

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

October 02, 2024

10:00 AM



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



MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: November 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts	10:01 a.m.
Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)	PRESENT
Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)	PRESENT
Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)	PRESENT
Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)	PRESENT
Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)	PRESENT
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	PRESENT
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair (District 6)	PRESENT

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

Chairman Pitts asked for a moment of silence in memoriam of District 2 Chief of Staff Fred Hoffman.

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**24-0619 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing item #24-0630 as requested by the County Manager. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

24-0620 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Vincent Nathaniel Young Remembrance Day."
(Hall/Arrington)
September 21, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Baldie Con Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts)**
September 27, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Babs Bunny's Prom Night." **(Abdur-Rahman)**
September 28, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Angela Watts Appreciation Day." **(Hall/Arrington)**
September 29, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Jim Alexander Appreciation Day." **(Hall/Arrington)**
September 29, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Munson Steed Appreciation Day." **(Hall/Arrington)**
September 29, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Randy Davidson Appreciation Day." **(Hall/Arrington)**
September 29, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "CeeLo Green Appreciation Day." **(Hall/Arrington)**
September 29, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Raquell Lord Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**
October 3, 2024

Open & Responsible Government**24-0621 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a change order less than 10% - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, RFP#23RFP041723K-JA, Design/Build Services for Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center in the total amount not to exceed \$997,640.00 with Hogan Construction Group, LLC (Norcross, GA), to modify the contract for final close-out costs of the of the design and construction of the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Unit at the Oak Hill Child, Adolescent & Family Center. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0622 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134894C-MH, Maintenance and Testing of Fire Intrusion Alarm Systems in the total amount not to exceed \$110,000.00 with (A) VSC Fire & Security, Inc. (Norcross, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00; and (B) Entec Systems, Inc. (Suwanee, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00, to provide on-site maintenance and testing of fire-intrusion alarm systems on annual/or an “as-needed” basis for County facilities. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0623 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138782C-JNJ, Glass and Plexiglas Repair and Replacement in the total amount not to exceed \$105,000.00 with (A) Brad Construction Company II, LLC (Fayetteville, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00; and (B) P & E Mirror and Glass, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00, to provide glass and Plexiglas repair and replacement on an “as needed” basis” for County facilities. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0624 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB135025C-MH, Generator System Maintenance and Repair Services in the amount not to exceed \$135,000.00 with Power & Energy Services, Inc. (Powder Springs, GA), to provide on-site preventive generator system maintenance and repair services for Fulton County. This action exercises second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0625 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing a Right of Way Easement Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia, and Greystone Power Corporation for the purpose of relocating and installing utility poles on Cedar Grove Road; to authorize the Chairman to execute the Right of Way Easement Agreement and related documents; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the Right of Way Easement Agreement and related documents as to form; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0626 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 307.28 square feet to Fulton County, Georgia, from Roswell Creekview Unit Owners Association, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the 275 South Atlanta Street Project at 5000 Over Land Drive, Roswell, Georgia 30075. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0627 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Relocation Easement Dedication of 9,435 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia from Microsoft Corporation for the purpose of constructing the Plummer Road SS Revision Project at 0 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, South Fulton, Georgia 30336. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**24-0628 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 23ITB08012023A-JWT, Water Quality Monitoring in the amount of \$129,254.00 with Integrated Science Engineering, Inc. (Newman, GA), to provide water quality monitoring services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

24-0629 Department for HIV Elimination

Request approval to amend existing contracts to increase the spending authority of "Ryan White Part A" grant subrecipients pursuant to the Health Resources and Services Administration award #2 H89HA00007-32-00 in the amount of \$1,900,000.00 for FY24, subject to Federal funding. Contracts are 100% grant funded with no Fulton County match. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with six (6) selected subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**24-0630 County Manager**

Request approval to enter into a data sharing agreement with Georgia State University (GSU) for Fulton County to provide data on the jail population, charges, bookings, and other court case information. Data will be provided at no cost to GSU and GSU will provide findings and reports of their research back to Fulton County, specifically focused on potential impacts to the Fulton County justice system with the signing of Senate Bill 63. Effective dates: Upon BOC approval through June 30, 2025. **(REMOVED)**

FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**24-0631 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the First Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by revising item #24-0611 as requested by the County Attorney. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

24-0632 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

First Regular Meeting Minutes, September 4, 2024

Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, September 18, 2024

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

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

Absent: Arrington

24-0633 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Customer Service Week." **(Pitts/Abdur-Rahman/Ellis)**

Proclamation recognizing "Domestic Violence Awareness Month."
(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts/Ellis)

Proclamation recognizing "Breast Cancer Awareness Month."
(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts/Ellis)

PUBLIC HEARINGS**24-0634 Board of Commissioners**

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

(CONDUCTED)

16 Speakers: Chief Judge Cassandra Kirk (ORCA); Adam Stephen Wadley (Justice); Mike Russell (Audit); L.A. Pink (Fulton County Jail); J. Wesley Day (Justice/Solicitor Office); Sheila Hamilton (Properties Fraud); Dominique Grant (Fulton County Jail); Devin Barrington-Ward (Justice); Deshaneir King (Fulton County Jail); Valerie Anderson (Justice); Brittany Burns (Emergency Hotline/911); Charles Rambo (Fulton County Jail); Liz Stein (Justice); Pamela Jones (Emergency Hotline/911); Shabnam Bashiri (Justice) and Senae Hobson (Justice)

3 Zoom Speakers: Kevin Muldowney (Item #24-0655); Derrick D. Blassingame (Fulton County System) and Ben Howard (Seniors Services)

COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

24-0635 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138287C-JNJ, Asphalt/Concrete Pavement Maintenance and Repair Services in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 with Complete Contracting Partners LLC (Powder Springs, GA), to provide asphalt/concrete pavement maintenance and repair services on an "as needed" basis for the County. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0636 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138304C-JNJ, Standby Fencing Installation and Repair in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 with Allied Fence Company, Inc. (Mableton, GA), to provide standby fencing installation and repair on an "as needed" basis for Fulton County. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0637 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB073123C-MH, Elevator and Escalator Maintenance Services in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 with Mowrey Elevator Company of Florida, Inc. (Marianna, FL), to provide full on-site preventive maintenance services for approximately 75 various types of passenger and freight elevators for County facilities. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0638 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB136993C-GS, Medical and Clinical General Cleaning Services in an amount not to exceed \$440,290.00 with Intercontinental Commercial Services, Inc. (Lawrenceville, GA) to provide medical and clinical cleaning services for five (5) selected Fulton County Health facilities. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0639 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22RFP135756C-GS, Janitorial Services for Fulton County’s Government Center Complex (Group A) and Justice Center Facilities (Group B) in the total amount not to exceed \$2,269,832.00 with (A) ABM Industry Groups, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$903,588.00; and (B) American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$1,366,244.00, to provide janitorial services for the Government Center Complex and the Justice Center Complex for Fulton County. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0640 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134621K-JAJ, Roof Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Services Countywide in the total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 with (A) solicitation RYCARS Construction, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, (B) Ideal Building Solutions, LLC. (Norcross, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, and (C) Ben Hill Roofing and Siding Co, Inc (Douglasville, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, to provide standby roof maintenance, repair, and replacement services on an “as-needed” basis for Countywide facilities. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

Health and Human Services

24-0641 Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Public Works, 23ITB139005A-JWT, Standby Utility Pavement Patching & Paving Services in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00 with The K&E Group USA LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide standby utility pavement patching and paving services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0642 Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - 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. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0643 Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 22ITBC089A-JWT, Manholes, Frames, Grates, and Accessories, in an amount not to exceed \$360,742.45 with Ferguson Waterworks (Norcross, GA), to provide manholes, frames, grates, and accessories. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0644 Public Works

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 22ITBC074A-JWT, Corporation Stops and Brass Fittings in the amount of \$412,683.51 Delta Municipal Supply Company (Lawrenceville, GA) to provide corporation stops and brass fittings. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

Justice and Safety

24-0645 Medical Examiner

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Medical Examiner's Office, 22ITB135453C-MH, Pickup and Removal of Deceased Remains in an amount not to exceed \$168,000.00 with Thompson Mortuary Services LLC. (Atlanta, GA) to provide pickup and removal of deceased remains services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve items #24-0635 through #24-0645. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

COUNTY MANAGER'S ACTION ITEMS

Open & Responsible Government

24-0646 County Manager

Request approval of a Resolution to ratify the Declaration of a Local State of Emergency in Fulton County, Georgia due to the impact of Hurricane Helene. Effective upon passage. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0647 Information Technology

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Fulton County Information Technology Department, 23RFP139160B-EC, Digital Multi-functional Devices and Support Services to increase the spending authority \$404,097.64 with Standard Office Systems of Atlanta, Inc. (Duluth, GA) to include usage costs in the annual contract. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

24-0648 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Fulton County Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23RFP092723K-JA, Program Management Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 with Heery + Russell, a joint venture (Atlanta, GA), to provide Program Management Services to support the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management through the management of multiple County construction projects and related services. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP) for two years, with one, one year renewal option. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0649 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21RFP131973C-MH, Bus and Shuttle Services in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 with MTI Limo and Shuttle Services, Inc. (College Park, GA) to cover additional annual expenses associated with an increase in bus and shuttle services supporting various initiatives and events sponsored by County agencies and County Commissioners. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

24-0650 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 24ITB143254C-JH, Mail Services Operation in an amount not to exceed \$349,424.16, with Moore Partners, Inc. dba More Business Solutions (Peachtree Corners, GA) to provide mail services Countywide. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options.

(APPROVED)

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

Health and Human Services**24-0651 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request confirmation of seven (7) nominees as voting members of the Fulton County Opioid Abatement Advisory Council. Voting members shall include the following: (1) a designee of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, as nominated by the Sheriff and confirmed by the Board of Commissioners; (2) a member designated by the executive team of the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and confirmed by the Board of Commissioners; (3) a member of the Fulton County Board of Health, as nominated by the Fulton County Board of Health and confirmed by the Board of Commissioners; (4) an academic member with a background in substance use and recovery, as nominated by the Director of the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and confirmed by the Board of Commissioners; (5) a substance use disorder treatment provider within Fulton County licensed by the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), as nominated by the Director of the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and confirmed by the Board of Commissioners; (6) a survivor of the disease of addiction or a family member who has lost a loved one to the disease, as nominated by the Director of the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and confirmed by the Board of Commissioners; (7) a designee of the Fulton County Superior Court, as nominated by Fulton County Superior Court Administration and confirmed by the Board of Commissioners.

These seven (7) voting members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners up to an initial term of two (2) years. In addition, the Director of the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Council, providing insight and guidance without holding voting rights. **Nominees:**

1. **Dr. Tracey Elam**, Fulton County's Sheriff's Department (representing Sheriff or Sheriff's Designee)
2. **Lynnette Allen**, Fulton County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (representing Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities/Community Service Board)

3. **Beatrice King**, Fulton County Board of Health (representing Fulton County Board of Health Member)
4. **Supriya Kegley**, PhD, MPH, Emory Rollins School of Public Health (representing Academic Member)
5. **Tracey-Ann George**, Ascensa Health, (formerly St. Jude's Recovery) (representing Substance Use Provider Licensed by DCH)
6. **Robin Buckley**, Johns Creek Chamber of Commerce (representing Member with Lived Experience or a Family Member)
7. **John Collins**, Superior Court of Fulton County (representing Accountability Court)

LaTrina Foster, Director, Fulton County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, (Ex-Officio Member) **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

24-0652 **Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval to enter into a contract with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities for the planning and design of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center in North Fulton for a contract term September 25, 2024 through September 24, 2025. The contract is grant funded in the amount of \$500,000.00. The County Attorney is authorized to approve the contract as to legal form and make modifications thereto, including correcting scrivener's errors, prior to execution. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

24-0653 **Community Development**

Request approval to (a) rescind prior 2024 Veterans Services Program (VSP) award to the non-profit (identified in Attachment "A") in the amount of \$30,000.00; and (b) reallocate the rescinded funding in the amount of \$30,000.00 to the non-profits (identified in Attachment "B"). **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Thorne

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**24-0611 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance amending Part 1, Subpart B, ~~Chapter 102—Administration~~, **Chapter 101- General Provisions and County Governing Authority** Article I, Sec. 101-68 - Decorum, of the Code of Laws of Fulton County, Georgia Relating to Rules of Decorum Governing Meetings of the Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 9/18/24 ON 10/2/24)**

24-0654 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to designate a resignation procedure for appointed members of the Boards, Commissions, Taskforces, Committees, Councils and authorities created under the authority of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 10/2/24)**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

24-0655 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to ensure free accessibility to Fulton County records by County officials and employees as needed to fulfill their public duties and functions; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (HELD ON 10/2/24)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Thorne, and Ellis

24-0656 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution that any unbudgeted financial impact to Fulton County resulting from failure to comply with the Purchasing Code and other procurement requirements shall be deducted from the budget of the noncompliant department, office, Constitutional Officer, or Elected Official, or offset by reduction to subsequent fiscal year budgets; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (APPROVED)**

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

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

Nay: Hall, and Arrington

Abstain: Barrett

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments

24-0657 Board of Commissioners

REGION III EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL (APPROVED)

The Bylaws of the Region III Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council requires that its members be appointed by County Commissioners and must constitute a minimum of two thirds of the voting membership. Council members serve terms of appointment of three (3) years. The Council year will be from July 1 to June 30. The term of each appointment shall be for three years with one-third of the Council to be appointed each year. In order to have one-third of the Council appointed each year some appointments may be made for 1 or 2 years until such balances achieved. Members may be reappointed to the EMS Council with no limit on terms. (See EMS Advisory Council Bylaws updated on 5/13/2021).

Term = 3 Years

Term below expires: June 30, 2026

Matthew Kallmyer (**BOC/Position 2**)

Chairman Pitts nominated Alex Robles to replace Matt Kallmyer for a Full Board appointment to an unexpired term ending June 30, 2026.

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

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

Abstain: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Ellis

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

24-0613 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Open Records Requests (**Thorne**) (**HELD ON 9/18/24 AND 10/2/24**)

24-0614 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Sheriff's Office Outstanding Invoices **(Pitts) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

Reference item #24-0579:

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to allocate the \$2.137 million to the Sheriff's Office. Motion to Approve Failed on 9/4/24

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve allocating \$2,255,042.94 to the Sheriff's Office. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yea: Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

Nay: Pitts, and Ellis

Abstain: Thorne, and Abdur-Rahman

24-0615 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Inmate Phone Contract & Jail Commissary Contract **(Pitts) (HELD ON 9/18/24 AND 10/2/24)**

24-0658 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Update of activities of the City of Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority (AFCRA). **(Arrington) (DISCUSSED)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

24-0659 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 Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioners: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, and Arrington; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

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

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

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

Yea: Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, and Arrington

Did Not Vote: Abdur-Rahman

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
FIRST REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC
"A Court Reporting Firm"

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the First Regular Meeting of October 2nd -- today is October 2nd, 2024. It's 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Present."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. And before we begin our meeting this morning, let us have a moment of silence in honor of our colleague, chief of staff to Commissioner Bob Ellis, Fred Hoffman."

(Whereupon a moment of silence was observed)

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Proceed."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **24-0619**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda: All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item to be removed on page 5, 24-0630, County Manager: Request approval to enter into a data sharing agreement with Georgia State University. This item will be removed from the Consent Agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "For further discussion or removed?"

CLERK GRIER: "Removed. No discussion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Anything else?"

CLERK GRIER: "That's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. On the motion to adopt as amended by Commissioner Thorne; it's seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 5, First Regular Meeting Agenda, 24-0631, Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item to be revised on page 11, 24-0611: Request approval of an Ordinance amending Fulton County Codes relating to rules of decorum. That item has been revised to correct the Chapter -- Chapter 101, General Provisions in County Governing Authority."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else, Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to adopt as amended by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0632, Ratification of Minutes. First Regular Meeting Minutes, September 4th; Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, September 18th, 2024."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0633, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Customer Service Week sponsored by Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, and Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Good morning. We've got to balance this out. You know, we got this whole other side over here. Come on over. Come on over. All right. Come on down. Well, it's my honor to share this proclamation. For customer service, we can recognize so many of the outstanding employees that we have in Fulton County that make customer service a foremost priority and go above and beyond to helping out our citizens with the problems that they encounter on a day-to-day basis in so many ways, so thank you in advance. WHEREAS, Fulton County is committed to enhancing its customer experience, in an effort to better the lives of the citizens it serves through consistent, courteous, accurate, fair, and uniform best customer service practices; and WHEREAS, Fulton County through implementation of its customer service policy, developed a standard level of service that is convenient, user-friendly, inclusive, accessible, and appropriate; and WHEREAS, Fulton County has a documented customer service framework designed to govern the customer experience with Fulton County government. We aim to provide an environment where members of the public and staff feel valued, and services are tailored to meet the needs of the customers; and WHEREAS, excellence in customer service is a key principle of building customer loyalty and trust that their government is efficient, effective, and fiscally sound; and WHEREAS, satisfied citizens share their positive experience with others which align with the strategic plan mission statement to deliver efficient high-impact service to every resident and visitor of Fulton County. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County in conjunction with the International Customer Service Association, affirms the County's effort to ensure quality customer experiences and solutions for internal and external customers who interact and/or conduct business with or for the County; and does hereby proclaim October 7th through 11th, 2024 as 'Customer Service Week' in Fulton County, Georgia. Who wants to say something? Come on down. I didn't see you back, here. Come on."

BRIGETTE BAILEY, DIRECTOR CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SOLUTIONS: "I like to stay in the background. I just want to say thank you to all the employees for all that they do to make Fulton County shine. It's not anything that I do. People tell me congratulations; it's not me, it's everybody that you see here and every person that

gives service every day to Fulton County selfishly with compassion, with empathy; and really put forth the extra mile, so it is an honor to recognize Customer Service Week. Thank you to our county leadership, our Board of Commissioners, for always being so supportive of customer service as we're working to always improve and enhance it. We are just excited to have this opportunity. We hope that everyone will join us next week. We have a big week of exciting activities planned, and where we will recognize some of our customer service legends who have gone far above and beyond the call of duty. We'll get to highlight some of those folks who normally don't necessarily always get recognized or seen because they're not in the public. So this will be our opportunity say thank you, and it's also our opportunity to say thank you to our customers, because without you, we are nothing. And so, we are glad to have an opportunity to recognize you and share this time with you. And I'm going to turn it over to Dick Anderson, our County Manager, our fearless leader here. "

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "You forgot one important thing."

