectual laziness, ignorance, and a complete lack of decorum. The Commissioners involved need to publicly apologize for this outrageous and very public display. Not only did you come down on one of your peers, you publicly embarrassed the county. The video clip showing the abuse was posted on Rumble, and it quickly racked up 18,000 views. For a commissioner's meeting, I would say that fits the definition of viral. If the shoe were on the local foot and you were called out for the color of your skin, you all would have freaked out and had someone arrested for harassment. If this happens in corporate America, it would have caused a huge HR problem. I didn't think you guys would have stooped this low."

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Maria Gaudio, Fulton County resident. When I witnessed the just verbal abuse that Commissioner Thorne had to take, I was just so

shocked at this preadolescent mentality that was coming through to a panel that just seems so far above all that. So I went to the website and I'm looking, who are these people? And I'm looking at Commissioner Khadijah, a business owner and community advocate. Well, I went to the Secretary of State's website, and I've seen that you've never owned a business. There is no company that you've ever owned. I went to the business license. There is no business license under your name or your previous name, Beverly Jackson? That wasn't there either. There was a LLC with this Jakar, I see here; but that's under, it looks like your son's name. And I thought -- you know, I'm a mom. I would never take one of my son's accolades. That's their property. I would never say that's my own. Furthermore, it says here pursuing a juris doctor degree at Florida Coastal School of Law. I don't know how that could be. That school is in Jacksonville, and it closed two years ago. And when you go on the website to see if anybody is an alumni from the Atlanta area, it gives 93 names, none of which is yours. You've been a student or a graduate of that school. So I don't see how this could be included in your resume. You know, it's unfortunate that Mr. Arrington --"

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

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- isn't here because this shows complete cowardice. And if anybody has had privilege, it's when Big Daddy calls Emory University and says; please let my son in the school. I know his marks are low, but I'll help him get through school and where is he?"

**CANDY MULDOWNNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Candy Muldownney, and I live in Fulton County. Last month's meeting was hard to watch. Seeing two Commissioners verbally lash out at another Commissioner while others sat by without acknowledging the inappropriate behavior. Fulton County already gets enough national bad press; this only makes it worse. I noticed there have been thousands of views online of last month's meeting. That makes me sad to live in Fulton County, but also glad that people are seeing it to call it out. Every single one of you on this Board is privileged to be elected and asked to represent your constituents. We expect you to work together, respect each other, and work for the common good. Please do better."

**GINGER BRADSHAW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, my name is Ginger Bradshaw. I'm a Fulton County, Sandy Springs resident, and I would like to thank Chairman Pitts for his opening remarks concerning meeting decorum. But what I'm here to say is I would like for each Commissioner to look -- I mean, we can all look nice and smell good, but inside our heart is in turmoil. I would like to encourage each one of you -- each Commissioner has merit and you're here for a reason. Each one has good ideas; some ideas maybe not so good. But one thing I've learned, when I speak with someone who disagrees with me, if we really get down to the issues, a lot of times we're just not that far apart. We maybe have a different way of coming about it. So, I would encourage you to talk with each other with respect, to look at each other and try to take something positive for what



they've had to say, to try to get behind -- as Dr. Dobson used to say, get behind the eyes of the child to see what they really mean, what their intention really is. Well, I'm saying get behind the eyes of the Commissioner. We have a huge county, we know that. It's very diverse. What one area may need may not be what another area needs, but look to each other for the good in each other, for the good ideas that you have with each other, and just treat each other with respect. Do unto others as you would have someone do unto you. Thank you."

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Robby Caban, Fulton County. I came here to speak about animal control again. I've been e-mailing you for six months. You've received six whistleblower statements, all executed by former Fulton County employees, and you, in my opinion, have failed to act. I live on the Southside. I've lived there since 2008. I saw all the proclamations -- I want to thank these people from the Northside from coming, because I have seen the same homeless people for a decade. I have seen the same people struggling for a decade. So of all those proclamations that you did and all those photo ops worked, I wouldn't be seeing the same people struggling. And it is an excellent point that Bridget Thorne has raised on why WellStar has left; and it is a privilege that Marvin Arrington, III, who's a legacy politician and accepted a government check, can't even sit here to listen to his constituency. Honestly, I am so disappointed. I received a phone call from a Member of this Board, an employee who has oversight of animal control who told me not to use words like corruption. Who sent you all an e-mail saying don't include me on legal matters when six whistleblowers who are former Fulton County employees legally signed documents and told you what was happening. Told you an independent audit was needed, because there is abuse in our animal control and dangerous conditions; and I don't have more than two minutes here today. But the next time an attorney calls me like the last time that the little kids were mauled to death on our streets due to loose animals, due to a failing vendor that's not compliant, that cost us five million a year that we pay 10 million. The dogs are not going to walk in here and talk about abuse, but I tell you what, next time --"

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

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- next time -- next time they call me, those attorneys, I'm giving them every e-mail, every photo, every video that I've sent to all of you because either you knew or you should have known. And since the good Commissioner Arrington isn't here, he's a lawyer of 26 years. He can tell you that, and I hope to take every dime from you. Call for the audit."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have seven speakers on Zoom and three e-mailed in comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How many?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Seven."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have seven more minutes, so that'll be 30 minutes -- seven more minutes."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The first person to speak is Lucia Frazier."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Lucia, Frazier, Fulton County resident. I'm very disappointed in the March 15th meeting. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and Commissioner Arrington, I'm just so disappointed in your conduct. I was really hoping that we could all work together. Maybe we can moving forward. Commissioner Hall, I'm disappointed that you did not kind of jump in and help and didn't provide any colorless data to back up the problem with the hospital situation. And Commissioner Barrett, you're new, and didn't do a deep dive into the topic, and you still jumped on the disgraceful conduct wagon. I would have thought you guys have been in public forum long enough to discern between emotional response and data-driven response. It's been years long, past the time to stop using skin color as an impediment to anything. It only takes one generation to go from poor to wealthy in the US. I have many examples of such people in my life, and they come in all colors. We have many programs that people of all colors have access to get a leg up on opportunities to increase their wealth. If people are struggling, it's not because of their skin color. If people are wealthy, it's not because of their skin color. The problem could be that some of our programs are not designed to help people become independent. Instead they put people in the position to depend on government. Or the program could be great, but some people just don't have the motivation to become independent. Those require spiritual help. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Jason Frazier."

**JASON FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, this is Jason Frazier. I just want to express my disappointment with Khadijah and Marv and their racism that was exhibited in the last meeting. Also, Dana Barrett supporting their racism. Mr. Pitts for not hitting the gavel, that's his job. He's got that gavel; he loves to hit it when people clap in the audience, but will not hit it when people are racist on the Board. We need to stop this hate speech. Even Dick Anderson claiming that it was simply political. I'm sorry, Dick. It's not political; it is hate speech. It is nothing more; nothing less. This hate speech needs to stop. At least try to do better. Come on, guys."

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



**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings -- thank you. Greetings, one and all. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. Once upon a time during older Americans month, the call went out from the Fulton multipurpose facilities and from the neighborhood senior centers, and from the QLS complexes, seniors arose and came to Fulton County Assembly Hall. Some came on cane, some bent, but unbowed. They filled the Assembly Hall to capacity and then some dared to go to the microphone to speak truth to power. Few will remember what things were said that -- those days, but there's a right-now story that needs to be told right now about senior citizens' needs and travails and circumstances. But do not expect that story to be told by senior services management. They are organizing events that are diminutive, insipid, and filled with fluff. The Commission on Elder Affairs meets tomorrow, Thursday April 13th. As the Elder Affairs Commission revitalizes, and as seniors coalesced and shake off the shackles that silenced them, they're valiant, will hearken to the scene of older Americans month as a certain aging and unbound supporters, independence, engaged."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Irma Terry. Irma Terry. With that said, that concludes the Zoom comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We got two more minutes? Anybody else?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "We have three e-mailed in comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, let's summarize them quickly. We have two minutes."

