

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

November 05, 2025

10:00 AM



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



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## **MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: December 3, 2025**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robert L. Pitts

**10:03 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

**PRESENT**

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

**PRESENT**

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

**PRESENT**

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

**PRESENT**

Mo Ivory, Commissioner (District 4)

**PRESENT**

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

**PRESENT**

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

**PRESENT**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****25-0792 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)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Ivory

**25-0793 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "SIAC Division II Fall Tennis Tournament Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
October 16, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Laverne Bogus Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**  
October 19, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "YoungBoy Never Broke Again Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
October 20, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Jonathan Masor Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**  
October 20, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Heidi Jeong Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Ishita Tyagi Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Tarnija Sarkar Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Rishi Pai Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Abhiram Appalla Appreciation Day."  
**(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Zain Nair Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Anna Yang Appreciation Day."  
**(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Nathaniel Dsilva Appreciation Day."  
**(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Samuel Wallace Appreciation Day."  
**(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Summer Intern Josh Causey Appreciation Day."  
**(Thorne)**  
October 21, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Robin Washington Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**  
October 23, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Teleau Belton Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
October 25, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Coach D. Alane Hickman Appreciation Day."  
**(Arrington)**  
October 26, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Reverend Yvonne Shaw Remembrance Day."  
**(Arrington)**  
October 29, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Zellie B. Dupree Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
October 31, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Hier Tight Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
November 1, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Big Bethel AME Church Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**  
November 2, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Greater Fair Hill Baptist Church Appreciation Day."  
(Pitts)  
November 2, 2025

### Open & Responsible Government

**25-0794**   **Finance**

Ratification of October 2025 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0795**   **Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 18,896.8 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from SWOF II Mustang South Wind Developer LLC, for the purpose of constructing the South Wind Subdivision - Pod X Project at 0 Red Mill Road, Union City, Georgia 30213. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0796**   **Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 66 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from SWOF II Mustang South Wind Developer LLC, for the purpose of constructing the South Wind Subdivision - Pod X Project at 0 Red Mill Road, Union City, Georgia 30213. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0797**   **Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 10,653 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from 5051 Stonewall Tell Development, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the C-Store Union City Project at 5051 Stonewall Tell Road, Union City, Georgia 30349. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0798**   **Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 8,147 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Aga Khan Foundation, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Creekside Park Project at 11350 Lakefield Drive, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0799**   **Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 2,520 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Alpha Fine Homes by Neal Chahwala, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the 240 Mayfield Rd Project at 240 Mayfield Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0800**   **Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 2,000 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Alpha Fine Homes by Neal Chahwala, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the 250 Mayfield Rd Project at 250 Mayfield Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0801 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication consisting of 49,336 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from TDS Capital Two, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Rosewood Ridge Project at 0 Old Fairburn Rd, South Fulton, Georgia 30349. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0802 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution approving a First Amendment to Lease Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Landlord) and the Georgia Department of Human Services (Tenant) to add 2,724 square feet of office space and increase the rental cost for the premises located at 5710 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park, Georgia; authorizing the Chairman to execute the First Amendment and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the First Amendment and related documents as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0803 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution approving a Right of Access License and Maintenance Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Licensor) and the City of Atlanta (Licensee) to grant the City of Atlanta access to, and confirm its maintenance responsibilities for, the pocket park located at 0 Fort Extension Street, Atlanta, Georgia, formally known as Dobbs Plaza; authorizing the Chairman to execute the License and Maintenance Agreement and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the License and Maintenance Agreement and related documents as to form and to make necessary modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0804 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution approving a Right of Access License Agreement between the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS, Licensee) and Fulton County, Georgia (Licensor), for DFCS to use County-owned property located at 515 Fairburn Road, Atlanta, Georgia, for the collection and distribution of care packages for families in need during the 2025 holiday season; authorizing the Chairman to execute the License Agreement; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the License Agreement as to form and to make any modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0805 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 25ITB1319064C-GS, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) System Maintenance Services in an amount not to exceed \$112,900.00 with Levonne Industries, LLC (Atlanta, GA), to provide standby on-site preventative and full-service maintenance services for uninterrupted power supply systems for Fulton County. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**Arts and Libraries****25-0806 Arts and Culture**