BRIGETTE BAILEY, DIRECTOR CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SOLUTIONS: "I thought I'd let you do that."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Timing is everything as I used to be told in a previous life. But before we announce what we're going to announce relative to timing, I just wanted thank you, Bridget, for your leadership and putting in the office, the structure, the kiosk, the emphasis, the customer legends recognition, because you have done a lot. Yes, it is that all of us and all the folks that are up here are representative of the 5,000 employees that deal effectively. And obviously, when we make the announcement that they're going to make at a world-class level, so I want to thank all of our employees, but also personally thank you. Now let me turn it back to you to make this one more announcement. Under the banner, timing is everything."

BRIGETTE BAILEY, DIRECTOR CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SOLUTIONS: "All right. Well, we did apply for an award, and we competed with hundreds of public and private sector organizations, and Fulton County was named 'Organization of the Year' for its customer service efforts by the National Customer Service Association. We're really excited. Big accomplishment, so congratulations to Fulton County."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I won't belabor the point other than, like our Chairman says, Fulton County is a 'Big Deal', but it's a greater deal because of our employees. And I want to take this time to clap again for the employees of Fulton County. We would not get this recognition without you. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Domestic Violence Awareness Month' sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Chairman Pitts, and Commissioner Ellis."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can I get April Pye, Barnet Jones, and any other breast cancer survivors; any cancer survivors that we have -- yes, thank you, my colleague -- if you will please come forward; this is your day and I see you got on your beautiful pink. Please come forward. Okay? Douglas, please come here, sir: that has domestic violence. You know anything that can happen, will happen. So, you know, I want to take this time just to say, please get checked. We're having more and more people that are not having any signs. And so, we want to make sure that we do what we need to do. And I'm even saying this for myself and my family, please get checked; and that goes for the men and women. WHEREAS, this proclamation, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women in the United States and Georgia; and WHEREAS, in 2024, the National Cancer Institute estimates that 360,000 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Of that number, 310,720 -- 310,720 women and 49,280 men in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer; and about 42,250 women and 530 men will succumb from the disease. This is why I said my previous statement, both please get checked. WHEREAS, early detection is critical through prevention initiatives, such as mammograms, that can detect breast cancer up to two years before physical symptoms can be seen or felt; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County Board of Health, Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program through funding from the Georgia Department of Public Health, provides breast cancer screenings, diagnostic services, and referrals to treatment as medically indicated to help reduce the impact of breast cancer on uninsured women residing in Fulton County; and WHEREAS, health and public officials strongly encourage women to remain diligent about their regular mammograms. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners hereby commends the Fulton County Board of Health, breast and cervical cancer prevention program, community medical providers, and community partners who dedicate their lives to fighting for a world without breast cancer; and does hereby proclaim October 2024 as 'Breast Cancer Awareness Month' in Fulton County, Georgia. The next voice you will hear -- you can put your hands together for that. The next voice you will hear will be my colleague to my right, and then the people that we do want to make sure that you know that have survived this to my left. So my colleague, if you will say a few words as a survivor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I didn't know I was going to be asked to speak. I will say I am a breast cancer survivor and I am reminded sometimes in even getting my mammogram, so thank you for the reminder. October is a great time to remind all of your friends and family to get tested. It's super important. My cancer was caught through early screening with a mammogram, so get tested, get tested, get tested."

BARNETT JONES, RECIPIENT: "I will echo what she just said in terms of getting tested. I was diagnosed in 2014, and it was a shock. I didn't have a history of breast cancer in my family, so I just did the test because that's the thing to do. But then I found out I had breast cancer in both breasts. And so, it is just -- I can't stress it enough. It's just so, so important whether you believe you got it or you don't, get tested."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "We would be remised if we did not also to take a moment to recognize our late Fulton County Commissioner, Joan P. Garner, who passed away from cancer while in office in 2017. Her fight with cancer was one of advocacy, because once she was diagnosed after her first year of her first term, she took it upon herself to become a champion for breast cancer because she saw how she was treated with privilege to be able to actually get her appointments -- that was very disrespectful -- to be able to get her appointments because of her title and who she was in advance of others who have been waiting for a long time, she realized that getting those tests and those appointments on time can save your life, and so she became an advocate, so please remember Joan P. Garner our late Commissioner."

APRIL PYE, RECIPIENT: "Good morning, everyone. And I will echo what everyone has said but also to remind women that self-examination is also very important. I did detect the lump in my breast by self-examination. So I was diagnosed in 1997, so I'm a 27-year breast cancer survivor and have had no other issues. Like Barnett, it was not in my family. So don't think because breast cancer is not something that runs in your family, that it may not happen to you. So be sure to get tested, do your self-exams -- excuse. Do your self-examination, get the test, and do your mammograms. I regularly do my mammograms. I will never miss one until they tell me I do not have to do it again. So thank you, Commissioners, for your support of 'Breast Cancer Awareness Month' and please, ladies, get tested thank you -- and men. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The last proclamation is recognizing 'Domestic Violence Awareness Month' sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Chairman Pitts, and Commissioner Ellis."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Will any representatives of the domestic violence -- Georgia Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition, if any of the members of that organization or domestic violence survivors, please join us. You can come up here, dear, and stand next to me. This is a proclamation that every -- every year when we get to this time of the year, I reflect on my life because I am a domestic abuse survivor. Many do not like to share their stories, many live in the darkness of domestic violence; and I think it's very important that we continually fight against it, and we also recognize that domestic violence is not always seen by bruises. And so, it is with humble reverence that I present this proclamation. Domestic Violence Awareness Month was first observed in October of 1981 as National Day of Unity to unite advocates across the nation in efforts to end domestic violence; and WHEREAS, communities and advocacy organizations across the country, connect with public and one another throughout the month to raise awareness about the signs of abuse and ways to stop it and to uplift survivor stories and provide additional resources to leaders and policymakers; and WHEREAS, the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, is Georgia's federally recognized domestic violence coalition representing over 53 domestic violence organizations and programs across the state; and WHEREAS, GCADV empower survivors and the programs that serve them; educates the public, and advocates for

responsive public policies; and WHEREAS, this year's theme is 'Heal, Hold, and Center' as we work to end domestic violence. We must embrace the many ways we can heal from violence, hold space for survivors, and centers that are most marginalized; and WHEREAS, everyone has the opportunities to make a difference in ending domestic violence and use our resources to raise awareness of domestic violence in our communities. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners supports efforts to end domestic violence in our communities; and does hereby proclaim the month of October 2024 as 'Domestic Violence Awareness Month' in Fulton County, Georgia."

ALLIE WILLIAMS, RECIPIENT: "Hi, everyone. My name is Allie Williams. I'm the legal director of the Justice for Incarcerated Survivors Program at the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and we are honored and grateful to be here today. And really, we're grateful and humbled and honored to do the work every day of advocating for survivors of domestic violence. It's important always to honor those who, unfortunately, we've lost to domestic homicide, and to continue advocating and fighting for our survivors who are still with us today at any point in their journeys, so we are honored to do that work every day, to empower survivors that are their voices in the fight against domestic violence; lift up their stories and recognize the many -- the many folks in our community who have had that experience. We're grateful to work with so many agencies in Fulton County and across Georgia, like the Partnership Against Domestic Violence, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyer's Foundation, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Women on the Rise who's here today. Many, many, many, we can't name them all, who do this incredible work every day. So this month, we encourage you to plug in to local efforts to educate the community, directly advocate for survivors, contribute to those efforts in your community, and don't be afraid to speak up if you see something around you that doesn't seem right. And like if someone might need help, don't be afraid to intervene. And we're grateful to continue to advocate for safety, healing, and justice in our communities, and are grateful that Fulton County is with us in this effort and for this recognition, so thank you so much."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 6, Public Hearings, **24-0634**, Public Comment: Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing, or by submitting their comments in writing by registering on the county's website www.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have received 19 speaker cards. Will the first

six speakers, please come forward: Representative Mesha Maynard, Chief Magistrate Judge Kirk, Adam Stephen Wadley, Mike Russell, J. Wesley Day, and LA Pink."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. When you have 15 seconds, I'll say 15 seconds that's your key to begin to conclude your remarks. First speaker."

CHIEF JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Cassandra Kirk, and I'm honored to serve as the chief magistrate judge in Fulton County. As we enter budget season, I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with a brief update on the operations of our magistrate court. This court was established in 2013, 2014, and I was appointed by Governor Deal in December of 2014. Since shouldering the responsibility of this court on January 1, 2015, we have successfully closed over 646,000 cases across all magistrate case types as reported by the IT department. We have created a court that is accessible, modified in our pay scheduling to respect the dignity of parties, and walk our court into the community. This year alone, thanks to our dedicated support of our ORCA staff, we have closed over 47,500 cases. Additionally, we have processed more than 25,000 arrest warrants, 5,000 search warrants, and 9,800 writs. However, I express concern regarding the recent decision not to extend ORCA staffing. In just three weeks since that decision, our court's operations have drastically diminished. Instead of managing 250 to 400 cases, we are now limited to handling 125 to 200 cases per day, with only three full-time staff supporting our judges. Currently, we face a shortfall of funding for our part-time judges as we are forced to be reimbursed for expenses from another court's budget. I respectfully request your support to ensure full operation of our magistrate court. Specifically, I ask for the return of the transferred funds entering this budget season, I request allocated funding necessary to adequately staff our magistrate court, based on the assessments we have provided. I look forward to engaging further discussions with each of you and answering any questions you all may have. Thank you for your attention."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds. Next speaker."

ADAM STEPHEN WADLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, Commissioners. I'm here to speak on the topic of justice for Devon Anderson. Devon Anderson was murdered on August 5th by an Atlanta police official, Melvin Potter, at the smoking house, which is within your jurisdiction. Melvin Potter has not been charged with homicide. Of course, what we are hearing is that, you know, we're waiting for GBI to complete its investigation. I want each of you to ask yourselves, what kind of investigation you would be satisfied with if your son or your loved one were murder by somebody. Would you be content to wait for a month-long investigation, and meanwhile, the person who killed your loved one, your son, Devon Anderson, remains at large; not only employed by Atlanta Police Department, which I realize is not your concern, but remains out there on the street. Melvin Potter is not only unfit to serve as a police officer, but is actively a menace to the public and a danger. This is showing that there has been a pattern of behavior with Melvin Potter related to substance abuse and the endangerment of other

people's lives, and now the reckless and malicious taking of somebody's life. Among me and many other members of the public, the question remains how can there be a rule of law? How can there be law enforcement or justice worthy of the name when police officers are not held to a high enough standard or really any sort of standard it would seem when it comes to their conduct on or off duty. I think that this incident happened within your district, Counselor Arrington, so I would hope that you would take a particular interest --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ADAM STEPHEN WADLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- in seeing to that your constituents feel that you care about their safety, because the way that people think right now, y'all are not acting as a legitimate government, but with the way you handle law-enforcement you're acting as gangsters and you'll be treated as such. Thank you."

MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Mike Russell, and I'm a resident of Fulton County. I'm a little bit confused this morning. I don't understand why we have a judge that has to keep coming down here begging for money when she's trying to cooperate with the County Commissioners, and she doesn't have appropriate funding; and I think we all need a detailed explanation why that is. But we have a Sheriff and a DA who are part of the cult of corruption who have money hand over fist; where the Sheriff and his 200,000-dollar pimp mobile, nothing's been done about that; the misappropriation of all the money that should have gone to the inmate welfare fund. Nothing has been done about that. And now it's my understanding that his own deputies can't find him to serve him papers to appear in court. How is that possible? That the Sheriff's deputies who are charged with court summons can't find the Sheriff? Does that make any sense to anybody anywhere? And why does it have to happen in Fulton County, Georgia? That needs to change. I'm going to ask one more time for an investigation and a forensic audit into the Sheriff's office and the DA's office so we can get to the bottom of this. And maybe some of that money that they are misusing could've been spent to clean up the backlog in our courts. Justice denied is justice not served, and these people have been languishing for justice. Something needs to be done. So I'm asking you again for an audit and I'm asking you again to at least explain to us why our courts have been so poorly funded --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- Mr. Chairman, I yield back. Thank you."

J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Ms. Natalie Hall, the most thing that's disrespectful is you. For the last six years I've lived in your district and I have assisted you and supported you, when I had my radio show, I had you on. I've thrown campaign parties for your husband. When I worked for a millionaire, I got you in front of her by scheduling her time. So you are disrespectful for not helping a constituent, forget what I've ever done for you. To the Honorable Fulton County Board of Commissioners, with

an exception of Natalie Hall, my name is J. Wesley Day, and I was the victim of a hate crime on November 20th, 2018. In seven weeks from today, it will be six years without any justice. When it should have been an open and shut case, considering I had my assailants on camera calling me homophobic epithets and slapping me, but Keith Gammage ended up giving me a felony? I come today to plead with you, to make the solicitor general office adhere to the Freedom of Information Act as he has declined to respond to an open records request. Keith Gammage operates with little to no oversight. You all fund him, so you all should be able to ask him the following: How many people received a single charge of affray, which is a disorderly conduct, from 2018 to present? How many of these people were upgraded to a felony as I was from 2018 to present. How many people with a single charge of --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

J. WESLEY DAY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- affray had their charge dismissed? How many people were charged with trespassing from 2018 to present? How many of those people were added with obstruction? If you look at the brochure I left you today, you will see how Keith Gammage have been destroying my life. It's fact-based information that any of you can go look up. And if you are his boss, you should be able to ask him why is he treating me this way? Thank you."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Woo, it's a lot going on off up in here today. Ike Arrington, let me just address you real quick from what the street's say, you beat your wife, so I don't understand how you stood with a domestic violence proclamation. That for the life of me kills me. You guys got the nerves. We're here, a lot of us today, because of the craziness that's going on, just period, here in Fulton County. I mean there's so much, we can get up here all day, two minutes would not ever be enough. But today I got whiff and wind that Sheriff Labut is supposed to be in the building, which he's been ducking and dodging and running and crying and all the above; we cannot find him, he can't be served. I mean what -- we paid the Sheriff Department to serve him and they can't find him? That's crazy. Then, we get whiff -- of course, you already know Dana Dane takes a tour through the jail, which I don't know what for. It's so much going on of corruption that we can continue to continue to talk about it down here. And we bring it up because we continue to tell you that we are coming for your J-O-B. You will join Hall -- I don't even want to get her name out of my mouth. But you will join her, okay? You will not -- oh, you could smush your lips, because trust me; I'm in your neighborhood next. Believe that, door-to-door. Then to bring a little bit of the background, your Sheriff, he has over almost a million dollars of money that have been wasted in his personal vehicles. He has two million dollars that y'all are still asking questions about. If y'all allow him to come down here and hoodwink y'all--"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- shame on y'all. We are riding with some of y'all. I mean riding; not very many, but a few of y'all, we riding with. Don't let us down, not today. He needs to be taken down right in --."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Thank you. Next speaker. Next speaker. Next speaker. Excuse me. Excuse me. Time. Time."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Sheila Hamilton, Dominique Grant, Devin Barrington-Ward, Deshaneir King, Brittany Burns, and Valerie Anderson."

SHELIA HAMILTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning Commissioners. I again come before you about missing items at the property and evidence unit at 4701 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia. But today, I bring a written complaint addressed to the Commissioners, City Manager, and Attorney. This is the result of lack of follow-up by Chief Medows over the evidence room, and Lieutenant Wood, an employee at the evidence unit. At the September 18th Commission Meeting, Chief Medows called me as a result of my public comment, but no further follow-up has occurred. Last, as to item 24-0615, inmate phone contract and jail commissary contract: there was no information provided, but my concern is the fact that the contract call Securist JPay is owned by Tom Gores, owner of the Detroit Pistons, a billionaire worth \$9.4 billion. The contract is called Platinum Equity. Detainees and prisoner's families throughout Georgia pay 14 cents per minute plus a fee for phone service. As it relates to the commissary, there's a fee to order items for their loved ones. My question is why is a billionaire being made richer on the back of poor detainees and prisoners through this service? Who gets the money from the fees paid for the phone service and the commissary? And I'm not the only citizen asking this question. So what do you do, what can you do, or what will you do to change this? I conclude by stating Fannie Lou Hamer who said she was sick and tired --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- time, ma'am."

SHELIA HAMILTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- of being sick and tired. We are sick and tired of being sick and tired. Thank you."

DOMINIQUE GRANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I know y'all are probably tired of seeing me. The same way I'm tired of coming up here. My name is Dominique Grant and I'm the campaign and operations manager with Women on the Rise Georgia. And I'm here again to just offer a simple solution on how we can stop over incarceration in Fulton County. We have held countless rallies, begging, begging, begging for Sheriff Labat to do right, and we see that's not happening. Fulton County needs to implement an electronic court notification system. This system is not just a matter of convenience, but a matter of life and death for many individuals navigating the system. In May of this year, I personally bailed out seven women from Fulton County Jail. During that process, I was required to provide my identification and verify my address multiple times. Despite this, I have yet to receive a single court

notification for any of these women. Not a single one. And all of them have had multiple court dates, so this is extremely concerning. Thankfully because of the organization I work with, we have been able to contact public defenders to ensure that these women do not miss their court dates; however, many individuals are not as fortunate. We have tragically witnessed several deaths in our community due to the mismanagement of Sheriff Labat, many of which could've prevented if people had simply being informed of their court dates. Failure to appear often leads to rearrests and, in some cases, and in most cases, unfortunately, for Fulton County, it ends being fatal. Something as simple as this could prevent incarceration and save lives. It's simple. Our doctors' offices do it, our dentist does it. I know that it's done at some level of court here, but something has to give. I strongly urge Fulton County to adopt an electronic court notification system --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DOMINIQUE GRANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- it is essential, if you all do not want to go bankrupt with lawsuits from people constantly dying in this jail. Thank you."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners, and condolences, Commissioner Ellis to your staff. I'm here today standing in solidarity with the family of Devon Anderson. He was a young man that was killed by an APD officer in the city of South Fulton. An APD officer who had a history of DUI arrests, in fact, he was arrested by the police officer in Coweta County being clocked going over 100 hundred miles per hour and he attempted to use his badge to avoid arrest. Why this is important to the Fulton County Commission and Fulton County officials, is that we are still questioning why there has not being any charges filed against this officer. We know that you all fund all of the Constitutional Officers in the county including the District Attorney; and we have questions around the resources that DA Willis has been given and why we have not seen movement on cases that appear to be quite simple. The police officer was drunk, he refused a breathalyzer test, and he was not arrested for murdering someone while he was off duty with his service weapon. What are we condoning here in Fulton County? And why is it that we continue to see all the flashy headlines around big cases that make national news stories, but when it comes to cases that matter to the people who live here in Fulton County, we see no movement? It is unconscionable that a police officer is still allowed to remain on the force. Now, that's not y'all's decision, that's the city of Atlanta. And we have taken them to task about that. But the fact of the matter is that you all fund the Constitutional Officers in this county, the Sheriff and the District Attorney and others. And when you all have the fiduciary responsibility that means you have the responsibility of oversight and making sure that these officers are using their resources accordingly."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Why has there not been charges filed against a drunk police officer with two previous charges of DUI in the city of South

Fulton, in Fulton County? We need answers to that, and I believe that this Body can get those answers given you all's fiduciary responsibility. Justice, we need it now."