**REGINA WALLER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The first e-mail comment is from Linda Adams. My comment is on transportation for seniors. Trans-day transportation is undependable, not accountable; several accidents with seniors who attend New Horizons Senior Center. I have shared my concerns several times of the safety of these buses. Within the last two to three months or more, a senior was involved in an accident on the bus. The lift equipment is not working properly, most of the time. The seniors are being picked up two to three hours later than scheduled times, arriving at the center at noon. Something needs to be done. The next comment is by Alvin Bailey. My neighbors and I have been trying to get our portion of Blanton Avenue paved for at least five years now, if not more. I am a senior citizen and have limited mobility as well as other of my neighbors. In fact, one of them has to use a wheelchair. On Thursday of last week, a car got stuck in one of the trenches and had to call a tow truck to get his car out. We have been told over and over that Blanton Avenue will be paved. Also, we were told that while Butner Road was resurfaced, that Blanton Avenue would be paved. That didn't happen. We are asking again for Blanton Avenue to be paved. These are not potholes. And the last comment is by Selena Cheek. Crime repeatedly break-ins just recently on April 6, 2023. Multiple cars were broken into including mine. I spoke to the leasing agent of Ashley College Town Apartments. She stated that she released the footage to the Atlanta Police Department that said it was early in the a.m. between 1

and 6 a.m. This is an ongoing problem in this historic neighborhood. This concludes the e-mail comment."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Next item is the add-on item, **23-0259**. Presentation and Discussion, regarding how Fulton County should respond to WellStar closures and address the public health emergency."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, we are excited to be here this morning. This is the culmination of seven to eight weeks of work. A strong partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine, which also their dean will be here to speak to you. But let me just make a few opening comments and then pass this to Dr. Roshell. We all know that the closure of the two WellStar hospitals were a shock to the Fulton County healthcare system. Most notably a reduction in capacity, but also the removal of healthcare access in areas that already were underserved. We've worked with the Governor's office and successfully secured a hundred and \$30 million infusion into Grady for additional capacity and, as you know, you authorized an \$11 million emergency infusion out of ARPA funds on top of this 60 plus million or so that we provided Grady last year. So Grady, again, is financially stable and expanding their capacity. However, we have long-standing health inequities, and what you'll see in this study is the specificity, the geography, and I think the compelling case that demands a response. And as you also remember, those became very obvious to us during the pandemic. So much of our mobile efforts as well as where we placed testing and other capabilities were based on the health inequities that existed in the pandemic impact in those communities. As I said, in partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine, Chairman Pitts and Dr. Montgomery Rice I really turbocharged this effort and, again, I think it's a tremendous partnership, and you'll see this deep dive study is only available for us to do with those -- with that partnership. And then also with the assistance of Ernst and Young, who we have two representatives here today and others that are watching via FGTV. I think what you'll see is some very, very compelling data some of which may seem intuitive. In other words you know it, our public constituency knows it, but now you'll see it in great specificity and again, at a geo and even ZIP Code level. You will also see a roadmap for solution, because it's not enough to just state the obvious. It's the layout. What are the possible near-term and also long-term solutions that would address these issues. Again, Dr. Roshell has been our thought leader for this effort and she'll lead the discussion today; but also Dean Tyndall from Morehouse School of Medicine is standing there beside her. I want to give a special thanks to Brad Duncan who has been always our primary interface at E&Y. He's

sitting in the audience there, and then also Belinda Minta and Marisa Greenwald who are standing there at the podium who made sense of all this data as well as sometimes just a cacophony opinions that all of us had during the seven-week process. So again, I think this has been distilled into something that the public can understand and I think you will fully appreciate. So thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Mr. Manager, Dr. Roshell."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you. Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Pamela Roshell. I'm the Chief Operating Officer responsible for Health and Human Services and Public Works here in Fulton County. Joining me today is co-presenter who is a physician as well as the Dean and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs at Morehouse School of Medicine. And so, today we will be presenting the findings and solutions set from weeks of primary and secondary research conducted by E&Y, Ernst & Young, that research included voices from the community and focus groups with stakeholders and residents with lived experiences. What we will review today is really the context that brought this partnership together and the catalyst for this study. We will also outline the current state of access to care, particularly focusing on Central and South Fulton, and we will also discuss the impact of the WellStar closures and how that has impacted access to care, and will round out the conversation with our proposed solution set and timeline. So, as we have discussed and as you all know for months and weeks now, two hospitals closed; one in East Point and the other in Central Fulton, which really exacerbated health disparities and access to care issues. The result of the closures has limited primary care access as also limited specialty care access in those communities; and brought this team together to develop a response plan that we will be presenting today. Solutions that we will be providing will be framed in the context of healthcare delivery and support services to address the closure and other structural inequities. Dean Tyndall."

**DEAN ADRIAN TYNDALL, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MED:** "Thank you very much and if we could move to the next slide. And so I'm Adrian Tyndall. I am the executive vice president for health affairs and Dean of Morehouse School of Medicine. I'm newer to the Atlanta community here, just shy of two years, I think the other critical piece of this that I'm academic. And so, I think of this in terms of objective data, but I also am an ER physician and I've practiced for more than 25 years. And I understand intimately some of the crisis perhaps that we are experiencing here in the Atlanta community. Let me just say that I think this partnership in connection with Ernst and Young. I think it's been important and impactful. We've spent several weeks focused on the data, and while we cannot control the past and I've said this over and over again, that the bridge is now burned behind us. We have to look forward, and we have to look at the solutions that we have to tackle. And the only way to do this, I think, is by looking at the evidence that we have in front of us. And so, the context as we've talked about, is really to look at the current state and understand that, you know, as in anywhere across the United

States, we know that there are existing disparities with regard to access to care, with regard to health outcomes. And we also understand that this data, just to be very clear, predates the WellStar closure. And to understand that the WellStar closure itself then connotes that we were bringing ourselves closer to the precipice in terms of a crisis. And so, exacerbating the underlying conditions that we currently face, I think is an important context to understand. And then we want to walk forward with an understanding of what do we have to do in order to really create the solutions? What do we have to do in order to build, I think from the ground up, a healthcare infrastructure for especially South Atlanta that makes sense for the entire community that has actually informed by the community. I think that's really important. If you can get to the next slide, please."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "We've covered the contents. The next slide."

**DEAN ADRIAN TYNDALL, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MED:** "So, when we think about with the healthcare continuum and what patient's experience, I want to draw your attention to this graphic that we developed at Morehouse School of Medicine, which is I think emblematic of how we think of patient care. And we know that the continuum really starts with at the very basics. What are those community based programs that really support how we look at health outcomes? What are the assets in the community that will start in our churches, in our schools, in our senior citizen centers, our community centers, housing. The things that really focus on what you've heard about are the social determinants of health, which we know are the basic underpinnings of some of the most significant issues and differences in health outcomes. When we move along that racetrack designs we think about, we think about the treatment and primary care network. And this is the fundamentals of how we actually provide care. As an emerging department physician, what I see most often is failure in this very specific case. Patients who do not get timely and efficient access to the care they need when they need it resulting in conditions that exacerbate beyond the level that could be taken care of in a primary care setting. We have to think about our partnerships and their assets in those parts of the communities to really understand how we actually are able to move forward. The acute care paradigm is both one of really looking at aquatic conditions that exacerbate beyond the ability to be taken care of in other settings, but also obviously what happens for those unfortunate circumstances, right? The fact that we now only have a single Trauma I level center within our community, which is not the case for other communities across the country like us. And then when we think about what happens in our post-acute care paradigm, where -- when we think about what happens beyond acute care, this really becomes important, the access of home care and skilled nursing and so on. When WellStar closed, we saw assets in our communities that were removed and each of those areas highlighted in yellow. And one of the things we have to really consider, is how do we build back efficiently? How do we understand what we need to have in terms of solutions to fill those gaps that we actually

see there? If we could have the next slide, please. So the goals here are the following: We approached this in a very data-driven way. We wanted to understand the Fulton County population, to understand our community, to understand the healthcare needs that they had the social needs and the services needed for our residents. And these include all conditions under which our residents were complaining. And this again contextualizes the issues of social determinants of health. But we also wanted to understand what the barriers were to accessing care. And how do we actually ensure that care can be provided at the right time and the right settings. We wanted to understand what resources were really needed in order to build the care needed for our community so our community can access care when they need it, how they need it, and in the right quantities. We took an approach that was data-driven. We looked at analytics across the spectrum. We did a deep dive looking at everything from our discharge data within our community. We looked at outcomes data with regards to the quality of care, the mortality, and life expectancy. We did a lot of secondary research that was pulled from our hospital databases. But we also compared ourselves to national peers, and we did one extraordinarily important thing: we spoke to our community. And part of the partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine is that for 40 years we have developed deep and engaging relationships with members of our community and access within our community. And we used those networks to understand what our community really needed and what they were telling us. And this is a significant part of any community needs assessment, but it was important for us to use our ability and our connectivity over the many years that Morehouse has done this work to really engage with our community so that we understand what our community needs."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So with so much access to primary and secondary data as well as the voices from the community and other stakeholders, we really had to discipline ourselves to drill down to four primary areas for priority. The first is stabilizing the existing safety net hospital financial viability. We then looked at leveraging our current providers and figuring out how we could equip them with new capabilities; we also are looking at how we can establish partnerships for new networks of care; and lastly, in the policy arena. How do we prepare to continue to advocate for closures in the coverage gap. Next slide. It was very important for us to be grounded not only in data but in a policy framework. And so, what you see here is the framework that guided our conversations, our research approach, and how we really spoke to the community, and how we ultimately develop the solution set that we will be presenting today. So here you see what we affectionately call our house model. It's broken into two systems: One is the health systems engagement. You'll see some data and information related to that component of the framework; and the other is social determinants of health. And what we continue to say to ourselves and others is that you cannot effectively establish this health systems engagement without addressing the social determinants of health. And so, that is why you see both of them listed here. And that is why this is the framework for our work moving forward and for our solution set.