Request approval to accept a name change and authorize the Department of Purchasing & Contract Compliance to reflect the name change from The Computer Museum of America, Inc. to Mimms Museum of Technology and Art, Inc. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Health and Human Services****25-0807 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1356207A-ST, Rental & Maintenance of Deionized Water in an amount not to exceed \$12,060.00 with Hydro, Inc (Hoschton, GA) to provide Rental & Maintenance of Deionized Water. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0808 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department Public Works, 23ITBC100523A-KM, Water Meters in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 with Delta Municipal Supply Company (Braselton, GA) to provide water meters. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0809 Senior Services**

Request approval to renew an existing contract 23RFQ138337A-CJC, Cosmetology and Aesthetic Services for Seniors Services at no cost with Katylady Building Maintenance Services to provide onsite cosmetology and aesthetic services for seniors aged 55 and older in the four senior multipurpose facilities. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0810 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request for renewal of a MOU between Fulton County, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and Way Shape Form to provide the Text 4 Help text line and application technologies along with 24/7 clinical support services and resources. The MOU will be effective upon approval by the Board of Commissioners from January 1, 2026, until December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**Justice and Safety****25-0811 Police**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Police Department, 23ITB140069B-EC, Wrecker and Towing Services, a revenue generating contract with S&W Services of Atlanta, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide wrecker towing services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

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

**25-0812 District Attorney**

Requesting ratification of amended subaward agreement with the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office agreements and authorization for signatures to assist in compliance with grant regulations for 2022 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program. In an amount not to exceed \$198,887.00. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****25-0813 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt the First Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by revising items #25-0845 and #25-0846. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**25-0814 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

First Regular Meeting Minutes, October 1, 2025

Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, October 15, 2025

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington



**25-0815 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Behavioral Health Crisis Center Appreciation Day."  
**(Pitts/Ellis/Thorne/Ivory/Abdur-Rahman/Barrett)**

Proclamation recognizing "Georgia Center for Youth Excellence Appreciation Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts/Ellis/Thorne/Ivory/Barrett)**

Proclamation recognizing "New Beginnings Senior Center Appreciation Day."  
**(Arrington/Ivory)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****25-0816 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

**10 Speakers: Maggie McCullom (Senior Games); Dean Marty Ellin (John Marshall Law School); Marquita Hutchins (Jail/Sheriff); LA Pink (Jail/Sheriff); Paul Bolster (Commercial Assessments); Charles Ingram (Animal Services/Lifeline); Reed Stillson (Cost of Living Crisis); Janis Ware (Legal Organ for Fulton County); Elizabeth Omilami (Hosea Helps/Food Donation); Afemo Omilami (Hosea Helps/Food Donation)**

**2 Zoom Speakers: Charise Jefferson (Voting Locations); Robby Caban (Animal Services/Lifeline)**



**COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****25-0817 Information Technology**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Information Technology Department, 23RFP139160B-EC, Digital Multi-functional Devices and Support Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,341,750.00 with Standard Office Systems of Atlanta, Inc. (Duluth, GA) to provide maintenance, supplies, support services, and software and associated hardware for all multi-function devices countywide. This action exercises the second of four renewal options. Two renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0818 Information Technology**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Information Technology, 24ITB1334033BPS, Network Equipment Maintenance & Support, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.00 with Presidio Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide services associated with provisioning, maintenance and support services (wired and wireless) data communications equipment on an as needed basis. This action exercises the first of three renewal options. Two renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Health and Human Services****25-0819 Public Works**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Public Works, 24ITB1335637A-JWT Sanitary Sewer Easement Maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$382,764.50 with Mariani Enterprises, LLC dba Ed Castro Landscape, Inc., (Roswell, GA) to provide easement maintenance in both the North and South Fulton service areas. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0820**    **Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 23ITB08142023A-JWT, Large Water Meter Installation, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00, with Jewel of the South, Inc. (Conyers, GA), to provide large water meter installation services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:**                Arrington

**25-0821**    **Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 24ITB1326442A-BKJ, Water Meter Reading in an amount not to exceed \$658,966.00 with Texas Meter & Device Company (Waco, TX) to provide water meter reading services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0822**    **Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 24ITBC1329891A-JWT, Water Meter Vaults in the amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 with Bartow Precast Inc., (Cartersville, GA), to provide water meter vaults. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0823 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1376191A-KM, Concrete Manhole Parts in an amount not to exceed \$106,624.76 with Ferguson Waterworks to provide concrete manhole parts. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Justice and Safety****25-0824 Police**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Police Department, 23ITB139979B-RT, Automobile Repair Services in amount of \$153,000.00 with Moon's Service Center (Mableton, GA) to provide automobile repair services for the Police Department's fleet. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****25-0825 Finance**