DESHANEIR KING, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Deshaneir King. I'm the communications organizer of Women on the Rise GA. For some context in my role, I tell the stories of justice impacted people in our own words. And unfortunately, when I say justice impacted the majority of people that many of us need, because our nation is so deeply obsessed with incarceration, and Georgia truly exemplifies that. Not one time have I spoken to someone that said incarceration is what they needed, not one time. I've actually had the opportunity to work with Women on the Rise and PAD. And what I have heard was from people that just needed a chance, a break, someone to listen, just a little bit of hope. The systems that you're upholding and funding are not working. Putting people in cages has not and will not work. And what you see is a blip on the news or a number on a report that are deeply important to humans with dreams and lives. Atlanta is failing all of us, and no amount of Martin Luther King Jr. quotes or photo ops or police is going to solve that. We've come here again today once again doing your job, providing simple life-saving solutions in the form of PAD, in the form of electronic court notifications that will prevent the most vulnerable people, the most marginalized people who are experiencing interactions with officers that are not equipped, no matter how the police try to build a militarized police facility or arm a corrupt Sheriff with more of our dollars. So I ask you how does it feel to have the blood of 19-year-old Namina Batista Soco on your hands? A child to die in an Atlanta city detention center due to being arrested for a failure to appear. The solutions are simple. We've done the legwork. On the Fulton County website, it mentions in all of your bios that you enjoy and love serving people, so when are you going to start doing that? Thank you."

VALERIE ANDERSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Valerie Lance Anderson, and I'm here talking about my son. Devon Anderson was murdered by the APD police officer, Melvin Potter. Yeah -- you want to see it? My son was murdered on August 5th. Saturday is going to make two months, two months, two months that I do not know, up to this day, what happened to my son. My son was 38 years old. Melvin Potter shot him senselessly. And if it was my son that did that to him, my son would be in jail with no bond. Melvin Potter still have a job and his punishment was 21 days with no pay. Did my son get 21 days? My son is gone for good. My son is gone for good. All I have is memories now of my son. He had no kids. So I don't even have a grandchild to love and to hold in his memory. Melvin Potter should not be a police officer. Melvin Potter should not have a job still. He should be in jail, he should be charged with murder because if it was my son, he would be charged with murder the same night."

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

VALERIE ANDERSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- how could he be a police officer still with a record of DUI? He has records of DUI where he was convicted of DUI. He got

convicted in Coweta County. If Coweta County could do their job, why can't the APD/South Fulton County do their job?"

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

VALERIE ANDERSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "They need to do -- you all need to do your job. Thank you."

BRITTANY BURNS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Britney Burns, and I'm here on behalf of Khari's Calls. We're here to ask for help in establishing an infant emergency hotline as well as help with distributing infant -- free infant CPR wraps. Khari's Calls was created in honor of our daughter, Khari, who on March 7th was always full of life and full of life, and had so much potential. And then on March 8th, we woke up to hell. She passed from sudden unexpected infant death. As I was doing CPR on her, my husband was calling 911 and it kept doing a rotating message of how currently they're too busy to stay on the line. We've been trying to advocate at City Council and the Public Safety Committee, but we've been getting no help. When this first came out, 911 immediately defended themselves and said it's not true. And so, we had to pull our own call logs, and when we realized their call log and our call log didn't match, that showed us that when that rotating message is going on, no matter how many times it rotates, they're not recording that. They're only recording when it finally connects to a dispatcher. We have started to have to become our own community's resources --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds, ma'am."

BRITTANY BURNS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- I've been having to comfort families who are terrified. We've been providing these free infant CPR kits that we're willing to give all of you so you can look and see if this is something you want. This happened in your district, Commissioner Hall, and now we're in your district, so please help."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Last seven speakers in Assembly Hall please come forward: Carolyn Shula, Liz Stein, Pamela Jones, Charles Rambo, Shabnam Bashiri., Kashay, the painted bunny, and Senae Hobson."

CHARLES RAMBO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning to the Board of Commissioners. My name is Charles Rambo. I am here to again give you some objective guidance as you're trying to decide what you're going to do in paying some of the unpaid bills with -- inside of Sheriff's office. One of the items that I do agree with, number one is getting the security -- third-party security company paid off. Get them the money that we are due, because I find it audacious that that person would otherwise say that he wants to propose to you how to best do the job better than the Sheriff's office by giving you a more competitive salary range for paying third-party security guards that do not belong inside of the jail. Number two, is that if you pick up any of

those persons that were terminated are otherwise that was picked up by the Sheriff, if they're put under your merit system, you're going to be culpable for their lack of training and any type of culpability for performance of duties if they do not get Georgia Post training in six months. Last, but not least, and I say this very objectively, very objectively, thank you, Fulton County Elections for making it known that the Sheriff's race is not off of the ballot, and I say this for this reason; in less than 33 days, you might be dealing with a new person coming to set their policy that does not need to be indebted in terms of what the current Sheriff is languishing and needs to be resolved. With that, we need to be able to move forth if that happens after November 5th of standing here with a performance-base budget, Mr. Ellis, that you can appreciate that would otherwise give you a clear view of what's going on in the Sheriff's office. As you see, the Georgia Department of Corrections just got their United States Department of Justice ruling --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

CHARLES RAMBO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- that's saying they were deliberately indifferent in terms of dealing with the issues. I hope that we won't have that type of deliberate indifference, and we can move forward to establishing more confidence back in Fulton government, our criminal justice system, as well as the office of Sheriff. Thank you very much."

LIZ STEIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, Commissioners. I'm wondering how many more mothers in pain need to come down here until you do your jobs to invest in the public safety that we're looking for here in the city of Atlanta and Fulton County. My name is Liz. I'm a Fulton County resident of District Four. Commissioner Natalie Hall, you are my Commissioner, and I'm here in support, in particular, of Ms. Valerie and the family of Devon Anderson. I am a mother of two young children, and I cannot fathom what Ms. Valerie is going through. To experience the death of a child that was murdered at the hands of the people who are meant to protect and serve us; and then in the wake of that loss to be left with nothing but questions and pleas of help and justice, unanswered, at every place they turn. And we're here asking you to do your job as our primary legislative policy Body overseeing these matters including that are important to us including public safety and we're looking for you to help us put pressure on DA Fani Willis to do her job and to move the investigation forward to get Melvin Potter off of the police force. I'm also a concerned citizen knowing that we have this -- this murderer on the streets, and I don't feel safe with that situation. It's not the public safety that we're serving -- we're looking for. I'm going to ask you to do your job, and please bring justice for Devon Anderson and his family."

PAMELA JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings. My name is Pamela Jones. I am the maternal grandmother of Khari Burns. My daughter and son-in-law were just up here. This happened March 8th, and I still can't use past tense as it pertains to my granddaughter. But to try to follow up on what my daughter was trying to present, we have free infant and toddler CPR kits. We know that 911 needs help. We already know

that. So not only are they wanting -- wanting to -- Fulton County to work with them to get these into places free for families to pick up, but then also to possibly assign a three-digit emergency infant and toddler line. I live in the city of Atlanta. When my garbage isn't picked up, I dial 311, three digits. If there are three digits that I could dial to pick up my garbage, surely you guys could help to assign a three-digit emergency hotline for infant and toddler emergencies. My son-in-law called 911 five times while my daughter was doing CPR on my granddaughter. I'm surprised I'm able to say this without breaking down, but this is so important. When you look at the stats, and my daughter has those stats, the state of Georgia is leading in this sudden undetermined or unexplained infant death syndrome that's what the autopsy said, SUIDS: never heard of it before. I've heard of SIDS; never heard of it before. For a healthy, happy three-month-old that just had her physical. So just please consider, please consider this."

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

PAMELA JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you."

SHABNAM BASHIRI, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Shabnam Bashiri. I am a lifelong resident of Fulton County. I was born and raised here. I am here in support of the family of Davon Anderson. There's not much more that I can say about this case that hasn't already been said in terms of the details, but I would like to share a message from others who couldn't be here today. Yesterday, we -- some of us shared Devon's story and asked folks to send a letter of support to the DA's office, and it is within less than 24 hours over 400 people so far have sent letters. The general public seems to be able to easily understand this issue. While Melvin Potter is a police officer, he was not on duty at the time of the incident. This is a regular citizen that took someone else's life and for some reason that nobody can understand or explain to us, he was allowed to go free that very same night and has yet to face any repercussions for taking a young man's life. We've been to City Council, we've talked to Chief Schierbaum, we have gone all over the place trying to, at the very least, get some answers about this case and nobody -- nobody is even communicating with this family about what is going on. And so, again, we're here and asking you guys to put pressure on the DA's office to go ahead and move forward with charges against Melvin Potter. Thank you."

SENAE HOBSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Senae Hobson. And as you guys have heard over the last course of several -- several residents of Fulton County, I'm here on behalf of the family of Devon Anderson. Devon was brutally murdered by an off-duty Atlanta police officer on August 5th, and his mother has not heard a thing from anybody. She, at this point, is tired of condolences; she wants to know the status of Melvin Potter. He was suspended for 21 days without pay and is now back on the payroll. How is it fair that someone who was sworn to protect and serve can go out on an off-duty drunken rant and murder a young man? Take him away from his family, his friends, and the community that he served proudly. This isn't a thug on the street. This is a man of integrity, a man of honor, and a man of pride that one of Atlanta's finest took from us. What is GBI? What is the district

attorney's office, what is their course of action? What is the plan of action? Because in a couple of days it would be two months that Melvin Potter took Devon Anderson from us. What is happening? The DA's office is so consumed in this Young Thug trial, she's so consumed in President Trump's allegations and all this nonsense, but there's people here that needs answers and justice for the crimes that's being committed within this city. How is it that this man is still walking around free, still collecting a check from the city of Atlanta after murdering somebody?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

SENAE HOBSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Not only that, it took the ambulance 37 minutes to come and get my cousin's body from off of the ground. So on top of the injustice that you -- the injustice of the people that you all hire, it took the ambulance 37 minutes. Something has to -- the people don't trust y'all."

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

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

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

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I support Commissioner Thorne's Resolution to grant free and open access to county records by county officials and employees as needed in the normal course of their duties for legitimate business purposes and/or pursuit to directives from the supervisor without the need for an Open Records' Act: very wordy. This should remove any roadblocks intended or unintended. Fostering cooperation between officials, appointed board members, and employees enabling all to perform their assigned duties and responsibilities (inaudible). Inefficiencies and government bureaucracy is the enemy. Removing impediments to information necessary to perform one's job or responsibility is the solid step in what we claim to strive for: efficiency in government. Do not make that phrase be an oxymoron. Let's try to make it a reality. Thank you very much."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Derrick Blasingame."

DERRICK BLASSINGAME, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Derrick Blasingame, here. I appreciate the opportunity to address the Board of County Commissioners, Fulton County. On September 18th, I attended your meeting peacefully as part of a school assignment that I have for this fall semester at Georgia State University. After leaving your meeting, I was harassed, arrested by the Fulton County Police Department, Officer Augustine, including the Asian sergeant that was there as well. They harassed me all the way through the building. They threw me out of the building after I peacefully left."

They also served me with a notice from January 2022 from the Fulton County Library that I was already in possession from the director of the Fulton County Library that she e-mailed me in January, January 21st, 2022. The Fulton County Police Department has harassed me since 2022. I have five pending criminal charges that they filed against me in 2022, and they have continued to do that even after I have continued to exercise my First Amendment right in Fulton County. Now you all can say I'm a homosexual, but I've never had a boyfriend, I've never had sex with a man. I've never had a relationship with a woman. So you can say whatever label or they got you or anything like that, but apparently the Fulton County government has continued its harassment. It's defamation of my civil rights, which is 1983 USC violation of federal law. You all have continued to harass me for pursuing higher education. You continue to harass me for participating in government and furtherance of my First Amendment right as proven on September the 18th. Also, the internal affairs at the Fulton County Police Department refuses to investigate any of my complaints since 2022. Nicole Dwyer, the commander for the internal investigation has refused and ignored all of my complaints against Fulton County Police Department officers. This needs to be investigated. Also, Commissioner Rahman, I am a --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DERRICK BLASSINGAME, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- secular Christian. I've never been of the Islamic faith. I will never bow down to Allah. Jesus is Lord and Savior. Jesus is king. I'm a Christian. And I wish you and your staff will stop harassing me and try to make me a Muslim. I am a Christian."

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

BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings, Commissioners, and staff; and special greetings fellow citizens. Ben Howard, senior advocate and public policy analyst. Permit me to chime in on agenda item 24-0613, Commissioner's Discussion on open record requests. During the draconian rule of the Housing Authority of yesteryear, numerous open requests were made to help shine the light on shady leadership. The unsuspecting and beguiled board members back then were never apprised of those open records request. Fast-forward to today, on the agendas for the Commission on Elder Affairs prepared by senior services management, one would find no line item letting board members know about open records request related to service to our county seniors. Wouldn't it be nice if there were to be a mandate that the staff of all County boards, commissions, and authority be required to keep board members informed about any open records request impacting their operations? Stay tuned."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Anthony Davis. Anthony Davis. The next person to speak is Clarence Robinson. Clarence Robinson. The next person to speak is Robbie Huff. Robbie Huff. The next person to speak is to Terria Williams. Terria Williams. With that being said, that concludes the Zoom public comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "No further speakers."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 6, County Manager's Renewal Items, under Open and Responsible Government, 24-06 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- okay. Let me -- Commissioners, hear me out here. The next 11 items are all renewing existing contracts. If there are no objections, I'd like to take all of these and have the clerk sound each one and take them as a group, unless there's one or so you'd like to take. All right, sound them Madam Clerk.

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0635**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to provide asphalt, concrete, pavement, maintenance and repair services; **24-0636**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to provide standby fencing, installation, and repair. On page 7, **24-0637**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to provide full on-site preventive maintenance services for approximately 75 various types of passenger and freight elevators; **24-0638**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$440,290 to provide medical and clinical cleaning services; **24-0639**: Request approval to renew existing contracts. The total amount not to exceed \$2,269,832 to provide janitorial services; **24-0640**: Request approval to renew existing contracts in the total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to provide standby roof maintenance, repair, and replacement services. On page 8, under Health and Human Services, **24-0641**, Public Works: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 to provide standby utility pavement patching and paving services; **24-0642**: Request approval to renew existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to provide fire hydrant maintenance and repairs; **24-0643**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$360,742.45 to provide manholes, frames, grates, and accessories; **24-0644**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount of \$412,683.51 to provide corporate -- corporation stops and brass fittings. Under Justice and Safety, **24-0645**, Medical Examiner: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$168,000 to provide pickup and removal of deceased remain services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We have a motion to approve each of the 11 that were just sounded by the Clerk. A motion to approve by Commissioner Natalie Hall; seconded by Commissioner Dana Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, County Manager Action Items, Under Open and Responsible Government, **24-0646**: Request approval of a Resolution to ratify the declaration of a local state of emergency in Fulton County, Georgia due to the impact of hurricane Helene effective up on passage."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You want to address that, Mr. Manager, quickly?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. As I notified the Board last week in the middle of storm preparations and then on Friday, this is necessary as a precursor to being -- to be having FEMA funds available to us for any kind of damage repair, overtime work, or other things that we did. Of course, as you know, the good news is the storm went to the east -- good news for us, bad news for North Carolina and obviously Augusta, which we're still having our thoughts and prayers. From our perspective, there was damage to this room. If you did not know that, it wasn't significant. The good news is because of our renovation, it was under warranty, so we now have the contractor looking at that. Joe can address anything from that perspective, but we placed buckets in the room and caught some of the rain that was coming in. The biggest issue that we did have was with our water treatment plants and as more or less expected in the course of a, what was a record rainfall. So we will likely, as we go through that, have an EPD reporting issue. I'm not sure about fines, except they're always possible. Everyone was more or less in the same situation as we were. I visited with David Clark. I'm not sure he's here yet today, but he will be later, but I visited with him that day down at Camp Creek. That was probably the one where we were experiencing the most problems due to its size, and we have some of it already out of commission as we begin construction there similar to what we did at Big Creek. Big Creek performed extremely well, at one point pushing through over 60 million gallons a day. You know, it's rated four, now at 30, but you can do more on an occasion so that was good news. And then many of the manholes that we've put in place with the higher tech covers performed very well. There were, I think three to four, that ended up blowing their top off, and the reason for that is water got into the system well up from there. So we could continue that progress, but the ones that were generally we were trying to address all along were along the river and Azalea Drive, areas in Roswell. So again, all in all, Mr. Chairman, I think we performed well and had a good plan. Of course, the EEOC was open all that night, and we came in the next morning, and they had cooked spaghetti the night before and pancakes the day, but we missed both. So I'm not sure --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- we did. We did."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Thank you. If you have any questions."