Next slide, please. So, it's important to note here that the approach that we took when we looked at Fulton County, we noted that's a very long county stretched across a significant geographic area. The approach that we took was to divide the county in three distinct demographic areas: North Fulton, Central Fulton, and South Fulton. We then undertook some comparative analysis across for particular areas, health outcomes, healthcare access, economics, and social status. And what I just want to point out is some of the highlights of the analysis here. Under healthcare outcomes, you see the five-year arrow there that demonstrates a life expectancy difference of five years of those residents in Fulton County versus residents in Central and North Fulton. We also want to point out here under healthcare access across the county that residents in South Fulton have the lowest access to healthcare when we think of actual primary care networks, specialty care. Some of those resources are nonexistent and Dean Tyndall will speak about that. Also, in South Fulton, we see that there are lower levels of economic stability as well as many unmet needs from our community in social services support. So again, the framework that we used was to stratify the three segments of the county, north, central, and south, looking at income data, looking at healthcare access and economic data, and most importantly, healthcare outcomes. Next slide, please. Here, I want to point out that two interesting observations that really stood out for all of us; one, that there is absolutely a healthcare desert in South Fulton highlighted in the dotted line area. This indicates a region that has few facilities where residents can go to access care. So again, the healthcare desert in South Fulton is indicated in the red dotted line. The other is the health disparities across ZIP Code. So we really drill down into certain ZIP Codes. We use the ZIP Code level data in a couple of ways. One was to actually identify residents to speak to, some that had actually experienced the closure of the hospitals and have been out of care because they do not -- one, did not know where their physicians went, how they could reengage in care, and so that ZIP Code data was very important and really illustrated how many communities that were already marginalized were further impacted by this healthcare desert. Next slide, please."

**DEAN ADRIAN TYNDALL, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MED:** "And allow me to really dive a little bit deeper onto this: a few observations I wanted to make. One is the life expectancy differences that you see are driven by outcomes in terms of mortality rates and increased mortality rates and very specific disease categories that we actually looked at. But when you look at that slide, and I really want to draw your attention to the lower table. If you look at the south category of the South region of Fulton County, you can see the extreme disparity in terms of the presence of physicians and specialties closer to those populations. And I think that perhaps, to me, is startling because for a few reasons. One is that it is a focus on data and coverage as of February 2023. And some of this obviously produced the WellStar closure. But if you look at this and you understand that people actually will obtain their best healthcare when approximate to the resources that are available, you'll recognize perhaps it is not unreasonable to think why people may have poor outcomes when there isn't the existence of those resources



nearby. And I think that's a real critical thing to think about when we see the differences in outcomes in patients in these areas. Next slide, please."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So we have covered how the existing health disparities were further exacerbated by the WellStar closure with the removal of specialty care as well as primary care access. The data also shows us on these other social determinants of health how we have seen in South Fulton lower levels of educational attainment, lower levels of employment and household income, especially across those ZIP Codes that we particularly looked at, varying differences, stark differences across these remaining social determinants of health. And so, as we continue to roll out how we plan to address and respond in the next several weeks and months, again, it will not only include healthcare access opportunities, but opportunities to address these additional social determinants of health. Next slide, please."

**DEAN ADRIAN TYNDALL, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MED:** "And I think that this is really an important slide to look at, because we do know that as a result of the WellStar closure an already pressured system, has felt even more pressured. So as an emergency department physician, I know all too well the impact of crowding where we actually call it overcrowding in emerging departments. We understand that that leads to poor health outcomes. It limits the ability of practitioners to really care for patients appropriately. There's oftentimes delays in care. And what we have seen throughout our system, I think that any one of our system operators can tell you is that we have seen increases in pressure amongst all the hospitals with regards to crowding, both emerging crowding, longer wait times. We do know, for instance, that our ambulance wait times, what we call wall time, right, has become exacerbated. Which now creates an even more problematic issue with regards to availability of EMS for the rest of our community. All these issues have been driven because we have had a withdrawal of assets from our community. And that needs to be replaced. But the question is how? How do we do it smartly? How do we do it in a way that solutions oriented, the way that builds for the needs of the community and not for any other reason; and does it in a way that is smart and efficient that distributes the resources most appropriately to impact health in the highest manner. Next slide, please. So the overarching goal here is really to look at a few things. And I think, if I were to draw your attention to the squares at the top of the slide, I'll say that we have to think about how we redistribute and enhance health access for our community. We have to understand how we enhance care for the whole patient. How do we deliver higher qualities of care? How do we ensure that the wraparound services that we need to ensure good health outcomes are something that we invest in; community health workers and navigators and other aspects of what we need to do with care. How do we enable technology to support better care delivery? We know that through the pandemic we begin to rely on tele-health a whole lot. How do we integrate that into delivering higher quality of care and access for our community? How do we make sure that our community can adopt those technologies in order to benefit them the most? And I think that's an important intersection that we must actually

focus on. Morehouse has done quite a bit of work in that space and continues to do so with grants from the federal government to support how we deliver care in this space but also most importantly, how can our communities best adopt this sort of care. We need to reduce financial barriers to care delivery. We have to understand that in order for our patients to receive care, they have to be funded by whatever mechanisms necessary; but it's important. Because with that, we know the financial barriers is an impediment to care and impedes health outcomes for our population. That's not fair. And how do we remove cultural barriers to care access and delivery? How do we ensure that we meet our community and our patients where they need to be met? Not from any other direction above them. How do we connect better with our community? And so, all of these solutions that we're really beginning to think through at this point intersects every one of these pillars as we think smartly about the solutions that we need to look at. Much of this data is not new data. It has been there. But I think what we have seen here is that a crisis that we now face should not go to waste. And we should lean in to try to solve this problem now that we have it in our hands and we're now able to see this data. Next slide, please."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Before we move to the next slide, it's important for us to also point out that having a solution set without impact data means nothing. And so, we have spent some time really culling through how we can overlay health outcomes that we can measure. Some will be immediate measures; others will take us more time to collect the data to really see how health improvements -- which health improvements have been made. And so, at the bottom of this slide, you see some of the long-term goals and some of the near-term KPIs for the solution set and how we want to improve health outcomes using again a two-step approach of improving healthcare systems engagement and improving residents' lives through more impactful meaningful and measurable social determinants of health. Next slide."

**DEAN ADRIAN TYNDALL, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MED:** "So, what we have here, I think, is an opportunity. Most of the time usually the opportunity is to find a way to retrofit the health systems that already exists. But we have an opportunity to engineer the solutions from the ground up. And I think this is really where we need to be and what we need to focus on. So our group has really begun to think through planning around assets, planning around how we want to think about the solution set, thinking about the timeline that will actually take to deploy those solutions, understanding what we have to do now versus what comes nearer to us then versus what comes next. And again, the idea here is that each of these domains when we think about redistribution of health assets or enhancing the delivery of care or looking at enabling technology or reducing financial barriers all of these issues will come in its own timeline. But we have to actually pull together this strategy to ensure that we build on each of these solutions to impact what comes next. Remembering that the key delivery here are the health outcomes for our population. The key deliverable is the health outcomes that impact our population. And what we want to be able to create in the



solution set that is an ability to ensure that we're able to create the right infrastructure for what our community needs and nothing more. Next slide, please."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, where will we go from here? Today, we have begun the process of socializing these findings with you as our Board of Commissioners. We have plans to further socialize these findings, not only with all of the stakeholders that played a key role in lending their invoice to this work; but we'll also provide input as we move down the path and timeline of implementing the five solutions that we've -- solution sets that we've described. We also will be developing a very tangible plan that will include more definitive information including all of the solution sets, the subcategories of work. We will also look at all of the resources, investments needed, of course, to implement the strategies and solutions that we have -- we'll be recommending in more detail. We will be developing a governance structure wrapped around this whole framework of equity and establishing a communication plan, not only to keep you updated, but our other community partners and stakeholders. So, Commissioners, that concludes the overview of the work that we have collectively undertaken with Morehouse School of Medicine using the expertise, guidance, and data analytics and research capabilities of Ernst & Young. So, Mr. Chairman, we're open for any questions that the Board may have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, thank you so much, Dr. Roshell. So colleagues, as you can see, we've been busy, and you've been asking me about what's going on, what's going on, and we've been diligently working for the past seven or eight weeks on this. We have to keep these things under wrap. You hear me say that quite frequently. The second part of the presentation today we will discuss in Executive Session and we'll be joined by Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice from Morehouse School of Medicine. So with that, here's the lineup. Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you all so much for this valuable information and these facts. I heard some language earlier about the facts. These are real facts, not that mess that was presented on the 15th. So, thank you for these facts. And so, now, what -- I want to look at -- what I see it looks like maybe it's slide three where it says the closure of WellStar has created a public health emergency. I think we may want to think about rewording that. I think it may have exacerbated an existing emergency. I don't know that it actually created it -- the emergency because according to your map, there's no hospitals down there, there's no providers. Wait times are long, and even with the one hospital servicing East Point and with WellStar Medical in Central Fulton you know, there were already problems. The numbers were already low. There was no equity in the healthcare in Fulton County. And so frankly, colleagues, I want to bring something back at the next meeting because I don't want them to just investigate WellStar. I want them to investigate redlining the healthcare in Fulton County period. I don't care who it is. I see Emory, they got one in