Presentation of Strategic Plan Update, Multi-Year Financial View and FY2026 General Fund Budget Update **(PRESENTED)**

**25-0826 Human Resources Management**

Request for approval of a Resolution amending Resolution 25-0314, to clarify that eligible employees selected for participation in the Childcare Pilot Program may be reimbursed for childcare payments made directly by the eligible employee or by other members of the eligible employee's household, upon satisfactory proof, as determined by the Chief Human Resources Officer. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0827 Information Technology**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Fulton County Information Technology (FCIT), SWC98000-GTA-4666-COM, Telecommunication Services in the amount of \$500,000.00 with Comcast Corp, (Atlanta, GA) to provide telecommunication services and products Countywide. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, though June 30, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0828 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000112-0001, Fuel Card Management Services in the total amount of \$145,000.00 with WEX Bank (Salt Lake City, UT), to provide fuel card management services for Fulton County fleet vehicles. Effective date: January 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0829 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of statewide contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000203-0001, and SWC#99999-001-SPD0000203-0003, New Tires and Retread Tubes in the total amount not to exceed \$105,000.00 with (A) Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC, through authorized dealer Southern Tire Mart (Atlanta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$25,000.00; and (B) The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, through authorized dealer NexTire Commercial, Inc. (Decatur, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$80,000.00, to provide tires, tubes, accessories and repair services on an as-needed basis for Fulton County fleet vehicles. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0830 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC90816, Motor Vehicle Maintenance & Inventory Management Services, in the amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 with Automotive Rental Inc. dba Holman (Mt. Laurel, NJ), to cover costs associated with an increased volume of heavy equipment repairs, as well as costs associated with increased labor rates for work on specialized heavy equipment. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0831 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138801C-GS, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups C, D & G) in an amount not to exceed \$533,743.00 with A-Action Janitorial Service, Inc. (Lithonia, GA), to provide janitorial services for Group G (North and Central Senior Centers) for Fulton County. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0832 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 25ITB1393169C-GS, Generator System Maintenance and Repair Services in an amount not to exceed \$135,000.00 with Sage Properties dba Generator Maintenance of Georgia (Covington, GA), to provide on-site preventive generator system maintenance and repair services for Fulton County, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0833 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, US Communities Home Depot Contract #16154, a Master Agreement Contract for Maintenance, Repair, Operating (MRO) Supplies, Industrial Supplies and Related Products and Services, in the amount of \$200,000.00 with Home Depot (Atlanta, GA), to purchase building materials, hardware, tools, paint, electrical and roofing materials, and related items. Effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0834 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Omnia Partners Public Sector Contract #R190303 Office Supplies, Related Products and Services in the total amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 with ODP Business Solutions, LLC, formerly Office Depot, Inc. (Norcross, GA) to provide and deliver copy paper and related office supplies on an as-needed basis to Countywide agencies. Effective January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Health and Human Services****25-0835 Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and City of Roswell for water distribution services and sewer billing within City of Roswell's water service area for a period of 15 years with a possible 5-year extension. Effective upon approval by the BOC. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**25-0836 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1420997A-KM, Laboratory Testing Services in an amount not to exceed \$165,000.00 with Eurofins Environmental Testing Services, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide laboratory testing services. Effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0837 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1450138A-ST, Fire Hydrants Maintenance and Repairs in the amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 with American Flow Service, LLC (Conyers GA), to provide fire hydrants maintenance and repairs. Effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0838 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Public Works Department, 25ITB1430583A-KM, Water Meter Testing and Repairs in an amount not to exceed \$218,650.00 with Taylor Made Industries Inc., dba Taylor Meter Technologies, (Atlanta, GA) to provide water meter testing and repairs. Effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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