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

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I just want to say thank you, Mr. County Manager, and to all of the county executives, David Clark and his team, the emergency management team, and all public safety officers and employees for the work that you did, because this storm ravaged not only Fulton County, but the state of Georgia and many other places outside of that. And I had an opportunity to see some of this damage. Unfortunately, due to some of the people that I know that live around the County and it was devastating to many so thank you all."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I want to take this time, not only to thank you, Chairman, and the County Manager, and those that just what I call stood to the task, spent a lot of hours here, were very responsive. I want to do a special thank you to Jessica Corbitt and her team in getting the information out. And I also want to thank Dr. Roshell in addition to what I consider to be a great job in handling an emergency situation with this: the responsiveness of the team. Because of the BioLab incident, we had so many of my constituents that called in and complained about, you know, having certain odors and things that were affecting them and you all were already in place. You were already on it. Ms. Corbitt already had crafted a response, and so I just wanted to say, not only the times when we see what you're doing, but when we don't see what you're doing. You're standing in the ready, in the gap to do what you need to do, and I just wanted thank all of the leadership, especially the Chairman. I know for a fact that you all spent a lot of long nights here making sure things got done, and that's the part that the public doesn't see. And so, I wanted to not only echo what you all did you with that particular situation, because we did have so much devastation locally and in other states, but we still are beginning to see a few of the remnants of potential fallout from the BioLab. And so, I appreciate you all taking the helm of making sure that the constituents got the information, making sure that the Fulton Board of Health did what they needed to do, and I just want to say kudos for a job done greatly for both emergencies."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to echo the thanks and praises for our essential workers responding in this time of need. I did want to perhaps also recommend a friendly amendment to include the BioLab incident and not just Helene, the hurricane; but I saw a text earlier today, so I think there may still be some ongoing fallout from that. And so, I think it would be great if we also added that to this. And then lastly, I wanted to check on the phone and why nobody was answering the EMA phone. We had the road that collapsed in South Fulton. It was going straight to voicemail, and I don't know if that's --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- yes, sir. And let me get back to you directly on an answer to that question. Thank you for reminding me of that. And then on the BioLab situation quickly, we are working with Joe Barisoan and Jessica Corbitt, as well as Dr. Paxton, who I talked to this morning, about a public statement that we go to our cities as well as to the public, in general, relative to anticipated changes Thursday and Friday. The forecast is for winds to move this way and for atmospheric conditions to result in a lower ceiling. So there is the possibility of us at least seeing and/or smelling something in the air. I don't anticipate that it represents a health challenge based on talking to Dr. Paxton and Joe Barisoan this morning. Atlanta is meeting to consider any actions that they may take, as I understand it, as we're sitting here today. The Falcons have a home game with right now, plans for the stadium roof to be open Thursday night; so all that being said, I don't believe that we'll be taking any action other than to advise the public if they have any kind of respiratory problems to perhaps stay indoors or at least be cautious. But I think it's a great idea in the happenstance that there are actions that we need to take, Mr. Chairman, relative to the BioLab situation."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So, Commissioner Arrington, you're requesting that the Resolution be amended to include the BioLabs?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, so we won't have to come back because of another emergency."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Since it's already been signed, is that possible, or do we need a separate one? I'm fine with it, and I think it's a great idea."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So the only concern we would have, I think it's a good idea for anything that's prospective. There may be certain federal funds requirements that would required it be added before the time of the disaster, but there may be some other things that occur and can originate afterwards, or there may be some state or federal funds available that would not have that specific restrictions. So if you want to amend it today, and that's the will of the Board, I think that's the safest way to make sure we get as much coverage as is possible from this point forward."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well let's amend it today, and if there's a problem, we can address that later on, if there's no objection to amending it. All right. A motion to approve as amended by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0647, Information Technology: Request approval to amend an existing contract for digital multifunctional devices and support services to increase the spending authority to \$404,097.64."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Natalie Hall; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Natalie Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have one question, because throughout this, I see where it says this is not only for usage costs, but it's also for forecasted leasing, and I just wanted to clarify if that's leasing of these MFD's that are old and currently in use, or is it for leasing of new equipment?"

KEVIN KERRINGAN, CIO, IT: "Good morning, Commissioner Hall. So it's my understanding this will be leasing for new equipment as we're currently refreshing the fleet right now, and most of this is usage costs associated with toner, ink, staples, labor repairs associated with that usage."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So all new equipment as listed -- well, I don't see it actually listed. I see its saying all multifunctional devices that have the following minimum functionality, copying network, scanning, faxing, wireless remote services, black and white and color, so just all equipment that have that functionality?"

KEVIN KERRINGAN, CIO, IT: "Correct. I'm happy to share with you. I have the contract of that list, specifically the Sharp devices that are covered under the agreement, and I can send that to you as well."

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

KEVIN KERRINGAN, CIO, IT: "You're very welcome."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Natalie Hall; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0648, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to provide program management services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to adopt by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0649: Request approval to increase spending authority for bus and shuttle services in an amount not to exceed \$75,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0650: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$349,424.16 to provide mail services countywide."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, under Health and Human Services, 24-0651, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities: Request confirmation of seven nominees as voting members of the Fulton County Opioid Abatement Advisory Council."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, 24-0652: Request approval to enter into a contract with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for planning and design of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center in North Fulton."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Mr. Chairman, could we ask Dr. Roshell to explain this very significant item."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC: "Thank you, Mr. County Manager. So during the 2024 Legislative Session, the General Assembly approved \$500,000 for the design and planning of an additional Behavioral Health Crisis center to be located in North Fulton. This really is borne out of a 2023 study that the state conducted that shows to meet the

needs in Fulton County of behavioral health crisis to have enough beds, we actually need three behavioral health crisis centers. As you know, we have already partnered with the state to bring the first behavioral health crisis center in Fulton County to our constituents. That facility is located, as you know, at Oak Hill, and the unique thing about that partnership is that, through the generosity of the Board, you approved \$15 million for the construction, also the donation of the land, and the state is going to provide operational funding for this facility, the first facility, 9.4 million, and we are partnering with Grady Hospital as the provider. For this facility, this is the first step, as indicated in the agenda item. It is \$500,000 for the design and plan work. We, of course, have now expertise in this area because we've just concluded the successful construction of a behavioral crisis center; however, the difference here is that we will not be providing any additional funding for the land acquisition or any of the construction costs. The state will be funding this particular project 100 percent."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any questions?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "When are we planning one for South Fulton?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Of course, it would be up to DBHDD for that location to be selected. My last conversation with the Commissioner was they were still in the process of looking at that. So I don't have a definitive time much less a location."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Well, thank you. If you could share that information with my office so we can follow up with them."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "24-0653, Community Development: Request approval to rescind prior 2024 veteran services program award to the nonprofit in the amount of \$30,000 and reallocate the rescinded funding to the nonprofits."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Action Items, **24-0611**: Request approval of an ordinance amending the code of laws of Fulton County Georgia relating to rules of decorum governing meetings of the Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. Sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue to hold."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. So noted."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0654**: Request approval of Resolution to designate a resignation procedure for appointing members of the boards, commissions, task force, committees, counsel and authorities created under the authority of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. Sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "This is simply an effort to standardize how appointees resign from Boards. It's been a -- sort of been all over the board in the past, and what this would do is to say that if a person who's been approved by this Body, not nominated, but approved by this Body, they would submit in writing their resignation with an effective date to the Clerk and the Clerk then would be responsible for getting that information quickly to the Full Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions. For Full Board appointments, this makes total sense. I completely get it, and I know we've had some issues with some district nominated appointments resigning and it being sort of unclear if they had really resigned or not, so I totally understand the intent behind this. But, you know, in sort of the normal course of business for all of these many boards, authorities, task force, et cetera, that we have, at least in my experience typically, the person that we have individually nominated and then has been approved by the Board will send their resignation directly to us. So my question is if that happens, if they don't sort of get the message that they're supposed to send it directly to the clerk, is it -- does this allow us to still forward that to the Clerk and have that stand, or is that no longer allowed?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I guess if you, as an individual Commissioner who nominated someone, you receive the letter of resignation and you forward it to the Clerk, and then

the Clerk would be responsible for providing it to the Full Board. It's been all over the place. So I'm open to any suggestions or anything to clarify it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, and maybe we just sort of like friendly amendment that to say, resignation to the nominating Commissioner for district appointments -- to the nominating Commissioner and the Clerk, so that sort of either one is fine, and we just let each other know and then, you know, the Clerk would still have that responsibility of --."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- of do both. I mean the nominating Commissioner and the Clerk, that's fine. I'll accept that."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "The only other question I have is, and this is just -- because my e-mail is so full, is there anyway to consolidate, like rather than -- we have a lot of boards and authorities and task forces and all of that and, you know, there's what, 60, 50 something?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Left, yeah."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And then each one has some kind of like an average of maybe six individuals on it, something like that. It's a lot people could end up being quite a barrage of e-mails if we're getting them every -- as a one-off every time somebody resigns. Could we maybe just have like a monthly update or available on request or something like that versus getting individual e-mails every time. Would that work? I mean it's purely procedural, not changing the intent of the --"

CLERK GRIER: "It's the will of the Board. We can do it either way."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I mean that would be my preference just because our e-mail inboxes are already so inundated, that just sort of minimize that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let's be clear on what you're saying. Make sure she understands."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I think -- I think we're, just to have a -- if it's a monthly update on the current resignations maybe or."

CLERK GRIER: "So instead of each time you just want a monthly report?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean that would be my preference, but I'm open to what everybody else thinks. I just would rather not have an individual e-mail for every resignation."

COMMISSIONER PITTS: "I'm not sure how many --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- maybe quarterly or semiannually. I don't think we get resignations that frequently."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah. I don't think so either."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Or maybe it's just like available upon -- it is sort of now available on request. I'm fine with whatever. I just don't want to get e-mails for you know somebody else's nominee every single time. It just feels like a lot. That's all I had. But I'm good with however you want to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to be clear on, are they able to submit it via e-mail, certified mail, and what form of receipt notification would be provided to the sender letting them know that their letter of resignation has been received?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any thoughts on that, Madam Clerk?"

CLERK GRIER: "We could respond with an e-mail or a letter; whatever you prefer."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So they can just -- they can send it in anyway, e-mail or certified mail?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes. As long as we have it in writing."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You then will acknowledge receipt?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So we're all clear. All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I think that this is certainly a good idea. I think it may need a little more tweaking, because I think the issues that we had in the past or that we've seen recently is where someone announces at the meeting that they're resigning and then maybe or maybe not later that after that meeting they may or may not change their mind. And so, while this is, I think, a good attempt to adopt a policy, I don't know that it really addresses the heart of the issue that we've experienced the last couple of times. And so, I don't know if it's -- you know, if an announcement at the meeting is good enough or if the secretary or whoever keeping minutes from that meeting can send it over or -- I mean, I think we may need some more discussions around that, because I think that's -- the real heart of the issue is, you know, they announce it there, but then they may or may not send an e-mail to me, you, the Clerk or

anybody, right? And they may just be done, right? And so, you know, I don't know if placing that burden on them, a person who may have now mentally checked out of all of it is -- will address, you know, again the heart of the issue. So perhaps if the secretary or president or the chair of the committee, you know, I think it maybe should come from either or, I mean, I don't know. But I think it's worth some further discussion or thought."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So any thoughts on how we would address that if someone just jumps up, I quit, I resign at a meeting? And that happens so I'm open."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I suggest that the Clerk we notify them that to make it official, they have to put their resignation in writing via e-mail. And if it's a Full Board appointee, the Clerk does it or if it's an individual appointee we do it or our office does it or the Clerk does it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any loopholes in that?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I don't think that -- I don't know if that addresses the issue at all. I mean, what we've experienced is the disputes over whether someone actually resigned or not, right? And so, I guess the question becomes if someone announces that they resigned at a meeting and that's part of the minutes, could those minutes just be forwarded over or does that person actually have to send it over, right? I mean, because it just leaves, I think, a gap right? It's a hanging chad."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What you just said probably solves it. The minutes should reflect -- if someone says I resign, and it should be in official minutes, then those minutes could be forwarded to the Clerk, then the Clerk to us."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And so that would either be by the secretary or whoever is keeping minutes from the meeting, but then that would alleviate the requirement of the person, or maybe it still could be an option. I don't know. I mean it could be either or, right?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah. That makes sense. And, I think that's -- we got to -- that happens. So are we clear on what's being said? Okay. I mean I'll accept that. All right. Commissioner Thorne? All right, Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, I do believe that we may need to hold this. I'm going to tell you why. I was in support of this, but I'm going to tell you my issue with this. My issue with this -- and I'm thinking about the Reparations Task Force; I'm thinking about the emotionally charged environment, I'm thinking about the fact that at that particular time, Commissioner Hall's appointee was alleged to have been bullied online. The woman's daughter, a minor daughter was called out her name, and she sent a resignation, and she sent it out of mental anguish, I would suspect. So if someone, dependent upon the political climate at that particular time sends it during a meeting or sends it, you know, to all of us, if we're going to have an iron clad procedure

that says, okay, well you sent it to me, that's good enough. Or you sent it to me and you sent to the Clerk, that's good enough. Or you sent it to me, you sent it to the Clerk, and you said it in a meeting, I think we are not as well-defined on it right now at this point, for me to support this. I would humbly ask that we hold it because it looks as though some of the colleagues are having a little hesitancy or they need more questions asked. So I would just humbly ask, Chairman, if we could hold this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I have no objection to holding it. But NOW while we're holding it, who's going to do what to incorporate everything that's been said today?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I am willing as the Vice Chair to work with any of my colleagues and take that task on to incorporate everybody's opinions and thoughts and bring it back to everybody -- bring it to everyone before the next meeting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right. Commissioner Barrett -- I have no objection holding it."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I was just going to say if the friendly amendments that were today, I guess it could be reworded to include those as the starting point."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Yes, Commissioner Arrington. No problem. We'll note it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean I'm willing to go along with holding, so I can hold my comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Without objection, we'll hold. Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0655**: Request approval of a Resolution to ensure free accessibility to Fulton County records by county officials and employees as needed to fulfill their public duties and function; and for other purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I guess I need to hear from Commissioner Thorne on this. I've been here ten years. I haven't had any problem getting any records, so I don't understand the necessity of this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Well, you must have a special privilege around here that, you know that my office hasn't had so much luck in the short time that I've been here. And I thought I was kind of a one-off, but the more I see other offices or other departments also having issues getting records and task force members and committee members. We task our boards and authorities and committees and task forces to oversee and do the work of the County, and it's frustrating if they can't get the information they need to see -- to make decisions on the very boards -- or the departments that they oversee. And I, of course, I want the access to the documents and information needed to do just their work. It's not a blanket. They can't go out and get information that doesn't pertain to what they're working on, and it has to have reasonable limits. And it's gotten to the point, even in my office, where I've contacted the County Attorney asking, do I need to do an open records request, because they're not responding to my request. And fortunately -- eventually, I will get the information, but it may take me weeks and several e-mails to follow up to get the information that I need. So that's the reason for this Resolution is that we're requiring that staff be timely and accurate when responding to our requests."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. So, I think there's -- there's a fine line between responding to these requests and having the time to do the work that you already have to do. I really want to go back to IT because, you know, I want all open records information to be in a database where anybody can go pick it and choose it at anytime. I think the answer is more technological than legislative, right? I mean there should be a database of these items, and if you want Item A or Item B, you should be able to go to that database, choose the department, choose the item, right? And so, I don't know that -- that a legislative response is the answer, and I'm worried about the number of requests that might come in and, you know, do people or the departments have the capacity to handle the number of requests. You know, some people are obstructionists. Some people will just send you looking for stuff all day, and you'll never be able to get any work done. And so, we've got to guard against that as well. I can imagine now our elections department getting requests two days before the election and they got to respond and like -- I mean, I'm not going to be able to support this. But I do think there's a technological answer that might be able to help provide the type of access that you're looking for. I don't know, I guess, I just use the magic word, please."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I would agree with you. I wish that we could post everything online and just make it available so that -- but there are certain things that you probably have to weed out, for example, e-mails, communications that type of stuff. I mean, I've requested, can you show me the e-mail that you sent out to everybody because I'm getting complaints, and even getting a simple e-mail, it would take me four or five, six days and a lot of follow-up to get that e-mail. So I don't know if we necessarily want to put all our e-mails out there, but definitely records. I heard some complaints from the Reparations Task Force. They thought maybe they were getting stonewalled on some records at some point in their request. It would be great if we had a big digital database that we could keep secure and that people could pull stuff. But

there is time in compiling that. So I do think for the general public charging for open records request is still a good policy to have in place because it does take time, and you don't want the frivolous, as you put it -- the obstructionists constantly bombarding our departments. But I hope people that we appoint to boards, task force, and committees understand who they are overseeing, and they're not going to be obstructionists, and they are not going to bombard them with numerous, numerous requests, especially right before our busy season for a department."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You have more faith than I do."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I appreciate the sentiment, but hope is not a strategy, and hoping that they won't bombard them is not a strategy. So I have a couple of issues with this. I think, first of all, the headline is sort of little misleading because it doesn't get to everything that is actually contained in it. But I think -- there's two things going on. One is, you're sort of elevating the status of all of the people on the boards -- all the appointees on the boards, authorities, task forces, commissions, et cetera, to be this, you know, equal to a Fulton County employee or to one of us in terms of getting information, which I think does open a lot, you know, potential can of worms in terms of what other rights and privileges that might afford them. And also operationally, I see a big problem, because now we're putting the County Attorney's office, and Madam County Attorney feel free to weigh in if you'd like -- but I feel like we're putting the County Attorney's office in the position to know who is on the board, authority, task force, and they got to have access, you know, communication with the Clerk to determine who is currently active on any given board, authority, task force, et cetera; and then what the realm of related business information is for that particular board. What data should they get, because you're saying it should only be relevant to their job. So now the County Attorney's office not only has to redact and get the information, but they also have to be gatekeepers to determine if this should be free, and if it is relevant to the business of that board or commission. And, you know, I think it's really important to note that we appoint these people to these various boards, task forces, and authorities, but that does not give them any independent powers. Just like we don't have independent powers; we can ask anybody as individuals, individual Commissioners, we can ask any question we want to anybody in the County, but we can only compel them to act as a body of seven. And that's true for these boards, authorities, and task force as well. They do not individually have independent powers. And so, if they want information, let's take Registration and Elections as an example, if they want information from the department, and they've asked individually for it and been either told no or it's been slow or what have you, they can work together as a board and vote to get that information from the department. So they have the ability to get information for free by a vote of their Body. If the Body does not agree and compel the department to provide that information, then they are back to being individual citizens and should pay for the open records request the same as any other citizen. So I think it's important that we hold that line and not allow independent powers to be