Johns Creek, they got one in Sandy Springs. They might be redlining, too. I just want to know whose redlining. I don't care if it's WellStar or Emory, or whoever else is listed on this list, okay? So if there is redlining, it needs to be addressed. And it doesn't just need to be limited to WellStar. Certainly, the closure of those two hospitals without any notice to us and with the lies that we were told that they were going to keep the AMC Midtown open, certainly those lies help exacerbate the problem. But, you know, this is very valuable information and data. I'd like to also see us reach out to the Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority. They have numerous resources that may be available and certainly would be a good partner as we go forward in this effort. But this is absolutely amazing. Thank you so much for this data driven information that includes the real facts about the healthcare status in Fulton County and the inequities. And so, this is very, very valuable. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

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

**DEAN ADRIAN TYNDALL, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MED:** "Thank you, Commissioner."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you for this very detailed and telling a report that I already knew. But the fact that it is so detailed prompts me to have to say a couple of things. First and foremost, if you look at page 9, and I believe it's page 9, and you see physicians by region; North, Central, and South. Let's just say heart disease, cardiology. We know that heart disease in the communities of color are very high as opposed to communities that are not of color. And we see 71 North, 214 central, and zero South. Now, any -- I'm a person that was raised that everybody -- everybody has a voice. And so, if my voice upsets your voice, I will apologize for that. You have a right to have a voice. Everybody has a right to have a voice. But in that scenario, you can't silence mine because you don't like what I'm saying. At the end of the day, there is a healthcare desert in South. Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Arrington, and Commissioner Khadijah I know for a fact we get the calls about it. I know for a fact that others may get the calls too, but the reason that I picked out my other two colleagues in communities of color, we get the calls. We get the cries. We get the pleading. We get all of those things that are said to us because we represent these districts. Numbers don't lie. So if I'm passionate about a healthcare desert in my district, meanwhile WellStar opens up a \$12 million facility enhancement in North Fulton -- listen, I've had relatives pass from cancer, so I get it. Anybody that see the ravaging effects of cancer and how it ravages the body, we need every and all tools for that. So I get it, WellStar. You're to be commended for the \$12 million that you spent in North Fulton making sure that their needs were assessed; but what about the Southside? These conversations we have are uncomfortable conversations. I get it. And you have a right to your opinion as much as I have a right to mine. But I have a right to ring the alarm when there is not

a hospital South of I20. I have a right to ring the alarm for those who are voiceless. For those that are in my community and the numbers don't say -- let me put my glasses on - - it doesn't say 71 and 10. It doesn't say 71 and 20. It says 71 and 0; 32 and 2 when it comes to oncology; pulmonary 35 and zero. So, here again, to those of you that voiced your opinion, I will fight that you have the right to voice your opinion including all of my colleagues up here, but I will not be silenced on a issue that we have clear facts there's a problem in communities of color. And how many times I've got to take a phone call from a grandmother, from a daughter, from a neighbor? How many times do I have to see people die for us to get it that numbers don't lie. And, yes, I am very passionate about my community because somebody has to be. We do not have the healthcare that we need. Now, we can sit up and have different opinions as to what WellStar did and, guess what? I'll give you the right to have that opinion. I'm going to have mine. And I want you to have yours. I'm going to respect your opinion, but I need you to respect mine because I'm not talking about a piece of paper right now. And this piece of paper shows the fact and the work that's being done. I'm talking about the lives that I represent. I'm talking about the communities of color that do not have adequate healthcare. And until we realize that that is a true issue, a real issue, then we'll continue to talk about something that we know we need a solution. So I commend you all today because this is information that I already knew. And what's even sadder about it, all someone had to do was ask me. I been able to give them the information. A conversation goes both ways. Colleagues will tell you I have asked them questions about issues that I might not actually have known about, but I gave my colleagues the respect to have a conversation with them to ask. And so, while we're asking for respect, and while we're asking for conversations, that's a two-way street. I don't necessarily know whether everybody knows this information. I don't. So I commend you all for bringing it, but one thing I will say this as I close, I know it. You know how I know it, because I live it every day. I receive the calls every day from the families that are not receiving the healthcare. And so, if my passion offends you, I am so sorry."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple things. First of all, I just want to ask Dr. Roshell just for clarity on this data, or for both of you. Is it safe to say that the data hasn't changed dramatically in the last decade or so in terms of demographics and access to care?"

**DEAN ADRIAN TYNDALL, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MED:** "I can answer that question for you. So, while again, I'm data-driven. I've not looked back at all that data. I have we have in front of you. I can speculate, but perhaps it has not changed substantially, but that is something that we certainly do need to look at. What I would say is also that -- well, what is important to understand though, is that data that we see right now is data that preexisted the WellStar closure. That being said, the removal of

these assets worsens the problem. We have some context -- she's actually done the work (Speaker not on mic.)"

**MARISSA GREENWALD, ERNST & YOUNG:** "Sir, good morning good afternoon. Marissa Greenwald from Ernst and Young. I would just echo what Dean Tyndall said. I would say on the supply side of Fulton County across the North Central and South. We have not seen historically levels of support at or above these levels. We've seen it around, you know, several percentage points. But the -- in particular, the disparity of supply on a site level and individual provider level has remained fairly constant across all of these regions, so not a lot of change on a historical basis."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "As well as the demographics, correct?"

**MARISSA GREENWALD, ERNST & YOUNG:** "Correct. On a demand side as well, very much."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So, I'm asking this question because it seems clear to me, to really back up your resolution, Mr. Chairman, to investigate healthcare redlining that this data has been what it is, and WellStar knew that when they came into these communities and they are nonprofit. And so, serving those communities, they knew what they were getting into in terms of availability of care, of the demographics, of the ability to pay, and all of those things. So I just bring that out because I want to support with the data you provided, you know, my colleagues and their comments on the need for healthcare in South Fulton as we've now seen presented in this format. So thank you again for the research and the data and I just wanted to make that point. One other quick thing. I just wanted to mention, Mr. Chair, and to Mr. County Manager: as we move forward, looking at resources to start to address some of these issues, I just want to remind everybody and also thank my colleagues for passing a budget that included a five million-dollar healthcare reserve, and an additional five million put aside for infrastructure type projects, and also, the Resolution that we passed -- that Vice Chair Ellis, I believe, brought to the floor on the money from TAD closures going towards these type of infrastructures and capital projects. So I think those -- all of those dollars should be considered as we move forward. So I just want to commend all of my colleagues for working together to be physically responsible on this."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you, Chairman. Gosh, this is a lot -- a lot of data to comb through; a lot of work you guys have put into it. Thank you. Like my fellow Commissioners said, I mean, it's not something we didn't actually know. And I appreciate it, and I'd love to have conversations with my fellow Commissioners. I been trying to have some conversations, and they have not been available the past couple of weeks; but would love to have that at some point. When did you complete this study?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "We concluded our work just last week."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Last week? Okay, because we didn't get this till this morning. So we really didn't have time to really analyze and look it over, so I'd love maybe in Executive Session some more dialogue will come. But it would be great if we could have a chance to kind of look it over and come back and have another discussion in the future, if you all are available; because I'm a data-driven person as well. I love data, and would love to be able to at least read it all instead of getting it at the meeting. I was wondering, did you ever look at -- because there's 30 million people across the United States that live in healthcare deserts, mainly in rural areas. Have you looked at solutions or fixes like, I know the state of Idaho, I read an article that just came out today that said Idaho didn't even have a Trauma-1 emergency room."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, yes, Commissioner. The team, especially with the input and the policy program and experts from E&Y to inform our solution set that we did a broad brush look both from a primary and secondary data research perspective. And that's what really informed our solution set. Marissa Greenwald was one of the principles; and so, I'll let her further discuss how and what informed the solution set."

**MARISSA GREENWALD, ERNST & YOUNG:** "Thank you, Dr. Roshell. And yes, I would say, as we started to really unearth and bottom out the problem set, the problem statement and the detail, we wanted to think through a solution set that was rooted in the notion of health equity. And also, as was mentioned, the relationship between healthcare delivery and upstream forces that actually create a lot of the demand and dysfunction around health delivery. And as we thought about that, we said how can we create a solution set that not only deals with the desert, deals with the delivery desert, but deals with the way that you can actually help people before they actually go into seek that care. How do you think through the path they take through their lives? And then also, we added the layer of the specific demographic profile of Fulton County across and within the regions. And also thinking about from the community voices in the community inputs, what would those specific needs be. And I think that L1 Trauma Center and the need for that really enforces the fact that in current time, in the now, there are folks that unfortunately have care, needs, that are not met early enough in their care journey, and they get to a point where they unfortunately have to present at a much more exacerbated state of acuity sooner than peer residents within other parts of the County or other regions, you know, within Atlanta and the country. And so the need for L1 Trauma Center, I believe, is rooted in the fact that the current state of the demographics, the current care profile that individuals have, you know. As the solution sets move forward and creates a more sustainable ecosystem, you need the trauma center certainly in the near term to address that demographic reality."