**25-0839 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1421243A-ST Standby Utility Pavement Patching and Paving Services in an amount not to exceed \$368,045.00 with the K&E Group USA LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide standby utility pavement patching and pavement services. Effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0840 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fulton County, the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) and Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation d/b/a Grady Health System for the purpose of continuing integrating strategies to provide medication assisted outpatient treatment of substance abuse for Fulton County residents. Fulton County shall pay Grady Memorial Hospital in an amount not to exceed \$464,000.00 annually or as otherwise provided by an amendment to this MOU. Effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**25-0841 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Fulton County, the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) and the Atlanta/Fulton County Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative, Inc. (PAD) to resume financial support for delivery of pre-arrest diversion services in the amount of \$400,000.00 for the period January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. **(HELD)**

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

b. A substitute motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to hold. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****25-0755 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to increase the compensation paid to each member of the Fulton County Boards of Equalization from \$100.00 per day to \$150.00 per day; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (HELD ON 10/1/25) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 10/15/25) (FAILED)**

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

**Yea:** Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Nay:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0842 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2 of the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to the Code of Ethics regarding a preliminary process for Commissioners who seek to file ethics complaints against other Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER THORNE**

**25-0843 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager to include a report on Animal Services in Fulton County in each quarterly operational report beginning January 1, 2026; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Nay:** Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**25-0844 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to create a Commercial Property Assessment Task Force to provide input to the members of the Board of Commissioners in collaboration with the Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors and its staff on the valuation of commercial properties; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (HELD)**

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

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

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

**Absent:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**25-0845 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to address food insecurity across Fulton County; to increase County contributions to non-profit partners and senior nutrition programs in response to the loss of funding for SNAP; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

**ITEMS #25-0845 AND #25-0846 MOVED UP AND HEARD TOGETHER**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Chairman Pitts, to approve as amended. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve item #25-0846, with a friendly amendment by Commissioner Arrington, to include the language from #25-0845 which directs the departments of Finance and Public Works to refrain from terminating water services of any residential customer due to non-payment from November 5, 2025 through December 31, 2025 or until such time as SNAP Benefits are restored. The motion failed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Nay:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0846 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to declare a local State of Emergency in Fulton County, Georgia due to the suspension of SNAP benefits and the resulting food insecurity crisis; to authorize up to \$4.4M of the \$69M in underruns be allocated to address the crisis, and for other purposes. **(Barrett/Arrington) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

**ITEM #25-0846 HEARD WITH #25-0845****COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****25-0790 External Affairs**

Presentation and approval of the 2026 Legislative Agenda. **(HELD ON 10/15/25) (APPROVED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to support additional full-time Superior Court judgeships. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to support Senate Bill 10. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Ivory, and Arrington

**Absent:** Thorne

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to support online publication of legal notices. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to support opposition to weaken local control or to waive sovereign immunity protections. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to support an increase in Behavioral Health and State Diversion Programs. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

f. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to support expanding healthcare access and strengthen the healthcare workforce. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

g. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to support requesting an amendment to the requirements for resident Commissioners of the Fulton County Housing Authority to ensure compliance with O.C.G.A. § 8-3-50. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

h. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to support final passage of House Bill 886. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

i. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to support ACCG's efforts to clarify and improve the implementation of the estimated rollback rate, established under House Bill 581 (2024) and revised under House Bill 92 (2025). The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

j. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to support the work of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority's implementation of a statewide Next Generation 911 system.. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

k. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to support legislation that provides clear state guidance for new election laws and state funding to cover related county costs. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

l. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to support a permanent seat on the ATL Board and parity with other MARTA agencies in appointment of MARTA Board members. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

m. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to support new sources of local government revenue, including from casinos or parimutuel sports betting, with the recommendation of dedicating funding for public safety, mental health and public health services. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Ellis

**Absent:** Thorne

n. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to support amending O.C.G.A. § 44-7-55, as previously amended by House Bill 1203 (2024). The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

o. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to support legislation providing for the creation and funding of Family Justice Centers statewide to centralize law enforcement, victim advocacy and social services in one location to better address domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and human trafficking. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Thorne

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### 25-0847 Board of Commissioners

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

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

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

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve the request for representation in item #3 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Thorne, Abdur-Rahman

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:31p.m.



FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'

FIRST REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 5, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC

***"A Court Reporting Firm"***

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Good morning, everyone, I'd like to call the meeting to order. Today is Wednesday, November 5th, 2025; it is 10:03 a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

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

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Mo Ivory."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, I'm the queue. I wanted a point of personal privilege if you would be so kind."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Point of personal privilege?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm sorry, sir?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What is it?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "It's concerning -- I asked the County Attorney for her to weigh in. Unfortunately, at the last meeting, an incident happened, and it basically -- there was an attempt by one of the Members of this Body to self-appoint themselves as presiding officer when both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent. And since this incident did occur in this open forum; since my office did receive quite a bit of calls about it, I did ask the County Attorney just to weigh in on what procedurally should happen and I want her to speak to that if you don't mind."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Madam County Attorney? I mean, I know what the procedure is, but go ahead, you're the --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to Robert's Rules 47.11, the order of succession for the appointment of a temporary presiding officer is as follows: If the president vacates the chair, and in our case, the Chairman, during a meeting and no vice president, or in our case, Vice Chair, is available, he can appoint a temporary chairman who is called a Chairman pro tem. Such a designation is assumed to receive the assembly's approval by unanimous consent unless members then nominate other persons for the role of temporary chairman, that's according to Robert's Rules 4329B."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And so that is -- the Chairman in his absence and in the Vice Chair's absence, he was within his right to appoint me as the person that will preside."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So at our last meeting, my understanding of what occurred, which is that the Chairman had to leave the meeting before the end. At the time he departed, it would normally be designated to go to the Vice Chair who was, at that point, not present, so the Chairman chose to designate you, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, as the temporary -- as the Chairman pro tem. And that was deemed to be approved by unanimous consent of the Body at the point when no one else made a nomination."

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, consent agenda --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Does anyone want to be heard?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Consent Agenda, **25-0792**, 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."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any items on the consent agenda? Nothing, Madam Clerk? Nothing Commissioners?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. There's a motion to adopt the consent agenda as is printed. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, First Regular Meeting Agenda, **25-0813**: Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two items to be revised on today's agenda. On page 13, first item sponsored by Chairman Pitts, 25-0845: Request approval of a Resolution to address food insecurity across Fulton County. This item was amended to include an amended Resolution. Next item on page 13, 25-0846: Request approval of a Resolution to declare a local state of emergency in Fulton County due to the suspension of SNAP benefits. This item has been revised to include Commissioner Arrington as a cosponsor."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioners, any items?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to adopt as amended by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0814**, Ratification of Minutes. First Regular Meeting Minutes, October 1st, Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, October 15, 2025."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0815**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Behavioral Health Crisis Center Appreciation Day' sponsored by Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Ellis, Commissioners Thorne, Ivory, Abdur-Rahman, and Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "We want to take this opportunity for a great group of individuals that we want to make sure that we recognize. This proclamation: WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Crisis Center located at the Oak Hill Child, Family and Adolescent Center at 2805 Metropolitan Parkway, Southwest, in Atlanta, opened in the fall of 2024 with a vision to provide critical mental health services to every resident in Fulton County; and WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Crisis Center opened on October 31, 2024, and offers three levels of care: walk-in outpatient, observation for 24 hours, or three to five days in a 24 bed crisis stabilization unit serving as a cornerstone for each community in Fulton County, providing exceptional care and quality service to its patients, caregivers, and partners; and WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Crisis Center has received accreditation from the Joint Commission in an independent not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies healthcare organizations and programs across the United States; and WHEREAS, this milestone anniversary is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and collaborative spirit of the countless employees, healthcare partners and stakeholders who have contributed to the facility's success; and WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Crisis Center continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment, excellent customer service, and determination to provide innovative, mental health services, resources which results in making a lasting and positive impact on the lives of those it serves. So it is with humility that NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the first anniversary of the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center and urges all employees, partners, and community members to join in acknowledging this significant milestone and look forward to a future filled with continued success, growth, and service; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, November 5th, 2025, as 'Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you please help me in supporting this great group of people. We have Dr. Thompson from the state. Can I get you to come and make some remarks, please?"

**JEFF THOMPSON, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you. I'll be very brief. I'm Dr. Jeff Thompson, the regional director for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and we so appreciate the partnership with Fulton County for this first BHCC in Fulton County. We know that when people don't get the service, the treatment that they need when they're in a crisis, the outcomes are incredibly negative from incarceration to death. So we're so grateful for the partnership and the great work that's being done in Fulton. Thank you."