assigned to anybody even as it relates to something as, you know, you might say as sort of nonimportant as a data request, as an open records request. So I think, you know, we're really crossing a line here in terms of what an individual's power is on any one of these organizations. So for that reason, I can't support it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So this is complicated. Let me ask a general question. I think we need to understand what the process is for open records request, what it costs, how it's currently being done -- handled because I've had issues, not -- because I haven't asked for any open records request, but I get complaints about the time that it takes. But, I mean, the general question is, what problem are we trying to solve with this? That's the question. Is it because he talks about the cost? Is that the problem? What's the problem we're trying to solve?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "It's not like we're making them go through the County Attorney, we're ordering our staff, the heads of our departments, to give the boards and authorities the information that they need. So that way it's not the County Attorney going through and fulfilling like it's an open records request. Currently, if you can't get the material then, yeah, you have to go as a private citizen and you have to pay to do -- to get publicly available information that you need to perform your duty on your task force, committee, or board. And I think that's unfair when the staff should be providing that information to those boards, authorities, and task forces."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam County Attorney, you handle open records requests now; is that correct? You're the --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "They're coordinated out of our office, and we do send out the request to the custodial departments throughout Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So when a request is made, an open records request, it comes to you; someone in your office?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes. There is a software program that sends it to the open records custodian who resides in our office."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And what's the cost."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "The cost of what?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The open records request, because that's what's referenced and it talks about free."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "It depends. The statute provides for 15 minutes of free administrative time for the lowest paid person who is qualified to pull the documents together. Anything that takes longer than that to gather will be charged at the hourly rate of the lowest paid person who is competent to do so. And then there's

also a copying charge that may apply as well, depending on how many pages the results are."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "This seems a little cumbersome to me."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Who self serve -- we need self-serve, Mr. Chair. We need people to be able to go log in and get whatever they want."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. I'm still not clear on what we're doing here. You've spoken. Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, this is the kind of stuff that drives me nuts. You know, look -- when people have specific roles and they need information to be able to do their jobs, they should be able to get -- freely get the information when they're making reasonable requests. And if somebody even -- if we have somebody appointed to a particular -- there are some of these boards and authorities that do have some distinct powers that are separate and distinct from us that they are required to act, and they are meaningful. Some of these are state-mandated boards and authorities, and I'd be fine restricting this to those particular entities, because they have some specific functions which they have to play. And the staff in those cases, or just like on this Board, I mean, I would not want to be in a position where if I have a particular viewpoint and I'm looking for information and maybe the rest of the board doesn't have the same viewpoint as I do have on a particular issue. I would not want our management team and collectively the rest of the board to be able to vote and say you can't have that information. That's not how government works, right? If it's not confidential, if it's not privileged, and you're on one of these particular, you know, state-mandated boards and authorities and you're looking for information in order to be able to perform your functions, and it's not confidential and it's privileged and it's a reasonable request, you should be able to get the information. And, you know, I mean that should be happening anyway without a policy. But I'm supportive of this because I think it's just, you know states what the intent should be in terms of how we should operate anyway. So I'm fine as it is, but also if you want to restrict it to state-mandated boards and authorities, I'm fine with that too."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Where are we? Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. That was very well said, Commissioner Ellis. I think that you're trying to make it more complicated than it really is. People who serve on our boards, task force, committees as well as us, we need information to make timely decisions, and the people on these boards don't get paid, typically, or they get paid very little; so you're asking people who are really truly serving the County to send multiple e-mails following up, trying to get information when this information should be readily made available to them, and they shouldn't be stonewalled; they shouldn't be told they need to do an open records request, which takes three days to respond and then no telling how long until you actually get the material you need. By law, you just have to respond within the three days. And then it could take another week, another

month; and then by that time you've already had to make a decision and you don't have the data or the information you needed. So it's a very, very simple idea. It's very common sense. It seems like we shouldn't even need a Resolution for this, but because it is happening, I felt justified to bring this forward."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Well, on the surface, I can support this. However, I see two problems, or I've heard two problems. One problem that I have heard, Commissioner Thorne, is you started with your conversation with Commissioner Arrington stating that you wished it was as easy for you as it is for him. That's the first red flag to me, because all of the people sitting up here should not have a problem getting any information, in my opinion. We are stewards of the taxpayer dollars; we have to vote on the legislation. And so, if you're having an issue getting information for your office, that's an issue that's outside of this, and I don't know that this addresses it for one. For two, I want to be very careful in answering the need because internally I want to make sure I am candid in saying this, that we have the correct manner, the correct person, the correct office to answer the open records requests. And I am a proponent of what can be self-service will be self-service. So in that thought, I think that we're putting the cart before the horse. I think this needs to be flushed out just a little bit more, especially hearing what I'm hearing. I am a proponent of the information. If the information is asked for, it should be given and it should be given without hesitation. However, the caveat to that is does something need to be redacted? Is there something that's sensitive? Does the County Attorney or that staff needs to look over it or is it a different department that they have to retrieve it, then the County Attorney does that. And so, I'm going to humbly ask that we hold this and get some questions answered and flush it out, and then I will be willing to support it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is that a motion?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "That's a motion to hold."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll second the motion to hold. I think there's more work that needs to be done. What are you doing? All right. Anybody want to speak on the motion to hold? All right. Let's vote on the motion to hold."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. I wonder if IT can speak to the possibility of the database idea."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You brought that up before, if I recall."

KEVIN KERRINGAN, CIO, IT: "Good afternoon, Commissioner Arrington. So, I mean, I think there's always a possibility of pulling together this type of information that can be made publicly available. I think we would start by do we look at the trends of public record request that have come in, to know where we target the data sets that we would

then build for future retrieval. Something I've looked at at other local governments was typically if one public request is coming in, others are asking for very similar data, and so we were looking to then post those available since we've already fulfilled the request for others to consume. It usually was media outlets looking for information and then we would just make that readily available so we weren't churning through the same requests over and over. But I think it's a matter of probably some kind of a workshop to say these datatypes are publicly available, they don't require redaction, they're something that we can post as we do in our normal course of business, and start to build something out in phases. E-mail can get a little challenging, because there is typically some form of redaction required, depending on the sensitive nature of e-mails being sent back and forth, and that's something I would want to, you know, partner with the County Attorney's office on as well."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is to hold. Madam Clerk, what's going on?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0656**: Request approval of a Resolution that any unbudgeted financial impact to Fulton County resulting from failure to comply with the purchasing code and other procurement requirements shall be deducted from the budget of the noncompliant department, office, constitutional officer, or elected official, are offset by reduction to subsequent fiscal year budgets; and for other purposes. Sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Do you want to explain what we have here, and then we'll go to Commissioner -- all right."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "What this legislation seeks is to address the recurring need of various county departments and offices that, due to circumstances that may arise for any number of reasons, find it necessary to spend beyond the limits of their budgets sometimes creating a burden on taxpayers to cover debts or responsibilities created outside of their budgets. Understanding that regardless of how the debt is created or the circumstances that lead to the financial shortfall, there are times that the taxpayers of Fulton County would have to definitely honor the contractual -- excuse me -- contractual responsibilities created by the office or agency. In those times where a majority of the Board of Commissioners deems that it may be appropriate, the additional funds, if advanced, may be returned to taxpayers through a deduction from the office or departments subsequent budgets. I hope that the offices and departments will engage the County's Purchasing department to alleviate the need

for the Board to take action in matters covered by this legislation. Bottom-line, my intent is that if an office or department enters into agreement or contract that requires the Board of Commissioners to approve additional funding, outside of their budget, outside of their office or department subsequent budget will be impacted by a reduction to cover what amounts to what I would deem as an advance. I would not consider this necessarily a rule, but rather a tool available to the Board of Commissioners because, in my estimation, in my opinion, in my conversations that I have had, there should not be a need for this continually over and over. However, if the need does arise and the Board is being asked to give additional funding outside of the allocated funding, then the tool for subsequent budgeting to be deducted is a fair tool for the Board of Commissioners to deem appropriate, if that is the case; and this is the meaning of this legislation. I would hope I would get support from my colleagues."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So I think -- I think if we were to approve this, we would be cutting off our nose to spite our face. I think that we already have the power to reduce a subsequent budget; approve it or not approve it, reduce it. We already have that power. If someone over spends then we can say in the next budget we can just vote not to approve that amount, if we wanted to. But I think, even taking a step back, I think elected officials and Constitutional Officers act in good faith. I assume everyone up here acts in good faith. They've been elected by the people. None of them are perfect. None of us are perfect. Mistakes happen. And for me, this is just too punitive of a measure. And at the end of the day, you know, let's just use the Sheriff's office, or the DA's office for an example, I mean, number one, we only have one or two departments where I think this is even an issue, right? So really, probably only one. And so, that makes -- it makes it appear as if this is targeting that department. But imagine for example that, you know, we're going to take, whatever the number is, five million, \$10 million out of the budget for the jail for next year, because of something the Sheriff did last year. Like, the jail still got to run. The DA still got to prosecute cases regardless of whether a mistake was made or something was done out of order. That's going to, at the end of the day, have an affect on the citizens, on the constituents, on the residents of Fulton County. And so, for me, I trust people to do what they were elected to do, and for them to work and act in good faith in their positions. And this is for me too much oversight and I think it's duplicative because again, we vote on the budget anyway. So if you want to vote their budget down the next year, you can just vote their budget down the next year. There's no -- I don't think there's any need for this because I think we already have the power to do what it attempted to be accomplished here."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner, do you want to be heard -- Vice chair, again, or do you want to wait."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I'll wait."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Vice Chair, I certainly understand the, you know, intent behind this -- but I do -- I think the way you described it and the way it's written aren't quite exactly hand in hand. So the way it's written, at least my reading of it, is that this only applies if they have purchased something outside of the purchasing code or the standard procurement process, and not through that process. So it doesn't necessarily get at least again through my reading, an over spend, because if they buy something through the procurement process, but then costs go up, then this wouldn't apply. So it would only apply to something over budget or outside of the budget that wasn't procured that way. And we have things that go over budget in all departments all the time, which is why we have budget soundings. I mean because also this is worded that it applies to all departments. I don't know. I'm just not sure if it gets at what you're trying to get at exactly, from a wording standpoint. And I agree with Commissioner Arrington on the future year's thing: we already have that power to affect the future year's budget as we approve the budget. The current year, I'm like struggling with a little bit just in terms of how it would work. So I guess I'm going to go to you, Madam CFO, if I may and just ask, you know, given this Resolution if this were to pass, what would your interpretation be of what you would then have to do differently in terms of the accounting for these kinds of situations?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I understood the intent of the Resolution, which would be any item that did not go through the procurement process, would be charged directly to that department's budget or offset against a future budget. In my thinking, it would mean if the department did not have funds in their current budget sufficient to cover the cost of the item that they procured outside of the procurement process the County would have to try to find funds to pay those costs out of this year's budget somewhere else. We would then, as Commissioner Arrington commented, reduce that department's budget in the next budget cycle offsetting that action, if you will. If they have sufficient funds in their budget and they procured something outside of the procurement process, we would have to bring that to the Board for the Board to authorize the expense to be able to pay it out of the budget outside of the procurement process. That's the way I am thinking about this as I read it now. Of course, if Felicia sees it any differently on the outside of the procurement process, I would, you know, defer to her, but that's how I have interpreted what I've read in the Resolution."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you. I appreciate that. I think my main concern with this is the potential impact to the citizens that are served by the departments so, you know, I'm concerned that if we're saying, okay, they spend something they shouldn't have and that's, you know, that shouldn't happened that way, I get it, but now, we're going to sort of just deduct that money from their budget, how does that impact either contract we already have agreed to for their department so that they have agreed to, how does that impact operations? What money are we taking it away -- where in

their budget would it come from, in other words? Does that -- do we go over to the salary of their budget and say we can't afford to pay people for the rest of the year? Do we stop paying, you know, whatever it is. You know, the electric bill, I don't know. You know, what are we talking about here in terms of where that money would come from, and is there a potential impact to the level of service that we are providing any one of those departments, you know, be it probate court or, you know, Sheriff, or any one of our departments."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yeah, I think if we had to go and offset in a future year's budget, they would have to adjust their plan for the year in alignment with the resources that are provided. So theoretically, it could be any of the things that you suggested. It could be a reduction of services already planned. It could -- it could lead to perhaps not filling vacant positions or not backfilling positions as they vacate during the course of the year in order to continue to operate the department within the resources that are provided within the budget."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So does that mean when you would prepare the base budget then for the subsequent year, after this infraction occurred, that you would automatically take that amount out and despite whatever the actual needs are for the department and say this is what's in the base budget. By Resolution, I have to take this out so, therefore, they are -- do you see what I'm asking?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, we would. We would make that adjustment. And then the department developing their budget for that year, whatever they can't fit within that base budget amount, they would have to then present that as a request for an enhancement to in essence, replace those funds in the budget that are reduced by Board Resolution."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah. I guess I'm still just not really seeing how this -- what extra layer of protection this puts on us that we don't already have, so I'm not -- I'm not sure where I am on this."

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

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Commissioner Arrington and Commissioner Barrett. You covered a lot of my questions except for the fact that after watching 13 years of Board of Commissioners meetings, there have been many times when not only -- what's named in here, Constitutional Officers, elected officials, departments and offices have come before the Board about unbudgeted purchases because things arise at times when they don't expect it and they need something that they just need, and we approved it without any problems. And so, I'm a little confused about exactly what are we addressing here? Is there an example of something that has taken place that falls under this particular Resolution? Is there something that has happened in the past; maybe I missed it?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I think the current situation with the Sheriff's Department with some invoices that are unpaid where he does not have the resources in his budget. I guess the slight difference with that is some of these items he went forward with entering into an agreement based on his constitutional authority, so it did not go through the purchasing department as a procured item. I think that's probably the closest item that I can think of. In the past, Commissioner Hall, we have had situations where we've had some poor contract management by departments, where contracts were -- vendors were allowed to provide services above the contracted amount, and we had to come back to the Board and seek finding and additional spending authority to be able to clean up those items. But the one that I think it's most recent and probably most pertinent would be the current situation with the Sheriff and the invoices that he currently has."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And we are actually going to hear from the Sheriff today about the invoices. And so, you're saying that there was neglect? Is that what you're saying? Because this -- is this not based on neglect? Being negligent in not using the process? Is that what I'm hearing?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "With regard to the Resolution, I think the Resolution speak specifically to acting outside of the procurement process. That could be considered neglect. It may also be something that happens that is an emergency and the department does not take the extra step to reach out to purchasing to establish the fact that they are experiencing an emergency and need to act within the Board's policies or emergency procurements. At least that would be my interpretation of the Resolution. It may arise from neglect. It may arise from an emergency situation as well."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So it's not necessarily like when we have all these construction issues and then now they have needs that were not budgeted for and they come before us and ask us for extra money, it excludes those type of situations? As an example?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I think those would be covered by our current change order process that we use for our major construction contracts. But, of course, I would defer to Felicia if she feels differently by that. But I think that, like if when we have a change order for a construction project, and we have the resources in the budget. Typically, the change order is around needing additional spending authority with the vendor. So we may have the resources in a contingency, in a project contingency that we don't have the spending authority with the vendor. So we have to bring back a contract in a change order to the Board. Felicia, do you have anything else that you would add to that piece?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "No. You answered it correctly."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So like what we just approved for the additional funding for the MFDs for IT, that falls under -- that falls outside of this Resolution? I'm just trying to make sure."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "The contract was competitively bid. We have a contract in place. We need to make a contract modification. A contract modification can be a change in terms, an extension. It could be an increase in spending authority, and so we do have preventions and a code for contract modifications to bring those back before the Board for approval."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. And so, in the situation of the jail with all of the maintenance issues and the inmate issues and all that, that doesn't fall under this, even though those things have created situations where the Sheriff has had to ask for unbudgeted applications and various needs to address what's going on in the jail? That doesn't fall under this?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "So I think part of the issue is the Resolution that the Board passed, the Ordinance in July, was just passed in July. A lot of these contracts were probably already in place prior to that. And so, some of the issues where in an issue where some of this was already approved by the constitutional officer by their constitutional authority, and now we have the Ordinance in place. And so, if there is -- for instance, if there is a new request, it comes to -- and it doesn't come to purchasing and they ask us to process a purchase order, I would be unable to process that purchase order because it didn't come through a competitive process. And so, that would be some of those situations that we are currently working through now."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So that that being said, basically you're kind of addressing the fact that Constitutional Officers have some rights and authorities as it relates to managing their own budgets and making their own purchases and everything. And we saw an entire Senate Subcommittee provide a recommendation and say that basically only the purchasing department can advise, but these Constitutional Officers have the authority to do what they need to do as far as it relates to their budget and their purchasing. So how does that play into something like this?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Hall, Constitutional Officers do have the ability to enter into certain types of contracts. The Board's Resolution recently passed and would now require Fulton County Constitutional Officers to utilize the services of the Purchasing Department to procure for the procurement process. They will still be able to sign those contracts. So I think -- and those contracts would not come to the Board of Commissioners for approval, but they would have gone through a procurement process for open and transparent purposes. I think this Resolution is really trying to address things that do not come through the purchasing process at all; and the elected official, Constitutional Officer or department head and county department head, because it does apply to all of them, move ahead with a service or a purchase of a good or a product and come back with I don't have any

money in my budget to cover it, or here, I need to pay this vendor, and there is no means by which we can pay the vendor because we have no Board authority to spend with that particular vendor. I think this is really trying to get to those things that are done outside of the procurement process, where they don't have the resources in their budget to support those expenses. I'm not sure if that completely addresses it, but the Board's Resolution did not -- does not prevent or prohibit a Constitutional Officer from entering into the contracts. It just requires that frontend procurement process take place and then it go through the county's procurement process."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "You're talking about the last Resolution that was passed?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh, okay. Not this one."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am, not this one but the previous one."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So, you said a lot of, I think, I think. And so, those, I thinks make me think that this is just -- this needs more work and maybe some stronger clarification on what it's actually doing because there are a lot of questions. Thank you. I appreciate it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "There is a lot of talk about services and the citizens being served if a budget is deducted, but you know we're coming from some of the Commissioners up here want to raise the millage rate, just want to raise taxes. We have a fiduciary responsibility for the precious tax dollars that we get, and we need tools in our toolbelt to make sure that those dollars are being spent wisely. And a wise expenditure of taxpayer dollars is to go through a procurement process to enter a contract. And so, I see this as a tool for us, because we have people coming down here in public comment, you know, telling us, you know, you need to tell the Sheriff this, you need to tell the DA this. We cannot tell them what to do, but we do have control over their budgets. And this is just a way of us making sure that taxpayer dollars are spent accordingly. They've gone through a procurement process, they've had proper bidding, the contract is good. As a mom, I kind of think about my kids. My kids make some unwise choices, and if they come to me later and say I bought a new car, but hey, mom, I can't pay for it now, you need to penny up the money. Well, that's basically what's happening now; is we're getting presented, hey we entered a contract, we can't pay for it. Hey, we need more money, come get it. So what are we going to prevent -- how are we going to prevent this from happening in the future? In the future, if someone enters a contract that doesn't go through our procurement process, and then they come to us for money later, they will know that there is a consequence of that action; that their budget will be deducted in the future. So I'm hoping this does not happen again. I'm

hoping that we'll have no more contracts that are surprises, and hey, we need \$2 million of your taxpayer dollars. So for me, I look at this as a preventative measure for future -- it's a sign, a signal to the taxpayers that we are doing our work up here. We're trying our best to make sure that their dollars are being spent wisely and responsibly, so I support this measure."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So the problem is reducing someone's budget in the subsequent year doesn't hurt them; it hurts the provision of services for that office. It doesn't hurt the individual. They still get their salary. And what we're talking about -- I mean like, we got to put this into perspective. Up until July when this Board voted to require Constitutional Officers to go through the procurement process, there was no requirement. This has already been addressed through the adoption of the requirement to go through the procurement process. This is just doubling and tripling down. How many -- Madam CFO, how many elected officials or departments or how many Constitutional Officers do we have that did not have to go through the procurement process, prior to the adoption of the July Resolution that requires everyone to go through the procurement process?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Our Constitutional Officers are the Sheriff, the Clerk of Superior Magistrate court, Probate court, and the Fulton County Tax Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So that's four?"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. And the Clerk of Magistrate court is not a Constitutional Officer, but the Clerk of Superior Court is?"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So four Constitutional Officers that did not have to go to the procurement process. Now, how many departments do we have?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I'll have to count them. It's in the mid-40s."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "The mid-40s?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Mid-40s. Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So less than 10 percent? So 40 plus 44, it might be more than 40, but 40 plus four Constitutional Officers is maybe 44 people."