**DEAN ADRIAN TYNDALL, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MED:** "And let me -- and answer the question also in this way: We know that throughout communities across the country as mentioned, there might be a common set of solutions, right, but there're ways of delivering care, whether in primary care services, whether an urgent care model or whatever that might be, and so there is a common set, there's no question. I think the thing that needs to be recognized though is that as many time communities across the country may be the same, communities are different. They have different needs. We have to understand what our own community needs by listening to our community members and develop a solution set that's really specific to our community needs. And I think this is the opportunity we have. This data we knew -- I mean, we don't have to make it up. We could probably just broadly assess what that would look like based upon lived experiences. What is important though is to get to the level of granularity needed in order to be able to create the solutions that are efficient and appropriate. In order to do that, you have to listen to our community. We can't just provide a generic solution set. And I think that's really the focus of what we're looking at."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "And so one of the examples of how we looked at regional data and benchmarked, we looked at healthcare spending patterns across different counties and across different regions and really toggled how that spending impacted healthcare outcomes. So again, we definitely were not in a bubble here only looking at Fulton County, we looked at health impact outcomes and spending across the like counties and other factors that would provide us with an opportunity for some meaningful comparisons."

**BELINDA MINTA, ERNST & YOUNG:** "If I can just add, related to that, there were several counties, comparable counties that we looked at to benchmark. So, looking at not just leading practices, but evidence-based practices that have been implemented by these counties to demonstrate an impact on the populations that would be (inaudible) with. We can share those counties with you as well as the research and assessment that went to this. It categorized again by lead-in practices all the way through evidence-based practices with observed outcomes with the respective counties achieved."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you. I appreciate that. Yeah, I know -- I've talked with people on the north side. They didn't want to purchase the South Fulton hospital. They said they ran the numbers and they knew it wasn't going to be profitable and they can't believe that WellStar would even step in. My understanding is they thought they could get people a new way of administering healthcare to get them in more of that primary care what you're talking about, and usher in a new way of getting people to get help instead of waiting until it's an emergency and going to the emergency room. So I do appreciate that and I like that perspective of that. I guess WellStar kind of failed on that area, but they tried; and I think with COVID, that the impact of COVID on all of the hospital systems across that was very hard for a time for hospitals to get through. So I



look forward to having continuing discussion and love to hear your ideas in more detail and ask questions later. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess, I have a couple of questions that I want to hone in on. I'd like to understand what is less than one? Because I see you have a zero and then you have a less than one. What is less than one if it's not zero?"

**MARISSA GREENWALD, ERNST & YOUNG:** "Sure. In some instances, it's a facility that is not sort of exactly in the north, and so it shares geography with another part of the county. And other instances, it is, I would say a facility that is not at the scale of some of the others. For example, comparing, you know, the capacity levels of those in the central or south. It's below the threshold of a classic -- you know, in the case of FQHC. What FQHC would be at the baseline level. So we have to look back to see what it means and that's exactly -- but that's what that means when it's less than the baseline one."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. What is a FQHC?"

**MARISSA GREENWALD, ERNST & YOUNG:** "Sorry. Federally qualified health center."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. All right. And then the boundaries for North, Central, and South, how are those defined?"

**MARISSA GREENWALD, ERNST & YOUNG:** "Yes. It's on an earlier page. Dr. Roshell, do you want to talk through that?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes. Let's go to page 7. So, Commissioner, this is -- we really carved it out, if you see 1, 2, 3 North ZIP Codes -- ZIP Codes north of I-285 to Central Fulton ZIP codes, so forth and so on. So, in the legend, for lack of a better word, the 1, 2, 3, 4. That gives you some sense of how we carved out on North, Central, and South footprint, but it was definitely ZIP Code driven."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis -- Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. You know I think certainly as we listen to the data, you know, perspective is always important, right? You know, I live and



represent a community that's got a lot of access to healthcare and, clearly, as the data demonstrated, that's not the case throughout the county. But I also lived in communities and grew up in a community where there wasn't a lot of access to healthcare. My mother was born in the front room of a two-bedroom house that she grew up in. When we had issues that happened and I injured myself for some stupid reason or whatever, it wasn't a quick emergency room to get to. It was to call Dr. Griffith and see if he could happen to get over and could help us out and to stitch up my ear that had been sliced with; one of my friends hit me with a golf club. You know, we all have different perspectives in which we come at it. And sometimes we don't even really understand it because we've not lived in an area where there's not been quality accessible healthcare. But we all know it is critical, if we really step back and we think about it. Also, you know, when we hit flashpoints and crises whether they're healthcare or whether they are other things, you know, in government, you know, we generally have sort of two paths that we can kind of go down; division and finger-pointing, which unfortunately, is where many things do evolve to, you know, in the scope of governance today. Or we can choose collaboration and working together and trying to create solutions, and I hope that is where we are moving forward as of today. You know, I'm not so sure how much benefit there is to dissecting why WellStar did what they did at this point, you know, versus moving forward. Certainly people have a lot of strong opinions on it. But I do think we have to figure out a way to move forward. And I think, you know, if we all sort of reflect it, like Chairman Pitts was probably the only one of us that in elected office at the time when Grady hit its flashpoint. The Atlanta community came together -- corporate community, government. It was a lot of friction during that time, right, Chairman Pitts?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's true."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "A lot of hostile rhetoric, et cetera, but what wound up from that was and is, you know, the tenth largest public hospital in the United States, which has served our community very, very well, right? But we know that as our counties grew particularly, you know, in the southern portion has grown population wise, it doesn't fit and meet all of the needs for the county going forward. And we have tremendous resources both economic and knowledge base and people based within this county. We have four -- four medical colleges in this state; is that correct? Right? Two of them -- one's right here in our county with Morehouse. And the other is kind of right on the border with Emory, right? Two of the four right here, right here in our backyard. We have, you know, -- we house some of the largest corporations in the world; biggest employer. Right, one of the biggest employers, if not one of the biggest employers? I don't know who's bigger, Georgia Power or Delta. Right down the road. Biggest airport in the world, busiest airport in the world. Capitol County of the state. So, you know, there's a tremendous opportunity for us to collaborate now. You know, whether that's with the medical community. You got some of our state officials here in the audience, you know, with us here our federal partners, our municipal partners. And I think it's just

time that we open up that kind of conversation and figure out how we make it work. It's going to be messy. There's going to be a lot of debates around it. Funding is going to be an issue. Who the providers are is going to be an issue; but, we got the collective abilities and resources to figure out how we alter what we've seen. But it's going to require not finger-pointing and division, but really true collaboration, and I hope that's what we work towards."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Vice Chair." Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, I just want to commend all of you and say job well done. This presentation is outstanding. It has captured every bit of information that addresses every question that I have heard from various people, organizations, entities. I even had Dr. Bernice King called me one night and we talked till late about this situation. And Commissioner Ellis is right; we need more collaboration, more teamwork, more communication, and partnerships like this. And to expand them even more, it's like our mayor always says, we need to draw bigger circles and inclusion. So as I listen to everything that's being said and I'm thinking about the meetings that I had with WellStar, I'm thinking about the meaning that the Chairman called with WellStar and other entities, and everything that has happened -- it made me think about the music mogul, Jay-Z said one time, men lie, women lie, but numbers don't. And when I look at this, the numbers truly tell the story behind what's really going on. So, thank you for your hard work and thank you for bringing this presentation in a timely fashion. It was needed today. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, any other questions at this time? We're going, during Executive Session; get into in a more detail on what the next steps are; thank you."

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

**DEAN ADRIAN TYNDALL, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MED:** "Thank you, Commissioners."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make sure to ask the County Attorney that either amend the existing Resolution or bring back and do a new Resolution to have the Department of Justice look at, just redlining in general in Fulton County."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. We'll take a look at that, Madam County Attorney. All right, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 9, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, 20--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- hold on one second. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Point of personal privilege. I'd like to move up the Community Development items that I had moved off the Consent Agenda so that Mr. Wilson doesn't have to be here all day."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We'll have to amend the agenda, to make a motion to amend the agenda."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Motion to amend the agenda as noted."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Bring up those items that were asked to be removed by Commissioner Barrett so that we can hear those before moving on. All right, any objections? Come up quickly. We have a lot to cover today."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So, I've asked Mr. Wilson to come and just to talk about these Community Development requests. Obviously, these are all positive things but they were sort of buried in the Consent Agenda, and I felt like it was important for us to hear about some of the great work that they're doing in the Community Development Department. I was a little bit late because I'm under the weather, but I thank Commissioner Hall; I was listening online for the proclamation this morning and for recognizing the Community Development team. I'm sorry, I didn't get to see everybody, but I'm glad you're here. Please just give us a couple of minutes if you would."

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** "Good afternoon everyone. Stan Wilson, Department of Community Development. You've got six items in our Community Development funded projects. All of them are federal dollars. If you look at item number 23-0222, those are projects being funded to our municipal partners. Examples of those are Hapeville: they're doing a walk and bicycle track for the John Lewis Park. We've got the city of Palmetto: they're doing a repair to their pump station. We got Union City doing survey and sidewalk repairs, ADA repairs on Roosevelt Highway. College Park: they're doing a roof replacement at the recreation center. We've got East Point at Bryant Park doing a new playground facility. And then too, in Fairburn, we've got sidewalks and ADA repairs as well, and that's the Go-lightly Park. So that's that particular item. That's \$1.8 million in funding. We do want to point out that these projects go directly to the CBDG time limits that we're always speaking of. So these are the projects that will help us meet that goal. And then we have a couple of CDBG COVID funded projects, City of Fairburn: they've got an annex that they're improving. They're going to use that for a centralized health services facility. They also want to buy a lot that's next door, and that's going to serve for additional parking, but

also it'll be used for COVID testing as well. And that's \$215,000. Another COVID funded CDBG Project is College Park and East Point. They're using the funding for utility assistance in College Park. And then East Point they want to use it for rental and mortgage assistance; and in both cases, that \$76,427. And we're doing an amendment to an existing contract. City of Palmetto another CDBG COVID project: they're buying a chest compression device. That's for their firefighters and also two test kits for COVID as well. They're looking at \$19,948. The last two items on the agenda, 23-0026 and 27 are ESG and ESG COVID funded projects. And in both cases, the dollars are being used for homeless prevention, primarily, and also to emergency shelter services. And we speak of homeless prevention; we're speaking of emergency rent, and utility assistance. That's kind of a very quick overview."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Wilson. I just wanted to, you know; share this work we're doing with the cities and getting these things accomplished. That's great work. Hopefully, we can just pass all of them as one group."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sure. All right, Madam Clerk. Thank you, sir. Madam Clerk, just sound the numbers, we'll take them as a group, one vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "23-0222, 23-0223, 23-0224, 23-0225, 23-0226, and 23-0227."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion to approve is by Commissioner Thorne, is that your -- Commissioner Thorne seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Let's vote, please."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 9, **23-0243**, Finance: Presentation, review, and approval of April 12th, 2023 Budget Soundings."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam CFO, let's roll."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a couple of items in our soundings for the Board's consideration. There are a number of items that needed increase spend authority on the annual hardware and software maintenance and support list. There were no additional funding requirements. These were just spending increases. And the second item that is a funding request is for the funds necessary for Registration and Elections to conduct a Special Call Election

for House District 68. That totaled \$949,398 for both the Election and a planned or proposed Runoff. And those funds will be provided for out of the Election's reserve that was included in the 2023 budget."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madam CFO. The motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Hall. It is seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue."

**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0244**, External Affairs: Presentation of the 2023 Legislative Session Update

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Ms. Corbitt, where are you? It's 12:22. We're going to try to finish by one. The whole agenda, not your portion though now. You've got about five minutes."

**JESSICA CORBITT- DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I'm going to make it snappy. Good afternoon, Commissioners. We have now -- this is our first meeting since Sine Die. We are going to give a very brief recap of this legislative session. Next please? Want to thank Fran and Jasmine as well as our External Lobbying team. We were -- our big headline is that we were able to get the full funding for the Behavior Health Crisis Center for six months, which aligns with our construction schedule. That was a huge win, and really wanted to specifically thank all of our delegation. The speaker pro tem really, I think, helped us get over that finish line and I want to thank her for her support as well as the entire delegation. We didn't talk to a single person who opposed this funding. We were also able to eliminate the two-year provision on this very low income Senior Homestead Exemption. So seniors, who had to reapply every two years, bring all their tax records every two years, no longer have to do that. It doesn't have to go before a referendum. So as soon as that bill is signed into law or as of July 1st, that change takes effect. We were able to implement some important changes to the child attorney's office which will help them have greater clarity in their standing. Also, wanted to mention that Miriam's Law, which was Board supported, passed this session. Wanted to say that we now have been able to get a new fee for double support technology investments for probate court. That is a five dollar per case fee will go into effect. So we had a lot of great success during this session. One that is not on this first slide that was also successful, this Board opposed the City of Buckhead City, and those bills did fail. So we had some really good successes this session and again, want to thank all of you as well as our team for their support. Next slide, please. Obviously, Sine Die was March 29th. The Governor's veto deadline is May 8th. And then because this was the first here in the Biannual Session,

things will carry it forward over 2024 and that's really what I like to highlight here. Next slide, please. We've already gone over this, so I won't belabor it, but we will need to go back and work with the delegation next year for a full year of funding starting in FY 25. So this will continue -- this dialogue will continue. Next slide, please. So, again, this is the recap of things that have -- were passed this session that were a part of our package and we were -- again, we were really pleased to have some good success stories. Next slide. This is one that you all opposed that failed, so that was also a good thing. Next slide, in terms of this Board's position. Several areas that we -- that this Board supported that did not continue through the process; one was a new retirement. I've noted some changes in the state court judges' retirement. That is a complex process that requires a review by the state auditor. That has been completed, so in the next session, that can continue through the legislative process. This Board also took a position on Clerk of Superior Court and passport fees. That bill passed the Senate, but did not make it all the way through. I saw that Representative Panitch was here and there were bills related to anti-Semitism, and she was a sponsor for that. Those bills passed the House, but did not go through the Senate. And then on the Crown Act, legislation was introduced but did not pass. And these were all areas where you all took a vote of support where there was active legislation, but it did not cross the finish line, this session. So we'll continue this work next year. Next slide, please. And then these were areas where the Board asked -- stated the legislative position, but we did not have active legislation this year. And so, now the work begins to do that for 2024 session. One was about MARTA Board representation. We have had some discussion with members about that, and we'll continue to work on that over the summer. One was about commercial assessments and appeals. ACCG has already indicated some interest in that being a part of their summer policy session, so we'll continue to work on that; and then also information about use of force with law enforcement. And so that will be something that we work on over the summer as well to get ready for the 2024 session. There's a lot more detail here. I know you have a tight agenda, but these charts really kind of summarize the areas where the Board has taken a position. And we will have a final report coming out. But again, I really want to thank these ladies there at the Capitol quite a bit caring our water and telling our story. I want thank them along with our outside team."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Ms. Corbitt. Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want some clarity on SB303, Senior Home Exemptions. It eliminates the two-year renewal provision, so do they need to renew at a different point in time?"

**JESSICA CORBITT- DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "No. There will be -- so this was the only Homestead Exemption in Fulton County, at least, the higher renewal provision. So that renewal provision is eliminated and it will remain in effect as long as that property owner owns the home."



**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Excellent. Thank you."

**JESSICA CORBITT- DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "By the way, I wanted to mention that Atlanta Legal Aid has a senior clinic, and they had also advocated for that change. We have let them know that was successful, and they express their appreciation for this Board's support for that. So, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Ms. Corbitt and team. All right, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on the bottom of page 9, **23-0245**, Information Technology: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$1,431,319.61 to provide enterprise business class desktop, personal computers, laptops, monitors, docking station."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, I have a question. All right. So I was looking at this and noticed that it is a complete change from Dell to Lenovo; is that correct?"

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT:** "That's correct. They were the lowest responsive bidder based on the CWG responded and the specs that we put out there, they responded with Lenovo as a brand to meet those requirements at the lowest price point."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes. I understand about the lowest responsible bidder, but we do have standardization in IT, right?"

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT:** "We do."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And so, this goes against that standardization. Most people have Dell and HP from what I've seen. And Lenovo would be a completely different system for this environment. Have these been tested for compatibility with our apps and our systems across the county."

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT:** "I would need to follow up on specifics around test with our environment, but they do meet standard specs and, you know, modern Windows operating systems. And our goal really is to be devise agnostic as we move forward with our infrastructure and application stacks. So really, we should be able to leverage, you know, any competing, you know well-branded equipment that would meet our needs."



**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I have had Lenovo. We had it over at the City of Atlanta in the IT department, Dell, HP and they really don't function exactly the same. Who are -- who are going to receive these computers? I noticed that there are -- what was it, 1,000 desktops, 1500 laptops, 2500 monitors. And when I got to the 2500 monitors, I said, okay, well I know my team operates on dual monitors. So maybe that's why the numbers doubled. But then again, I said, well, it could be that you haven't -- you're making -- setting it up where 1,000 desktops and 1500 laptops equals 2500 systems, and maybe that's one monitor those. Can you elaborate on how you got to that number?"

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT:** "So that's based on our refresh life cycle. So there's a number of devices that are in the environment with plenty of useful life. So this was estimated based on what needs to be replaced in the next three years. So that's how we got to those numbers."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Really? So do you have a list of the departments that you're going to allocate these desktops and laptops to, because I've seen some very old equipment out there that hasn't been refreshed, even since the last time computers were supposed to be refreshed?"

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT:** "So, I don't have those numbers in front of me, but I do have -- you know, we have approximately 500 devices that will be replaced this year, another 350 next year, and I can get the breakdown of departments, but it would be based on when they've hit their end of year -- their five-year useful lifecycle."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And please make sure you check like our senior centers and places like that where we have computer systems that are for the -- that are public facing. I know you're new and everything. You probably haven't had a chance to check on everything and be brought up-to-date on everything, but these are issues that have been ongoing, and you're doing a great job already. But I just want you to be aware of the things that are still outstanding before you even got here. All right? Thank you so much."