And so, we're trying to address something for less than 10 percent where there's only been an issue with one; with the Sheriff's office, right? And these people -- these Constitutional Officers had the power to do this prior to the Board's adoption of the July Resolution. So doesn't the July Resolution require Constitutional Officers to go to the procurement process?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It does."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm not even going to speak on the fact whether I believe that's constitutional or not, because I don't think it is. And if I was a Constitutional Officer, I'd be suing. But regardless of that, we just adopted a policy. We just adopted a policy requiring those Constitutional Officers to go through the procurement process, so this is duplicative. It's unnecessary, and we have the right -- we vote on the budgets every year. If we want to vote someone's budget down, we can vote their budget down. Again, I don't think it hurts them. I think what happens, we get in the moment, and we get caught up, and we're like we want to get them; but them is the people of Fulton County. Let's just say, for example, you cut the Sheriff's budget by \$5 million next year. The people that are in jeopardy are the inmates at the jail, and the people at the courthouse. That doesn't hurt the Sheriff. I don't care who the Sheriff is. It's not going to hurt him. This is an attempt to punish an individual. And I'll tell you -- I hope that it does not pass, because we will be cutting off our nose to spite our face, and we've already adopted a policy which I voted against. I didn't vote for the policy, but the policy will pass, right? I voted against it, but we just adopted a policy requiring Constitutional Officers. We just adopted a policy requiring Constitutional Officer to submit to the procurement process. And so, there's no need for this. They are now required to submit to the procurement process. Of the 40 departments, 40 plus departments, how many of them have to go through the procurement process?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "All of them."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So what are we doing? There is no issue to be addressed. All of the departments were already required to go through procurement. We just adopted a rule less than 90 days ago that requires a Constitutional Officers to now go through procurement. This doesn't make any sense to me."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ellis, and then will vote up, down, or hold, or something."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I'll try to be quick. So, in our traditional process when a department, Constitutional Officer, elected official, whatever, but some budgeting unit feels like they have a need that they've got a need that's going to exceed their budgeted amount that they've been allocated in that particular year, we have a soundings process, correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "All right. And that's what we follow and those are done in anticipation of, not after the fact, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "They should be anticipation, of, yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Right. That's our general process in which we work. All right. We did pass some provisions to the purchasing code, but there were sort of two distinctive issues, right? Does any official, whether it's a department head, Constitutional Officer, elected official, et cetera, have the power to obligate the County for funds that weren't budgeted for and for which the County may not have the resources for? Is there any power in the Constitution that permits that: State constitution or otherwise? The answer is no. Okay? So yes, we have -- this is an unusual piece of legislation or statement of policy. You know, but events happen which call for that to be spelled out. So, you know, you know, I'm in support of this. I mean, you know, the notion that, okay, if you take this and you do something in a future year, it's only going to impact, you know, the citizens and so forth. You know, possibly it's a misnomer because, you know, that would imply potentially that that particular operation is functioning and spending their money in a way that they should be and that there may be opportunities for reduction as it is. So, you know, this is the kind of thing that should be -- you know, should be working as it is that people given a budget, they live within the confines of it, they look like anticipation is going to come, something that is going to exceed that. They come to us; we go through a budget and soundings process. If they do something that obligates us with something without doing that process, they need to figure out a way to pay for it within the confines of the budget. Pretty simple. And I think most citizens, on the face of it, understand that, and we need not obfuscate the issue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair what's your pleasure?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, I'm just going to make this quick statement. Because there were several references that my colleagues said they didn't understand. And so, let me be clear, this is accountability legislation, and it provides the BOC a tool to help the County to be good standard stewards of taxpayer's money when the offices, departments, spend over their budget and know that they do not have the money. We have procedures in place, we have protocols, we have all of that. But you know what we have is a duty to the taxpaying citizen of Fulton County. And so, this is accountability legislation that is only a tool. We know the individuals up here, from one end to the other know that things can happen. That's the reason you come towards the Board and you ask for what you need. But when you create a situation where the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County will be on the line and have to pay, then we need to have something in place to make sure that you are a good steward as well. Accountability legislation for taxpaying citizens of Fulton County, and I asked for the vote -- call for the vote for it, because this is -- should be a no-brainer, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Are you making a motion to approve?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Motion to approve."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a second? Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Properly moved and seconded. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So Madam County Attorney, when would -- how would this work? Because these contracts that we're talking about that this legislation is aimed at was done at a time when there was no procurement process. So would this be effective starting next year? I mean, because you can't go back and try to punish someone afterwards, and say, oh, we just changed the rules, and now we're going to punish you. If the rule was in place, and then someone violated the rule, then it makes sense, right? But you can't say, oh, well, we just changed the rule, and now you've violated, and now we're going to deduct your budget the following year. That's not fair. Like, that -- that is inherently unfair, right? It's -- hey, I disagreed with the rule change, right? But if the rule's been changed, I got to live with it, we all got to live with it unless there's a judge that tells us otherwise, right? So that, that's fine going forward. But I don't think you can retroactively apply this to a decision that was made at a time when there was no requirement to follow the procurement process."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So, thank you, Commissioner Arrington. I did not read the language of the legislation to seek retroactive application. The way that I read it, and the way that I would advise application should it pass, is prospectively. I think the only kind of retroactive -- I don't want to use the word retroactive. The only way it would apply to contracts prior to the Board's resolution regarding constitutional officers observing our procurement rules is if it were a non-constitutional officer who went outside of procurement for whatever reason, that it would apply then. Otherwise, as to constitutional officer, I would expect this application, should it pass, to be prospective after the last resolution creating the requirement."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So the long and short of that is, it won't apply to these existing contracts that we are debating over how, when, and if we're going to pay?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I believe your question is, should it pass, would this apply to constitutional officer's contracts that were entered into outside of the procurement process before the resolution requiring them to follow the procurement process pass, then my answer is, no, I do not believe it would apply."

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The Sheriff is waiting to come before, so let's take this next item here, quickly. No, no, no, this on page 12 is the next one, right?"

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. Page 12, Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **24-0657**, Region III Emergency Medical Services Council, Chairman Pitts has nominated Alex Robles to replace Matt Kallmyer for a Full-Board appointment to an unexpired term ending June 30th, 2026."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Presentation and Discussion Items, 24-0613, Open Records Request, sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne, do you mind if we hold that one until we take up the -- at the next meeting, the other matter dealing with open records?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, I guess I'm just wondering how long this item is going to take. It's one -- 12:45 now, I imagine this is going to take a while."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, I was trying to accommodate the Sheriff. He wanted to do it before Executive Session."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I mean, I'm fine with doing that. I just imagine -- that's fine, we'll just go ahead."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Well, let's limit our remarks. Is it -- where is the Sheriff?"

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0614**, Sheriff's Office Outstanding Invoices, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. This motion is this, as is stated here, motion was made by Commissioner -- Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall a couple of meetings ago to allocate that 2.137 million to the Sheriff's office. The motion fails, so it's back before us, and there are a couple of other items here to deal with the Sheriff. We'd like to hear from the Sheriff. He's graciously agreed to come before us today. Where, is that him? That's not him? Good afternoon, Sheriff."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Hey, good afternoon. How are you?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You want to address this first one, and then we'll talk about some of the other things?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Absolutely. Absolutely. So first let me -- I don't know if you want to call it, Mr. Chair, or it's already been called, but first, let me offer our condolences, Commissioner, on the loss of your family member, literally, both work and person. So we appreciate the service that Fred offered. So our hearts and condolences go out to you all. So thank you. I understand there are some questions, given the last Board meeting and my review of it. So let's -- I'll start there, if we -- if we can. There are a couple things that -- and I appreciated Commissioner Ellis, your response to Mike on yesterday, our Chief of Staff, with respect to the -- as you put it, the -- and I guess, in this case, we meant the office, not the department. The questions have been unchanged as to what has been done, right, over the last several years with respect to some of the things that -- and from a fiduciary perspective, what that looks like, and then secondly, you had a question about some of the assurances that we had put in place with regards to making sure this doesn't happen again in terms of where we are. And then the adherence to the new county policy with respect to purchases. So with that in place, did I -- I want to make sure I accurately summarize that. So if that is accurate, I will proceed to answer those questions. This is the email that Commissioner --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. I'm not -- I wasn't privy to what y'all are talking about here, now. What's before us now, though, is this 2.137 --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, I appreciate -- I appreciate those remarks, Sheriff. But I think maybe, this -- probably everybody on the Board has got specific things, so maybe --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, let's --"

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "I mean, Sheriff, it's your discussion item, so maybe you want to --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, let's -- can we deal with the 2.137?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So that is a motion that was made by the Commissioners --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Correct."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- to address some of the shortfall. I want to make sure we on the same --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Correct."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- same page. And how we got here, I guess is some --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Yes, sir. Yes.

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- the conversations to be had. And certainly that, one, let me make sure we are level set how we got here. If you recall, part of the onboarding of a third party security company was discussed publically. We made this decision. We decided to move forward. The company only provided in 2023 at the initial onset of the actual engagement, they only provided certain numbers of staff. They did not scale up to 84, 87 as the contract actually indicated. At that point, we then turned around and asked for the same funding, inadvertently, not doubling the funding, which should have actually occurred in the 2024 budget. So at that point, Mike was notified by Hakeem that there was going to be a shortfall. And we immediately tried to engage the Board through mechanism to come before you to include Executive Session on the second funding item, which was approved through the County Attorney to bring to Executive Session with respect to Leo Technology. And so those things are how we ended up here. Ultimately at that point, understanding the funding would not suffice through the rest the year, we asked to be on the agenda. At that point, we were pulled off the agenda. And with subsequent to conversation with Madam CFO for the reasons she thought were, and she certainly can speak for herself, would become a sounding item and not necessarily a discussion item. Secondly, so at this point, we have engaged twice to come before the Board to have the conversation of how we got here. And so that, in and of itself, at that point, Mr. Shoates engaged and asked, listen, if this 2.1 is sitting in non-agency, let us certainly use that, which was some of the conversation at the last Board meeting. And ultimately, if I'm not mistaken, part of the recommendation from the CFO to encounter that piece. So that's how -- that's where we were, and that's how we got here."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So included, the 2.137 will pay for the -- what's, that Leo Tech -- what is it, Leo Technologies?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Leo Technologies."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And the other one, what's the other one?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Security company."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Those two?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Third-party security company."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And well, Strategic is the name of the company."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I think it was a little short, Mr. Chair. I think the request was for, like 2.2, but there was 2.13 identified in money --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "That's correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- in funds by the CFO. So that's why I just said, if she's got that, let's at least authorize that, and we can, you know, try to circle back on the remainder."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So that's what's before us. So what's your pleasure?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Do I need to move it again?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I do have some questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair, you have a question?"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Sheriff, for coming today. So for the listening taxpaying citizens of Fulton County, what I'm going to ask you, have you exhausted all the resources to identify the funds to pay these debts that you're asking us to pay?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And that's a great question. And so, which I also think is in line with Commissioner Ellis' question from last Board meeting, which is, not only have we made over 105 adjustments to line items, that represents almost \$18 million in and throughout our facility -- in and throughout our budget. And so we also brought on, I hate to say, I don't hate to say, but we actually -- goes back to what Commissioner Ellis asked, how did we -- how do we move forward? So we brought on Monica Jones, who was at one point the Assistant Budget Director, or I'm not sure if that's the right title, for the county, who has 18 years of experience to really make sure we level set this. So we've done our due diligence and scraped for every penny we have."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "The reason, Sheriff, that I'm engaging you with these questions, first of all, let me be crystal clear, I support law enforcement. And that is something that I will always do, but I must also support accountability. Knowing that

we have multiple vendors that were engaged when there was no money available to pay them, I have, and I believe you do too, all of us, a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpaying citizens. In plain language, I guess what I'm asking you, and I'm asking you this in public. If you did not have the money to pay one vendor, and we have several vendors that you're requesting to be paid, what guarantees can we give the listening taxpayer that we will not be in this situation again? Let me caveat that, I don't have a problem with supporting you, Sheriff. I don't have a problem addressing a need. I do have a problem with accountability and not potential mismanagement, because I don't want to put that label on you, but management according to the needs that you clearly define that you need. And so to require all of our departments to adhere that and not require you, I would be short in doing my duty. So what guarantees can you give us that we will not be at this point again? This is an unusual point that we are. Vendors need to be paid, there's no money. How can you in your honest ability to manage your department, make sure, because you are the one, you are the one, you send your representatives here, and you see it, I often say, where is the Sheriff? Because your name is the name that's on the ballot. How will we guarantee that we will not get to this again?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So let me unpack that, and thank you for the question. Let's start at the origin. Let's go back to how we got here. Ultimately, the goalpost was moved. And what I mean by that is, some of these contracts, if not all of them, in various shapes, form, or fashion, were paid out of, then, the inmate welfare fund, period, for years. That inmate welfare fund dates back to 2007. And it's \$5 million sitting in it. And so the natural progression of things were to, anything for the safety and security of our residents. We don't even call them inmates anymore. Let me -- let's be clear for the listening public, they're residents. And our goal is to make sure we provide the services as we -- as not only as we see them, but ultimately, to your point, this is not taxpayer dollars. This is money that was coming out of the inmate welfare fund, which is funded by the actual commissary as well as telephone. So not taxpayer dollars. In fact, I would argue that we actually save taxpayer dollars when you -- when you look at the itemized budget. To that point, then the funding was cut off. But I would not be doing my job as Sheriff to protect those residents, and the women and men of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, if those two high-dollar items, Leo Technology, which is analyzed more than 63 million data points, and really helped interrupt contraband flow into the facility, hence making our residents that much more safe, and/or providing additional tower officers, which we were not able to do at the time. And so I continued in that, knowing that were providing a safer environment. That was our goal from the start, the finish, and now, where we are. I tried to come to this Board and to this Body on three separate occasions, to include Executive Session, and explain this. And so some of this fell on deaf ears. Some of it was pulled off the agenda, right, for whatever the reasons were. And so to that extent, we will continue to fight for our residence, for our employees, and for our community."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Sheriff, if I am correct, and CFO, you can correct me, the entire amount that is requested in all, exceeds what's in the inmate welfare fund, if I'm not mistaken."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "The total amount that the Sheriff requested, as I recall, is 5.7 or \$5.8 million. We have already expended some of the resources that were carried forward when the inmate welfare file was closed last year. I don't know that the total amount, the 5.8 million, could be covered with what's remaining from what was carried forward. And I would need to go and look to see the amount of revenue that has been collected this far, this year to tell you if between the two, we would have enough to cover the full 5.8 through the end of this year. Certainly then, on a recurring basis going forward, if the amount of commissions generated continues to run at the level that it has run historically, it may not be sufficient to cover all of the things that it is currently covering, plus these additional cost."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. So Sheriff, there in that, lies the problem for me. Because let's say for the sake of conversation, that the inmate welfare fund was available to you to pay all of this, you would not still -- you would still not have enough funding to my understanding."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yeah, let me push back. I would like for Madam CFO to get the actual numbers, because I would push back and say, not only are there, is the funding there, plus any contingencies, the money's there. To quote one of my -- to -- one of the Commissioners, the CFO knows the money's there. We know what we transferred. Here is -- here is something else that is -- needs to be also considered, and that's something that the Chairman brought up last time, is that simply because we transfer this, doesn't mean that all of those monies are not -- or those inmate welfare funds should be used in this manner."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "That's true."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "That is a large --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I agree with that."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- amount that we have to consider. Also considering to what Commissioner Barrett said last meeting, is that \$2.1 million was sitting over there in the non-agency fund for the Sheriff's Office, we should be able to use it. That has traditionally been a stumbling block that we need to hopefully move past. And so to give you those assurances, we have put in the requisite policies, procedures and the personnel to make sure that, one, to go back to your first -- your first question, that this does not happen again. And secondly, we anticipated, ultimately, that the funds were there. The funds were actually there, and this is how we were using them, month over month until we got to a point where we could continue to provide safety and security and/or get to the next budget enhancement conversation. Let me tell you why that's