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, IT:** "You're welcome."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Please vote. Madam Clerk."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 10, **23-0246**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$3,137,629.89 to provide and install industrial racking."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Hall. It is seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0247**: Request approval to utilize corporative purchasing in an amount not to exceed \$270,945.39 to purchase veterinary and related medical equipment."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **23-0248**, Public Works: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in the amount not to exceed \$200,000 to provide fire hydrant maintenance and repairs."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Item added, Senior Services, **23-0201**: Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000 to provide transportation services, ridesharing."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, is there a motion? All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, it's seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** Under Justice and Safety, **23-0249**, Superior Court Administration: Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$148,000 to purchase medical drug testing supplies."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall. It is seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0250**: Request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$298,000 to provide and implement a cloud-based jury management system."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne. It is seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 11, **23-0251**, Probate Court: Request approval of a Resolution to confirm the appointment of Marian Parker to the position of Associate Judge of the Fulton County Probate Court; and for other purposes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0252**, Police: Request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 to provide armed and unarmed security services."

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

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



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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioners' Action Items, **23-0209**: Request approval of a Resolution urging the consolidation of certain Fulton County Clerk of Court Operations under the Fulton County Superior Court Clerk."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Motion to hold, please. I believe that there have been some discussions regarding joint administration, which is probably going to be more helpful to all of us."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Properly moved and seconded. Cast your vote, please. Motion on the floor is to hold."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next items."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0253**: Request approval of a Resolution directing the County Manager and County Attorney to develop a plan for the Board of Commissioners consideration for Legislation authorizing a Countywide Special Local Option Sales Tax to support healthcare infrastructure and foster stabilization of healthcare services countywide sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think we all certainly heard how the provision of quality assessable healthcare is critical for all of our county residents to lead productive lives and to enable economic stability. And I think we saw some of the impacts of what that looks like when it's not. You know I think we also, you know, before kind of pointed as we look at some of the deficiencies that we see in our healthcare delivery throughout the county, also to note that as the county as a whole, our taxpayers have been funding about between last year about a hundred million in funding to support safety net, public and behavior health county services, actually, it probably exceeds that, I don't have the exact number. But at a minimum, we're looking at a number that's probably three times what combined the county -- the taxpayers the counties of DeKalb, Gwinnett, and Cobb do. So yet despite that effort, in hey, I want to acknowledge that, you know, a large portion of that funding is for Grady, which is, you know, as I've noted earlier, has really served our county well. And we saw the impact of that investment within the pandemic in terms of the reach that we were able to provide

and what we were able to mobilize and do relative to other counties. But, as we've heard, we still have deficiencies. And, you know, that's going to require at some point, you know, I think the path we're headed down is consideration for more funding about how we address those deficiencies. And not only that, you know, also we're in the process of renegotiating our memorandum of understanding with Grady, and they have additional ask as well. So I think it brings an inflection point for us to consider in terms of how are we going to be able to fund those things that are going to be before us; and not only those things, but how we also are going to be able to fund the things that we are required to do by state mandate: things like jails and courts et cetera, which we know we have sort of significant things that are on the horizon that we need to consider. And, you know, if you look at our communities as a whole, our county as a whole, it's a tremendous economic engine. And, you know, there's the issue certainly of equity that has been presented before us in terms of health equity, but there's also this issue of sort of equity in fairness (inaudible) to our property taxpayers. Grady is a regional asset -- it's a state asset, right? And it's certainly a metro asset that a lot of people will use beyond the Fulton and DeKalb residents. And people I talked about this over time, you know, why aren't other counties not helping to contribute and support Grady? People try to tackle that, but that really largely to no avail. And looking at, you know, a sales tax mechanism helps to respond to that, with not only just the property taxpayers who pay but the million plus residents that are flowing through here on a daily basis that aren't citizens that come to sporting events and drive through road, have accidents, wind up at Grady, et cetera. We've seen the impact of sales taxes to be able to utilize and fund things where we've had deficiencies before; things like roads, transit, buses, schools, sewer. We've even used sort of, you know, use taxes and other things other than property taxes to fund world-class stadiums right over there. But we've never really had a discussion about might we should use some of that funding that's generated through sales tax and the tremendous economic engine that Fulton County is, and the Fulton County taxpayers have helped to create through their investment and things like tax abatements, TADS, and other means of support that fostered economic development. Fulton County taxpayers have been the largest investors in that effort. But yet many of our citizens aren't seeing many of those benefits to nurture them, as we've talked about. There's also sort of the practical matter of this, in that as I've noted before, we have this growing need in terms of how we're going to fund our healthcare infrastructure and the fact that we got all these other needs; and also the fact that collectively our property taxpayers, well we've got a millage rate that's barely comparable to many of our other metro carriers, that of Cobb county. If you look sort of the collective millage rate that our citizens pay when you layer on city taxes, county taxes, and school taxes; and in particular parts for the county this is even, you know, much more impactful than others. It's a huge load. And we all know part of the challenges of homeownership right now and the cost of homeownership, not only in terms of availability, but also, you know, rising interest rates, you know, as well as the burden of property tax. And, you know, in many ways, we get effectively capped in terms of what you collectively can do in terms of putting the burden on a property taxpayer to fund other needs, emergent needs that

are out there. And when we've seen that and we've not addressed it, we have not been able to address it -- address things like transportation, you know, through a general fund, discussions of sales-tax use has come up. You know, just in -- what was that Mr. Manager help me on the date that we collectively initiated the T slot, was that 2016? Was that 2016 when it passed?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I remember. I think it was 2017."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "2017?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Because I think it took us two years to get to, I think maybe your point as well. It's not an easy process."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "It's not an easy process, right?" It does take some time. So in terms of the why now and why start the conversation, it just takes a long time. Right? This doesn't -- this Resolution is not going to create a sales tax. But the impact of that particular -- that particular T-split that was launched at that point in time for the cities outside of Atlanta which participated in it, it's a .75 sales tax. It gives in the equivalent of one year general fund budget every six years; exclusively to be dedicated to transportation, road improvements, et cetera. And you can see as you go through many of these communities, the impact that that's had. I don't view this probably as something as we go through the work on this that it's going to be a full penny tax, it's probably a fractional tax. But just sort of -- to show you sort of the powers of the numbers of that, right now, 2022, full penny generated about 360 million in sales tax revenue, half penny obviously would generate 180 of that. You take that one hundred million dollars spend, not only could that be funded, you know, in that way, but also it would leave significant funds and also probably growing funds because those sales tax revenues tend to grow year over year at a more consistent rate than what our property taxes do. To be able to fund the type of things that, you know, we know that are most likely going to be ahead of us. So, again, you know, what's before you right now is not ask to say yes, let's move forward with the sales tax in some form, but it's simply an ask to direct our County Manager and our County Attorney to develop a plan for us to consider. What that might look like, what are going to be the legislative hurdles associated with it or the pros and cons of it. What might some of their relative timeline look like for us to consider and how that might sort of play in with other things that we've got on the table right now. And this certainly is -- it's a start of a -- it should be viewed as a start of a conversation and the start of a long conversation as the manager has noted in terms of this, you know, walking through kind of that time frame that it took us to get through just to put a T-split in place. But I think the time is certainly is now. I think we've heard sort of, you know, the information as to why health care matters for our county, and I think certainly that's going to beg the question of how some of those things are going to be funded, and this is an option that we need to be able to

understand what our options are to be able consider this as a tool to support those initiatives. I ask for your favorable support."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel that we had a plan to collaborate on this through discussion that is scheduled to happen in, I don't know, a half an hour or an hour, when we move to the special call meeting. And I believe this is premature, and I think it's also limiting the research that we're asking the executive team to do. Through my conversations with the County Manager's team, it seems to me that there are variety of options for things we could do in and around sales tax that should be explored, not just this one, as well as the fact that while sales tax may be a solution we go with, there are other things to be considered and also other expenses to be considered including our public safety infrastructure issues. So, I'd like to make a motion to hold."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Substitute motion to hold. Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, properly moved and seconded on the motion to hold. Let's vote. All right, Commissioner Hall, go ahead, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** **Inaudible.**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. The motion on the floor is to hold."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Commissioner Hall. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I would have a -- I guess I'm supportive of what Commissioner Ellis was saying, but I'm also supportive what Commissioner Barrett was saying. I think it deserves some further discussion. You know, I want them to explore all funding options, right? So I have no problem with them exploring local option sales tax. But, you know, maybe there is also a hospital tax. Maybe there's also a jail tax. Maybe -- but I like the idea of a local option sales tax, because then it doesn't necessarily -- I mean we have to raise the millage rate, right? So, it certainly make sense to look at the local option sales tax. I would just like to see a more comprehensive look, right? What are the top 10 revenue sources that we could look at? So, I don't know if it necessarily needs to be held or if maybe Commissioner Ellis may accept a friendly amendment to have the team look at all available funding options. Sounds like he's willing to accept an amendment to all funding options, but maybe it's just better to have further discussion. You know, I'm supportive, by the way. I'll leave it there. We are going to need some money, and I don't care where it comes from."