important, is because Leo Technologies didn't just arrive on the scene. We tried to during budget enhancements in 2023, it didn't even make it to the Board. It was denied at the administration level. Then we brought it back again, and again in Executive Session. It is something that is saving lives, and we need to really, really reconsider that for this year."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "What I want to say to you Sheriff, I brought legislation in front of this Board, and I call it accountability legislation. And if you recall you, and I had a conversation about it, because I thought at that time, where we were professionally and personally, that anything that I brought forward that I should give you the respect to at least -- at least let you know. That didn't go well, and was -- I would be remiss if I didn't say that the same things that I asked then, the Senate study came back with the exact same things that I were asking. And so I want to openly tell you, one, if you -- if you -- if you are -- if you were relying on the inmate welfare fund, I do believe that that not -- might not have been the best process. Because some of these things are -- may cannot be used from the inmate welfare fund, for one. For two, the inmate welfare fund, the control of it, was taken for a reason. Now, the conversation that you and I had, you expressed to me that there was some missteps, some money was spent from out that fund that really shouldn't have been spent, and it was spent by a person that should have been spent somewhere else. And so my question then that you don't have to answer now, but I want the public to know why we're here from my perspective. I continually asked if the money was supposed to be spent from a different area and was accidentally spent in that area, then it would led me to believe that that money would still be there. And I never got an answer for that. Also, like I said to Mr. Shoates, there is property that's owned by the Sheriff's office, or rented by the Sheriff's office, and my understanding it's \$10,000 a month rent, and it has not been occupied. I don't think it is in the best interest of the taxpaying citizens to have something at the tune of \$10,000 month for approximately 24 months. I don't know how many months that has been. But that is taxpayer's money. I support you. I do not want to look as though the only time we're going to have conversation is here, because that should not be the nature of our relationship. But that's what has been over years' time. So I would ask moving forward, and I know recently, you have made strides in the last 30 days to reach out to my office, so has your Chief of Staff. I do believe that on the face, you and I and the rest of my colleagues should have a working relationship that benefits Fulton County taxpaying citizens. I don't need to throw you under the bus. You don't need to throw me under the bus. We need to deal with what we need to deal with at hand. And so what I would ask at this point, any mistake, any missteps, any whatever that that is the past, and that we work, Sheriff, together for the accountability to move forward. Because it's not my words anymore about accountability, it's not my words anymore about, some could consider strained relationship, we won't work with you, we won't do that. It is me in front of you, in front of the public, saying what we've done in the past, is not going to work. We need to move forward. And you have the conversation that you need to have with all of the Commissioners, not the ones that just are favorable for you. Because, like I said, from day one, I came in asking that you get the money that you

needed. At some point that begin to become fragmented. And it is a duty on your part as much as mine to make sure that is repaired, and we on the same page."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So if I may climb out from under that bus really quickly, the one that wasn't running me over, that ran me over, and provide us facts. On October 30th, each Board Member received a memo that outlined every step we took. You received that memo. And in that it talked about the inmate welfare fund, the missteps and even enumerated by Commissioner Arrington that the responsible parties are no longer employed with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office. But let me take that a step further. When we talk about communication, I've called you several times beyond the 30 days, all right. We've had conversations in those spaces. But then you also brought up the property at Old National. Let me provide some facts there. In transparency, if you recall, when I took office, we tore down a double-wide trailer where our Law Enforcement Division was working, rat infested, rodent infested. We leaned on Mr. Davis, and his team tore it down. We had the capital money to build a new facility, build a facility for our Law Enforcement Division. We were then told by the Law Department that we could not own property, and that was the Division of Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, and that we could not spend that \$2 million to build a facility deserving of our teams to work out of. We then fell back on a contract that predates our administration, yours and mine, taking office, and we then went into negotiation. If you recall, when we were growing up where the Marshals had an office out on Old National, the PD had an office out on Old National, and the Sheriff's office. Well, the PD and the Marshals pulled out, leaving us with, and this all predates you and I, leaving us with a lease. And in that same vein, we said, well, let's see how we can utilize that space. Wait a minute, Sheriff, you can't negotiate. So we turned that over to Mr. Davis and his team, and then further to the Law Department, because we also saw an opportunity with the City of South Fulton, who was looking for headquarters and community space to take the lease. But Sheriff, you can't negotiate on behalf of the county, that has to run through DREAM and has to run through the Law Department. Well, somewhere in those negotiations, there was a 10-year lease that the county wanted the City of Fulton County to assume. They -- South Fulton, thank you, South Fulton, to assume. South Fulton would only agree to five years. And so the months that they've spent negotiating, we're in limbo. And in that space, City of South Fulton then pulled out. Now, I can't tell you if it was right, wrong or indifferent, because we were kicked out of the process. There was Zoom meetings. There was constant communication between Mr. Davis and -- Director Davis and the County Attorney's office, so we're in the middle of it. They pulled out, but we're still on the hook for that money. So then we said, well, let's occupy the building. We got ready to occupy the building, there's no furniture whatsoever. Well, we have these other 105 budget adjustments to make. How do we then provide furniture for our team? And so ultimately, we still are in that limbo. And so I've been trying to get before the Board so we can have this conversation. And again, it still predates, one, the Sheriff's office as a whole, and two, we were kicked out of the conversation by process. And so that's where we are. We have asked -- and Mr. Shoates and his team, they've asked, what would it look like to vacate the lease or get out of the lease. And so we're still waiting,

as these things have taken months to go through this particular system. City of South Fulton, if you recall, they are actually operating outside of the City of South Fulton in a facility that they found cheaper and/or more adequate. I don't know. But we were all really at the behest of what those negotiations looked like. So I certainly don't want to make sure that, you know, we, the Sheriff's office, who did not, after being told, if we don't negotiate for real estate, the Sheriff's office can't control -- can't own real estate. We're simply at the behest of the negotiating powers at this point. To your very point, now, we are going to -- and in our budget enhancements, it talks about what it looks like to populate that building and make sure that we have adequate space. Because we're also told we're being put out of aviation at some point because of a massive, not reconstruction, but whatever that looks like in terms of rebuilding the Charlie Brown Airport, when we grew up, it was Charlie Brown, and the enhancements there. And so being -- having the forethought to say, okay, well, let's figure out what this looks like, that's how we got there. So I think it is important to level set that the Sheriff's office was not responsible for those negotiations, because if we were, we would already be in there, and/or we would have a five-year lease with the City of South Fulton, potentially not only saving the taxpayer dollars, but ultimately putting us in a place where, maybe the county could have even made some money out of it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Hall."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Excuse me. I'm not finished."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Go ahead, Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Sheriff, let me -- let me be crystal clear, because before you went to explain, you said, let you crawl off under the bus."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Crawl out from under the bus that you ran over -- yeah, you ran over me with a bus --"

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "No, I did not. Because if I would have ran out over you, you would have the skid marks on your --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I got them."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "No, not for me, not for me. So let's be crystal clear that for me at -- Sheriff, holding you accountable, asking you a question cannot be deemed as throwing you under the bus. We are not going to always agree. It doesn't make you deserve any less respect. It doesn't make me deserve any less respect. I have a colleague to my right and left that I'm sometimes not going to agree with. But it does not mean that I'm throwing you under the bus."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I appreciate that."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "So I would appreciate moving forward -- because see what it does, it gives me the -- it gives me the -- the reception that I can't ask you a question, or I can't disagree with you, because if I disagree with you, I'm throwing you under the bus. I don't think that's conducive to us moving forward. Now, we can allegorize and say what has happened in the past, and having what I would call a difference of opinion, hell, I take the responsibility if it's going to get us forward."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Let's move forward."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "If you want to say, Commissioner Khadijah, Vice Chair Khadijah, it's all your fault that we're here. Guess what? I'm a leader, I got to take that whether it is true or not. But what I want, and in front of the public and in front of my colleagues today to know what has happened in the past has not worked."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I agree."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And so we need to make sure we start today with a clean slate, understanding accountability and asking questions is not disrespect, nor is it not support. It is asking questions and accountability from me."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And I appreciate that."

VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "I appreciate that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Natalie Hall, followed by Commissioner Barrett, and let's --""

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Thank you, Sheriff, for coming today. I know if you could have, you would have been here the other times, but you had other things that you had to do attend to, and you made that very clear prior to those meetings when you were not able to attend. And let me just say this, you know where your support actually comes from just by looking back at the votes that were taken on those things that you needed in order to efficiently and effectively run the jail, support your employees, support your residents of the jail. That's how you know where your support was coming from. It's very easily seen, you don't have to listen to the words, you can actually look at the facts. And so a couple of things, I sat here and I listened, and what kept coming up repeatedly is that you have actually addressed all of these purchases that you've needed. They just never came before this Board. Am I clear on -- is that clear? I mean, is that what I'm -- that's what I'm hearing? Tell me if that's correct."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "That's correct."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So it's making me think about the resolution that was just passed before this, talking about taking funding out of next year's budget for people who don't go through -- no, let me be clear, constitutional officers, elected officials, departments and offices, which Commissioner Arrington, he questioned enough to get an understanding that the departments already have to go through the process, so that really didn't need to be a part of that the offices have to go through. But there are four constitutional officers who, really that -- and elected officials, I suppose, who that really targets. But you have literally tried to, on occasion, address these things. And I made a note, because you said you've actually come to Executive Session, you've actually tried to get on the agenda, and it was pulled off. And you were told that, you know, it really didn't belong on the agenda. It should have been a soundings item, did I capture that correctly?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "You did, yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Am I missing anything?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "No, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So really this -- your invoices don't follow under that resolution that was passed anyway. And then you mentioned a couple times that there are purchases that happened, and you didn't say this in plain English, but these purchases and these invoices happened before you were Sheriff. And so let me make sure I'm clear. You inherited some of these things?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Some of these contracts date back ten, 20 years. And some of the hardworking women and men that provide these services have done so to the tunes of hundreds of our residents. Whether it be anger management, GED programming and those things that have -- that did predate us. And so we continued those for the betterment of our residents, and what that looks like. With respect to the previous legislation that was passed, that was prior. Where we are right now, is making sure, one, that hopefully we can pay the bills as we accrue them. Many of them were in the inmate welfare fund. It is important to note, as the inmate welfare fund was moved, it was unilaterally the decisions of what came out of that came from -- was transferred to Madam CFO. She brought some of those suggestions back for -- before the Board, not all. We did meet, not all, but ultimately, to Sharon's point earlier, there are some things -- in an earlier conversation, there are some things that we were paying for out of the inmate welfare fund that should be in the Sheriff's budget, period. But we've never level set that. So what ends up happening and the conversation like it, love it, or leave it, is -- and I feel for our County Manager, because a lot of times you end up in a situation where they're waiting on direction from you all. And would have -- what would have been optimal when the inmate welfare fund was moved, would be to have said in some instances, how do we create the soundings, and to the Chairman's point, and level set the Sheriff's budget? And then at that point we would have even more

funds to potentially pay these as we approve them. And so you're absolutely correct in those assertions."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. And something else you said caught my attention, because it's been insinuated and there have been innuendos that we had to save the taxpayer's money by taking the inmate welfare fund. But you said something today, and I want to make sure I heard you correctly, that's not taxpayers money."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "It is not."

COMMISSIONER HALL: I want to go refer back to my notes, and make sure I got this correct. You said it's from commissary?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "It is from commissary --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And the phones --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- and it's from the telephone --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "-- the phones?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. And that is not taxpayer's dollars."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So we're -- so I want to just make it clear, I didn't vote for the inmate welfare fund to be taken because it didn't make sense, because it wasn't taxpayer's funds. And I'm glad that you're here today giving clarity on that again, that it's not taxpayer's funds. And then also, I want to make sure I heard you correctly, because I heard you say policy, procedures, personnel, as it relates to the inmate welfare fund. And before that, did you say that once it was brought to your attention that something was off with the inmate welfare fund, that you stepped up and handled that by terminating the person who, you know, did the wrong thing. And then you proceeded to put in policy, procedures and personnel to right that ship; is that correct?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "That's correct. And we went after some of the most talented people in the county, out of much to Madam CFO's dismay, we got Monica Jones, who worked for her for some 17-18 years, so that we could make sure that, not only were that -- was there adherence, but there was a vision to say, this is how we move and in a space that properly addressed concerns prior to them even existing."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And that was a good move, because I'm familiar with Monica Jones, because she was the Budget Analyst or Budget Manager, whatever her title was

at that time, from the time that I came in as Chief of Staff to our late Commissioner Joan Garner, she was the go-to person in our office to go over our budget in that, in the District Office. And she remained that person, I guess, until you actually snatched her away and hired her. So you have a very competent person, so that was a good move. Unfortunately, it was insinuated that the BOC had to take that from you to right the ship on their own, because the appearance was made that you didn't right it yourself. But you've been very clear today that you actually did. These invoices, so I want to get some clarity on exactly how much money you need. Because, yes, Commissioner Arrington and I, as it is referenced here on page 12 of the Board of Commissioners agenda in item 24-0614, the Chairman's discussion item. It references item 24-0579, where a motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and second, seconded by myself, to allocate the 2.137 million to the Sheriff's office. And that motion failed on September 24th. And so there was discussion here earlier on the amount. And I thought I heard Commissioner Arrington say it's actually more like \$2.2 million that you need. But then later on, I heard some reference to it, you actually need more money than that. And it was asked of Madam CFO, what the actual total was that you needed. So what exactly is needed to resolve these invoices?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So I'll actually refer back to Madam CO's presentation on September 18th. I think the item number was 24-0614, which was handed out, or you sent, Madam CFO, which outlined the actual expenditures, so I don't know if that's --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It is, it was the item that was in the Board's package as the support documentation. I'm not sure the Clerk's office has the PowerPoint to project. The total amount of outstanding invoices is, is -- it's actually \$2,255,042.92, excuse me, 94 cents. That is the line, it's highlighted in yellow, it has the red A beside it. In addition to that, Commissioner Hall, in the communication that the Sheriff's office had sent, they had additional items identified for funding as well. That's what's in the -- the blue column to the right, that 3.7 million. If you add those two numbers together, that's where I was getting my roughly 5.9 million that I stated was the total ask. I think Commissioner Arrington commented that the 2.1 million that's currently available in non-agency is insufficient. That's was identified in yellow with the B beside it, and that would leave a difference \$117,546.94. So this was the document that the Finance department prepared using the information that the Sheriff's office had shared previously and coordinating and updating the totals with the Sheriff's office. This is dated as of September 17th or 18th. I did ask the Sheriff's office if they had any changes to it, and they have not shared any changes to it with me. So as far as I know, these are still the final numbers."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. So is this funding of \$5.9 million in the inmate welfare fund? Because I didn't get a clear understanding of that with the discussion that was taken place between Sheriff and you, Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "For 2024, Commissioner Hall, we included in the general fund budget the amount of resources that were paid over to

us at the end of last year, and then we appropriated some additional resources in anticipation of receiving more commissions this year into the general fund rather than them being held in a separate account by the Sheriff. So in total, this year, we set an expenditure budget of around \$11 million, which was to be supported by the five that was paid over from the closure of the inmate welfare fund from the Sheriff and additional commissions earned this year. So far this year, we've earned \$2.6 million in commissions, it's 2.6 and some change. So if you take what was paid over last year, what has been collected as revenue since that point, the expenses we've actually incurred, we currently sitting with about 6.7 million in the inmate services unit that is either covered by the resources that were paid over last year or the commissions collected from this year. My comment about that not being sufficient to support this ask, is that the Board has already approved about \$3 million worth of commodity related expenditures that are being supported by that same set of resources. So if the -- as I understood the question, it was, could the inmate services unit support these expenses currently going forward. It cannot support everything that's already supporting, plus this 5.9 million going forward based on the amount of commissions that we're currently generating. So if we don't -- if we aren't going to generate the same amount in commissions as what we're planning to spend, then the inmate services unit can't support these expenses going forward."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So right now, let me be clear, \$6.7 million is in there, or is it the 11 million?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It's 6.7, because we're basing it off of what we carried forward, plus what we've earned this year in commissions, less what we've actually expended. So it's about 6.7 million."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. And that is also taking into account the 3 million you said for commodities related --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "You would have to adjust that amount for the balance of the commodities that have not been -- that the Board has approved, but have not actually been ordered and received this year. But we -- we would want to make sure that we leave the resources in place to cover those -- to cover those expenses."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So you would need to subtract that 3 million from the 6.7 then, right?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, you would -- you would subtract the difference between the 3 million and what we've already spent against that 3 million, which I don't have that number in front of me right now."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Subtract 470? Sabrina is saying we would need to subtract 470,000 from the six, 6.7."

COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. 470,000. But you're projecting that the total that's going to be needed is 3 million? So you've only spent 470,000 of that 3 million?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I think what Sabrina is telling me, the 400,000 is what's currently encumbered. Because this is a master agreement, the full amount of the master agreement doesn't get encumbered against the budget. They only encumbered as they order and create what's called a delivery order -- I'm getting very into the --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "That's all right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- into the details here."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "That's all right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "So that's why I said, I would need to go back and look at, you approved about -- it was like, 2.9 million and some change for the commodities. We've spent some of that. We have 400,000 that we've already pulled a delivery order on, so we know we have orders that are in place. I would need to go back to look to see what is remaining on all of the master agreements to be able to tell you how much of that 2.9 million we still have in and play for the department to, you know, to pull against. Conservatively, if you took the \$3 million out of the 6.7, then you would cover that amount, and you would really be leaving cushion for what you've actually already expended out of that \$3 million approval. So if you took that out, that would be a very conservative approach."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. And based on the history of the commissions that go into the inmate welfare fund, what do you project is going to come into the inmate welfare fund up until the end of the year?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We used 5 million as a basis, and through the end of September, what's been recorded and received in the Finance Department is about 2.6 million. That would imply that it's running a little behind what it has historically. The Sheriff did enter into a new agreement with a new communication, the phone system provider. I'm not -- I believe they have begun to pay commissions. I don't know if they're paying at the -- the rate that that contract requires for them to be paying. I believe that they had a -- an amount that they were committing to pay over in commissions each year. There is a wrinkle in the commissions that -- especially on the phone service side, in that, there is potentially legislative changes coming that will reduce the amount of commissions that we will be seeing through the use of that service going forward, the FTC is putting some changes in place. And I know the Sheriff has been monitoring that. And I don't think they have, at least the last

conversation we had, I don't think they had reached the final determination on exactly what level -- what percentage they would be allowing governments to retain from those contracts. So there is -- and this is really an issue for '25 and into the future. For '24, we used 5 million as a baseline. What we have actually collected and recorded in the Finance Department is about 2.6 this year, which implies we're running a little short of what we'd -- we would expect to collect if 5 million was our target."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. So with all that being said, do you feel like there is enough in the inmate welfare fund right now to cover this \$2.25 million to pay these invoices that are outstanding?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. There's -- there would be sufficient resources to cover the 2.2 million in outstanding invoices."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I accept your friendly amendment."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right. I was going to say -- so do we have to go back to another motion like we did before in order to -- okay, well, they put it on there, I'm going to second that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So, moved."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And so --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "2.2 --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "-- 2.255042 and 94 cents to pay these invoices, and get these -- these services, these contractors paid. Is there any reason why we shouldn't? They need to be paid. Okay, well, the motion is on the floor."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel like we're a little bit in this weird space of the perfect storm of where there was a budgeting error for Strategic Security, where you just didn't ask for the right amount. You got the amount based on 2023 instead of realizing that it was going to ramp up. So that's -- was one of the issues that put us where we are. I'm a little bit kind of responding to your request, Madam Vice Chair, about just how do we know this won't happen again, but also just thinking it through so that I have a good understanding. So that's one of the things that happened. But also because we were at the end of 2023, you know, wrapping up this whole inmate welfare fund conversation and changing the way we're going to handle those monies going forward, I think that also put us in this sort of strange place. And I can't recall if the resolution that we approved to close the inmate

welfare fund specifically had language in it that suggested how those monies from commissary and phones should be spent going forward. Do you recall?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It did not. As I recall, the resolution simply required for the -- required for the closure of the fund, the monies to be paid over from the Sheriff's office, and for the Finance Department to deposit them into the general fund."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So that's what I thought. And I think what we did, and you know, I'm not pointing the finger at anybody here, but I think what we chose to do by approving the budget with a line item for inmate services is kind of muddy the waters, because that dollar -- if we believed that there were expenses that were going to happen in this calendar year that were essentially operational expenses for the jail, then that money should have been in the Sheriff's budget. And instead, we muddied the waters by putting it in this inmate services line in non-agency that gave us this sort of interactive, you know, platform, essentially with each one of these items where we're now having to approve something that should have been within his budget all along. And I feel like that was very convoluted. And I think it's clear that there is some confusion here, because a lot of my colleagues are referring to the inmate welfare fund as if it still exists. It does not. And even the way that you're talking about it, Madam CFO, with all due respect, is saying, well, the 11-point-whatever million that was budgeted in that non-agency inmate services line item, isn't really there. It's dependent on how much comes in from the commissary and the phone. But we don't handle any other budget line item that way. There was 11-point million put aside in that line item that was intended to be for things that were needed at the jail and were previously paid for from that old inmate welfare fund that no longer exists. So now all of a sudden, that number isn't 11-something million, it's less, because less has come in apparently. It took -- all of this has just gotten very convoluted from my perspective. I think -- I have two questions, I guess. One is, should we not have the 11-point whatever that we budgeted in that inmate services line available to pay for some of these things, rather than doing all these calculations about what has to be subtracted and added and all these other things? The end of the day, we put 11-point-whatever million in the budget, we expected some revenues that didn't come in, but that happens all the time. We expect our tax revenue to be a certain thing, and it comes in higher or lower, and we address that as, as needed. We don't suddenly tell, you know, a particular department that they can't do something because they didn't collect as many fees, you know, for licenses or whatever the case may be. So the point is, I think the -- based on the budget we approved, the money is there. There was 11-point-whatever million in that line item to pay for things for the jail. And so I guess my question is, first of all, is that correct? I mean, why are we looking at this any -- in other way than that?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We did appropriate \$11 million. We also noted that half of that amount would be supported by a estimate for commissions this year. And we would have to, you know, sort of adjust, act and adjust around that. I believe we made that notation in our budget message. We certainly

talked about it during our, you know, budget deliberations about how we would be trying to work that into the '24 budget, and that those resources would be held in non-agency, and they would be used for inmate services. That's how -- that's how we discussed it. Because the Board's resolution did not explicitly address what was to come after the resources were deposited into the general fund. We did prepare a plan for how we would proceed, and we shared that with the Board. And we have adhered to that plan as we've moved through the year. We did honor many of the expenses that had been incurred in '23 prior to the Board's action to take back the inmate welfare fund. And we've covered those expenses if those invoices came in in '24, but were related to '23, services provided in 2023 including November and December, because that was sort of transition time period. And we brought the commodity package forward to the Board of Commissioners. We actually bought the consulting package forward to the Board of Commissioners. And that, while the commodities package was approved, the consulting package was not. We did inform the Board at the end of last year that some of the items that had been charged to the inmate welfare fund would not be covered out of non-agency, out of the inmate services unit, and advised the Sheriff that he needed to submit that to the Board of Commissioners as a supplemental enhancement request, which he did at the end of 2024. If the Board of Commissioners would like to remove this portion of the budget from non-agency and place it in the Sheriff's budget, that is a decision that the Board can make. We were simply trying to provide a path forward where the Board's resolution simply said the funds should be deposited in the general fund. And we did not get an action from the Board to direct us to do it other than how we had proposed it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I hear you. And what I'm saying is, I think it's overly convoluted, and I also think we're overstepping our bounds. The Sheriff, as a constitutional officer, is responsible for the operations of the jail. We are responsible for the facilities. I think we have muddied the waters by putting ourselves in the decision-making seat for each individual expense that has to do with operating the jail. You know, I can't speak to the legality of that. I would leave that up to you all, but it feels to me like we have very much muddied the waters and sort of stuck our noses where they don't actually belong. And, you know, I think that -- that, you know, my recommendation certainly, and I'm just one Commissioner, but my recommendation certainly in 2025 is that the Sheriff has a budget that includes everything he needs to do operationally, and we have a budget with everything we need to do from a maintenance perspective, and that -- and Sharon, sorry, Madam CFO, you and I have had conversations offline about something completely different, where another department was wanting to keep revenues that they are bringing in to use within their department. And you said, well, every department isn't self-supporting, and just because the department brings in some revenue doesn't mean they get to keep it or use it or whatever else. We eliminated that with the inmate welfare fund. So there should really be no further discussion of what those monies get used for, they're not regulated monies. They are general fund revenue that comes in just like any other license or fee, court fee, or whatever it is that comes into the general fund. So to me, the Sheriff should have an expense budget that covers all of his operational needs, and we will have some additional revenue, full stop,

period. There is no connection anymore between those two things. So I'd like to see that go away for 2025, that's just me, my colleagues may disagree. That said, I think this, the combination of our decision making to do this -- the, you know, unfortunate error in the budgeting on their side around the, you know, under assessment of their need for the Strategic Security Services contract has put us in this situation. It does still feel to me that of -- that there should be that 11 million in the budget that was earmarked for their needs that should be used for this. So, you know, I'm obviously in support of paying this bill. But I think we have some bigger fish to fry here in terms of cleaning up this whole budget act around what's happening there."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I just want to echo what Commissioner Barrett was saying. And I think you even mentioned this before, Mr. Chair. There was some items in that fund or that were being used out of the previous inmate welfare fund for underwear and other things that -- so we need some cleanup. And what I would suggest is maybe, if you know, Finance and the Sheriff's office could work to clean up what should actually be in the Sheriff's operational budget that used to be in the inmate fund. And Commissioner Barrett, Mr. Chair, I'm happy to work with you all to come up, you know, with something maybe after staff and the Sheriff's office take a look at it to make that it makes sense. But yes, Mr. Sheriff, I think you are right, we shut that inmate welfare fund off, and did not make any adjustments, right? And so, you know, now we need to talk about, how do we adjust what it -- what from there should be -- should have been in your operational budget, and should not have been in the inmate welfare fund. So hopefully, Finance can take a first stab at that, and we can work together to level -- level the field in that regard. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. So the motion on the floor is to approve paying the 2.255 million, correct?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And they're going to take it from the non-agency fund, 2.1, so on the other -- in the blue column, so our next meeting, are we going to approve paying the 3.73 million, the remaining outstanding contracts? And --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Take that as a friendly amendment too for the --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Thorne, that column does not necessarily reflect outstanding contractual amounts. There is a significant -- a portion of that, that is overtime, employee, employee-related costs. I just wanted to make that clarification."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah. So 3 million in overtime, and that's just projected, so we don't know the actual figure. Is that the maximum that is possible for -- that could possibly be projected? Or is -- it could be less, it could be more, we just don't know until it actually comes in?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "The Sheriff's Department provided that projected figure so I would have to --

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Defer."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- defer to the Sheriff."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "So again, thank you for the question. That gets us back to where we started in budget, right? If you recall in '23, there was \$10 million allocated, and we spent 6.25, being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. When we approached the budget, County Manager and his team allocated or in the budget process, \$4 million. The day of ratification, that was cut in half by a motion by one of our Commissioners, leaving us, essentially from the beginning of the budget, \$2 million short, which we knew we would allocate or spend. And so a couple things, one, based on some of our previous conversations, we have now, an Overtime Czar, who is -- she is, her sole focus is not just monitoring overtime, making sure the women and men are paid adequately. The double time was removed, it has had an adverse effect so that -- so that we are transparent in having the conversation. And ultimately, this gets us back to where we started. And then there's also an opportunity, if -- and I don't know, Madam CFO's opinion on it, but if you recall at this point, with -- with Strategic, that contract has ended. And so moving through latter parts of September, October, November, December, the monies that we had allocated there or the year -- or month over month, still won't be spent. And so we can then hopefully, cut into that amount as well, but that's what our projection is."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So you -- you got 2 million short, but you're actually 3 million -- like, we cut 2 million from your budget, so but your actual -- you were actually 3 million in the hole. So even if we had fully funded you, you would have been a million short; is that correct?"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "No, that's -- no, the numbers don't add up. Had we been fully funded, then we would have -- because what ended up happening, and Commissioner Ellis brought this up at one of the Board meetings, and that was quite simply, double time had gone away, and that was the 6.2, and so it was reduced to four, which was, we worked with the County Manager and his team to say, okay, this is where we are. But then it was cut at that point. And then, if I'm not mistaken, Madam CFO can enumerate, but at that point, 2.1 was put into non-agency."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. I gotcha."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Hall."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So what amount of this 3.7 would you say is overtime? Because I'm -- I'm not clear."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yeah, there are a couple things. It's close to \$3 million, but there are a couple things in that that have transpired since, right, since the Police, the payment to -- the Police have actually picked up part of that payment, and again, our CFO came --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "I saw some heads shaking, yes, but can I get an audible response?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes. Yes, ma'am, the Fulton County Police Department has -- they paid the invoices, the 115,000 in outstanding invoices. They've gone ahead and taken care of those. And they have given an indication that they would be able to cover the remaining invoices through the end of the year. So you could actually, I guess, reduce that 228,000 amount and make it more like 3.5 million."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Now, we're cooking with Crisco, okay. So you said, reduce the 3.7 million by 228,000 because of the Police Department's payment paying of the invoices?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes. Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "So that actually needs to be -- is there anything else like that? Because you said most of -- three -- at least 3 million is overtime, that's what --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "And the only outlier here is Axxon, which is our body cameras and our Tasers. So that, in and of itself, is the remaining portion."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Oh, body cameras and Tasers, which you absolutely have to have."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So do we have funding to cover this three-point whatever that calculation is after you take the \$228,000, Sheriff, Madam CFO?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Only if you use the inmate services unit."

COMMISSIONER HALL: But if we use the -- okay, wait, inmate services unit, which we've been calling the inmate welfare fund, forever and even today, that's what you're talking about?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "Okay. So, but we're getting ready to vote on paying these outstanding invoices, which need to be paid to the tune of \$2.255 million. If that happens, then what's going to be left?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Our recommendation for the outstanding invoices was to actually use the \$2.1 million that we have in non-agency that was set aside to cover the cost of double overtime at the jail. So you would use that money, and then we would tap into the inmate services unit to cover the difference for the 2.2 million. So about 117,000 is what we would need to tap into the inmate services unit to cover the outstanding invoices. And then the now, 3.5 million of remaining budget requests from the Sheriff would come out of that balance that is in the inmate services unit, the balance from what's been carried over from last year, plus this year's revenue, less the expenses."

COMMISSIONER HALL: "All right, okay. So we definitely need to pay these outstanding invoices. As we've seen, people have done their usual shenanigans and told the news about these invoices and made it seem like the Sheriff wasn't paying his invoices. And I had to hear this everywhere I went from residents across the county, and explain to them that that is not true, that the Sheriff would not not pay his invoices, that he really needs the funding to be approved to pay it. So thank you, Sharon, Madam CFO. You know what Commissioner Darnell always said about you being the best at what you do is absolutely true. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Yeah, I'll try to be brief, Mr. Chair. I've listened to all this. I'm not -- I don't really have any questions. I just make a statement, just from listening to everything. I mean, to reframe all of this, everybody went into this year with a budget with their eyes wide open. I mean, we had made the decisions related to the inmate welfare fund. I'm not going to get into why we went there, but they were -- that was -- it was based on things that, you know, forced us to do that because we had a fiduciary duty to -- because whether they're taxpayer money or not, their funding, which is in the - in the custody of us as a government, and they needed to be treated -- treated in that right fiduciary capacity. So we made those changes because of what was occurring, not going to get into that. So we went into this year knowing what -- knowing what -- knowing what the budgets were. And now we're here because funds were spent that

we didn't have, and now we're trying to solve for it. You know, the bills obviously need to be paid, you know, and I acknowledge that. I guess it's still, the question is to how they should be paid. And this you -- we posited up one sort of potential solution for how they should be paid, but -- but the other is, you know, question that I raised at the front end of this, is typically when any sort of organization, when you get to this point of something, you -- you're forced to have to reprioritize. And that doesn't mean just operating expenses, that means the organization of how you're even structured. That may mean consolidating positions, that may mean doing something with, you know, units that are potentially non-core, selling assets, whatever. And while you all provided some information about what you've done and all that. And we have to listen to that, and feel like, okay, is there -- has there been -- is it sufficient enough? And candidly, I don't -- I don't feel like that that deep of a dive of analysis has truly been done. And I'm just telling where I am candidly. I've looked at your stuff. I realize certain things have been done, but I don't feel like it's gone far enough. And we're -- we got a limited amount of funds that we have to operate on. We've got all kinds of needs within the county, and all kinds of asks that were coming to us. And the -- I mean, this what we're facing today, we're going to be facing next year. And I -- that whole kind of conversation and analysis, I feel like needs to occur by you. And I don't think it's gone deep enough, from what I've heard. So I can't be supportive of paying all of this out of that \$2.1 million. You know, there -- I am supportive of paying this one amount of \$643,000 and 275 cent -- 40 -- 46 cents. That Leo Tech item, I'm supportive of it and paying it out of -- whether it's out of the innate welfare -- whether out of funds which were previously coming or generated that are now general fund money. They were generated from those, those types of revenue sources, or a reduction from this non-agency, but I'm not comfortable with the other. Because I feel like it's -- it's out of scope, and so anyway, that's where I'm at, you know. And we'll take this up for a vote, I guess."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is to approve, it's to two, 2:00 o'clock. So let's vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So it is 2:00 o'clock. We've got one other item. Sheriff, do you have time? Do you want to --"

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- come on this? Well, let me just tell you on the -- sound the next one right quick."

CLERK GRIER: "**24-0615**, Inmate Phone Contract and Jail Commissary Contract."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Let me tell you what my goal ultimately here is to structure these two contracts to charge fair amounts to the families of the inmates. This is being looked at nationally. It was alluded to earlier that the FCC is looking at this. And my analysis of both of those two things contracts is that they favor, probably favor us. I'm not sure how much money is generated from those two contracts. I'd like to have that in writing for -- not today, but from those two contracts, the formulas that are used on both. Because ultimately, once again, I want to reduce the amount that we take in and pass that savings on to the families of the inmates. So I'll hold this one today."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Well, I would -- if I may?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Sure."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "Both of us, we are actually aligned. And so to Madam CFO's point earlier, the FCC is making a ruling on the inmate telephone contract. I have actually gone to, and what is the trend across the nation is, the county's paying for the actual inmate calls or the resident calls, and lessening that burden completely. And then the same thing with reduction of the commissary. And so if you'd like for me to take a first stab at that, present that to you, so that you can see where we were --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We can, that's fine."

PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF: "-- we can then see what the fiduciary income then becomes, I'll certainly do that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's fine, on both of those at our -- hopefully, at our next meeting. But we have an opportunity to get ahead of the curve on these two here and pass these savings on to the families of the inmates. Again, it's 2:05 now, I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch, Executive Session, may take up issues of real estate, litigation and personnel. Please vote. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. All right. Let's vote, please."

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

Recessed for Executive Session at 2:05 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 2:54 p.m.

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman we've got three action items, and they will be taken together. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation set forth in items 1, 2, and 3 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve, those in favor say, aye, opposed, no. It's approved. All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam County Attorney?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any other items, Madam Clerk?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes, Mr. Chairman, on the bottom 12, **24-0658**, Discussion, Update of activities of the City of Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Colleagues, you should have received the minutes from the past, I guess probably the past couple of meetings. So if you have any questions, certainly happy to answer them. Chairman Ellis -- Chairman Pitts -- Commissioner Ellis and Chairman Pitts are also on Recreation Authority Board as well. So I just try to make sure to add those minutes to the meeting so that it'll keep everyone in the loop on what's going on with the Rec Authority."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any questions? If not, next item."

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. No further items to come before us today, we are adjourned."

COMMISSIONER ELLIS: "Mr. Chair, just a point of personal privilege. I just would like to thank everybody for reaching out and sharing their condolences and sharing stories about Fred. And also want to thank the Clerk's office for donning red and black today. I know some of them probably don't like red and black, so I know he would get a good kick out of that, and some -- some -- and Commissioner Thorne as well. You know, you know, so even got some Tech, Tech folks willing to step out and wear some red and black. And much appreciated, and I know he would -- I know he's looking down smiling on that. So thank you all. And we'll have a -- there will be a celebration of life service. We'll hopefully get the details out on that. But most likely will be in the early part of November."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Didn't you say, Mayor Avery --"

COMMISSIONER HALL: "And just want to send condolences to Mayor Avery and the family of his Chief of Staff. He informed me that he had attended the burial of his Chief of Staff the week after we heard that Fred had passed. So, condolences to Mayor Avery and the family of his Chief of Staff."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right. We are adjourned. Thank you.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.