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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I agree, Commissioner Arrington. Glad you went before me so I don't have to reiterate. But we do need a plan and it does need to be inclusive. I do like allowing the taxpayers to vote and decide on what they want their taxpayer dollars used for, but it does need to be all-inclusive. Commissioner Ellis did accept that, I was going to ask him the same thing, but you did it first. But we should also be looking at the fact that we're the largest county in the state of Georgia, and we should have a county hospital like the other counties that are the largest counties in other places in the United States who are addressing the same issues, but they have more direct input and authority to do so because they have a county-run health system. But unfortunately, we gave that up when we handed the Board of Health over to the state. So we are in the situation that we're in, and now we need to decide on a plan of action. And one thing that I have seen over the past 12 years now, six years with Commissioner Garner and now six years on this Board, is that it does happen a little better and faster when we put it in the resolution and we show that we're all in support of asking our County manager or County attorney to create a plan and do something. It just kind of gives it more validity, more support in the process and on paper. So because I've seen where we have asked them to do things just on-the-fly during the meeting and it never happened, but every time we do a resolution and specify what needs to happen, it is addressed in the appropriate manner and fashion because they have it in writing and in detail and they see the support of the Board. So I understand why you would bring it forward like this."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, just be brief, I do accept the amendment that was offered and I do share Commissioner Hall's sentiment that, you know, this is an attempt to convey our sense of urgency around the topic. I mean, in our support for moving this forward, and that we're not -- we're not up here just to talk. You know, we're up here to see how we can best move this forward in the most expeditious and efficient fashion as possible."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to call the question. Is there a second? I'll second. Let's vote on the call to question. No. The motion is now to call the questions on the floor. Come on, Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Did you press -- okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Just a minute. Just a minute. Let me preside. Motion on the floor is to call the question."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And the motion on the floor is to hold. Let's vote. Madam Clerk?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion to hold passes four yeas, one nay."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 12, Commissioner's Full Board Appointments, **23-0254**, Hospital Authority of Fulton County, the Board of Trustees, of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County submitted the following slate of names."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm going to move that we hold this. There is a lot of unanswered questions. This is the cart before the horse. We are to submit names of them and plus there are some other issues that we're looking at the minutes; we have no minutes of the last ten years of this organization. So my motion will be to hold here."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "My motion is to approve."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Vice Chairman Ellis. "Just a minute. Let me -- go ahead, you can speak, Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "No, finish your statement."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. This organization, first of all, in the first place, we've been trying to find minutes of this organization since I don't know when. The last time we've seen any minutes of this organization is probably ten years ago. Number one. Number two, the appointments for this authority should generate with us. We are to submit names. They've been submitting names to us. So we need to take time to look at what this entity does. It's very timely now because you're talking about hospitals and hospital authorities. We can work this out and have this ready to go at our next meeting, but we do need to follow our policies and procedures. My motion is to hold. Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, my motion is to approve. We've had, you know, this process -- my motion is to approve. So substitute motion to approve. And I -- put that in here. You know -- you got that in there?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, the motion is to approve. We just need a second."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. So, Commissioners, this is a process that we've had in place since I've been up here for the past eight years. This authority receives no funding from us. This is a process that they go through. They submit a slate, we approve the names, they select the individual. You know, we have no governance, you know, kind of role with them. This is something's that's sort of been in statute for a number of years. And Chairman Pitts, you know, I know in fact that you only ask for minutes from them yesterday, or two days ago. So the notion that we've been sort of seeking that out for the past ten years, that's inaccurate. They do have an opening, they would like for us to move in terms of approving the slate to allow them to move forward so they could operate with a full board. I think we're mixing metaphors in terms of this particular issue to hold up their slate. It serves no purpose whatsoever."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm completely lost. So who submitted the list?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "They did. We were supposed to submit a list to them."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "That's not correct."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "That's not correct. We were supposed to submit a list to them. That's not historically how it's been done, and it has been in practice. You can go back to the date they submit their slate and we approve the slate."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, I do have the floor."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You can have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And I'm going to defer to the County attorney on this then because of the back-and-forth and I'm not absolutely sure -- Madam County Attorney can you confirm how this is supposed to function?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Commissioner Hall. The process is that the Board of Commissioners submit the slate of three names to the board, to the hospital board, and then they select from among those three names. If they don't choose to select from the first slate of three, then they will notify the Board of Commissioners as such and then the Board of Commissioners will submit another slate of three, from which they shall select."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So has the Board of Commissioners submitted a slate of names? I've never saw that happen."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I would construe this action as the submittal, if that is what the Board decides to do."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, well, I'm here, and we haven't -- apparently we have and that's what this is. So if we -- I know I had -- were we all supposed to participate in the names? The list of names? How does that work?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The process is not set forth in that level of detail, but if you were to improve the slate, then that will become your submittal to the hospital."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, well, I don't even know any of these people, so I can't just go along with that. I don't even know who these people are. So I'm not submitting anything because I have no idea anything about them. I haven't seen a bio or anything."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioner Abdur -- I'm sorry. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman?" It's 1 o'clock guys.

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN** "Chairman, I'll make it quick. I just want to openly let Commissioner Thorne know, I don't have a problem with this, but because it is, I do have some questions about the process because I know, having been here three years, the process has been used for my benefit and also against my benefit. So personally for me, I would feel better just to hold this to make sure that we are doing it one, correctly. And even though I do know one of the physicians on the list, I would like just a little bit more time to find out about the others. So, I don't have a problem supporting it, but I would ask that it be held because it is a little gray area around my understanding not only, County Attorney, what you're saying, but what's being presented with the Vice Chair and the Chairman. And so, as someone who wants to make the right decision, if we could please hold this, if it's not time sensitive, I would like to hold this and come back to it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Ellis, you want to be heard again, Vice Chair?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "No, it is -- does have a time sensitivity to it. You know, these names were submitted by me, this slate submitted by me. So it is properly in

order. Commissioner Morris has, you know, run through this same process in the past. This is no different, and I would hope we could approve it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner -- well, Commissioner Thorne, you still want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah. I just wanted to know if it was time sensitive, which it isn't. So it'll be okay to hold if we need to -- need be, but I did see that emails back and forth with approving this slate, and that Commissioner Ellis did respond. I think it was from the lawyer with Northside, Christie North. That proposed the slate. But I didn't understand it, being a new Commissioner, so if it's not time urgent, I'm good with holding."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, I do want to emphasize, it is time --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Mr. Commissioner, hold on, Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I just to weigh in that I received a call from, I guess it was the -- it was a gentleman, but I'm not sure exactly what it -- I think he's an attorney for Northside. And this was the slate that they delivered to us and asked for us to put forward to the Board. So just to be clear, I understand that Vice Chair Ellis chose to do that. But those were the three names that were given to us."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, I do want to emphasize it is, in their mind, time sensitive. They have a vacancy, I believe, which was a result of -- due to death, I believe, or moving out of the county. And they have a board meeting coming up. And they want to have a full slate of board members so they can have their board meeting. So it is time sensitive."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you still want to be heard? We don't even know what they do. All right. Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair Ellis has made a motion to approve this slate. Is there a second? Is there a second? Vice Chair Ellis has made a motion to approve this slate. Is there a second to his motion? Is there a second?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "There is a second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Did you second? All right. Commissioner, it's before us to approve. And I would hope that we would not approve it, but hold. Let's vote on the Ellis motion to approve."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion is to hold, is there a second? All right. Properly moved and seconded. Let's vote on the motion to hold, please. Madam Chair, what are we doing?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Put your motion. Okay. And the motion to hold is on the floor, vote is open. And the motion passes; four yeas, one abstention."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0255**, Invest Atlanta, Chairman Pitts has nominated Commissioner Dana Barrett for a reappointment as Fulton County's appointee to the Atlanta Development Authority, doing business as Invest Atlanta to --"

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. It's 1:04; I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session, issues of real estate, personnel, and legal -- litigation, yeah. Madam Clerk."

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

(Executive Session taken at 1:05 p.m.)

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam County Attorney, you ready? Madam Clerk, where are you? Madam Clerk, let's roll. You're ready? All right. Colleagues, without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Items from Executive Session, Madam Clerk -- Madam -- strike that, County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Chairman Pitts. First item is, is there a motion to authorize participation in an execution of a Memorandum of Understanding allocating funds by the Chairman of -- by the Chairman of the Board in the national opioid suit against Teva, Allergan, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, and CVS?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the request for representation set forth in items number 2 and 4 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; it is seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to deny the request for representation set forth in item number 5 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the amended settlement authority as set forth in item number 7 of Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve -- is there a motion to approve the settlement in the matter of DeMarcus Harris versus Sheriff Theodore Jackson, Anthony Richardson, Temeka Cherry, and Tyna Taylor in the amount of \$100,000 as set forth in item number 8 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Please vote."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to authorize the Chairman or the County Manager to execute the purchase and sale agreement and other necessary documents to effectuate transfer of the West End Arts Center to the city of Atlanta for 1 dollar and for continued use for public purpose?"



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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to authorize negotiation to exchange property under the terms and as identified in item number 11 of the Executive Session agenda as a like-kind exchange?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to authorize negotiation for the purchase of certain property under the terms discussed in item number 12 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Again, favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, second by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. No further items to come before us, we are adjourned. Fifteen minutes on -- what floor is that, fourth floor? Where is it, third floor?"

(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.)