**LATRINA FOSTER, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you, everyone. LaTrina Foster, Director of the Fulton County Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities. And I just want to make sure that I recognize our partners here because this would not have happened without them, and I want to ensure that Lily and Angel from the Sizemore Group who designed the Behavioral Health Crisis Center at Oak Hill, they're here today. Our state partners are here today as well, Dr. Thompson and Don. We also have our Grady team who is our operator at the Behavioral Health Crisis Center, they are here today. Thank you all so much for the collaboration. For our team and, of course, we could not have done this without our partners in the D.R.E.A.M. Department. So thank you all so much and, of course, the Commissioners, County Manager, Dr. Roshell, we appreciate all of your support and commitment to ensure that we're able to provide the necessary services to the residents of Fulton. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Georgia Center for Youth Excellence Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioners Abdur-Rahman, Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Ellis, Commissioners Thorne, Ivory and Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm sorry, Commissioner. I didn't realize -- I'm sorry, charge it to my head and not my heart. Dr. Roshell, can you, please come up here even though you didn't dress like me today? Can you please, because you have been great, and any supporters here? This is a good, good friend of mine, you all. I mean, a good, good friend. I met him before I was elected to office, and the excellent work that he has done, I would be remiss if we did not celebrate him at the county level. The Georgia Center for Youth Excellence was established as a 501(c) 3 organization in 2016 to provide programs and services for homeless and at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 24 years of age; and WHEREAS, the Georgia Center for Youth Excellence has served close to 85 youth with counseling, housing, gateway and work force services that have contributed to the ability to become self-sufficient and make a positive impact within their community, and in some cases, reunification with their parents or guardians; and WHEREAS, the Georgia Center for Youth Excellence is led by Michael Daniels, a veteran of the United States Navy and youth employment specialist with the Georgia Department of Labor, and a domestic and international cooperative education and internship coordinator at Georgia State University; and WHEREAS, the Georgia Center for Youth Excellence has found that physical problems and needs are represented in the deterioration of a young person's growth and development when living on the streets; and WHEREAS, the center meets the needs through a positive youth development approach, trauma informed care strategies, and evidence informed practices, and strives to become more innovative to combat homelessness, and I'm going to add on a personal note, I have seen this gentleman next to me go in his pocket and make sure there were youths that were housed and clothed and fed, and it is a honor for me to stand with you today with my fellow Commissioners to support you. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners applauds and supports the efforts of the Georgia Center for Youth Excellence to provide resources for homeless youth in our community; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday November 5th, 2025, as the 'Georgia Center for

Youth Excellence Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you please put your hands together for this wonderful gentleman."

**MICHAEL DANIELS, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you. Okay, so I won't be long. But I have a lot of thank yous. First, I have to tell you, we are closing our doors in December after 20 years of service to our youth in Fulton County. So it does give me a little sadness for that, but I tell you -- I got to tell you, Commissioner Khadijah, she's the one for me. She's been there over our events. She's always come, no matter how big or small, she will show up. And I want to tell you truly from the bottom of my heart, I appreciated you throughout the years. Thank you so very much. Dr. Roshell, I received a lot of funding from Fulton County. I want to thank you too for everything you supplied to us. You've touched a lot of hearts for our youth throughout the years, and I want to say thank you to all of our Commissioners, some of them I don't know, I'm sorry. I know Commissioner Ellis, so I want to tell you the new ones I don't know, but I want to thank you all for the funding we have received throughout the years, because it has gone a long way to support our youth here in Fulton County. Thank you so very much. Commissioner Arrington, I don't believe -- there you go. I want to thank you too, for the support you've given me. I been so lucky to have two Commissioners with me, how about that? And all of them has definitely supported the work I've done in Fulton County and, again from the bottom of my heart, I want to tell each and every one of you thank you for what you have done. And I'm just waiting for God to give me my next assignment in life right now, so it's not over yet. People won't let me to stay home, so I'll be back out there somewhere in some fashion. Thank you all. Appreciate it."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing 'New Beginnings Senior Center Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioners Arrington and Ivory."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, if New Beginnings, if you'll come down and join us, please. We just had a great family fun day at New Beginnings a couple weeks ago. A lot of line dancing -- I couldn't keep up. Yes -- only one. Please, take your time as you're coming down. Welcome. Welcome. Welcome. Hey. Hey. I need one of those T-shirts. So I don't know if you all can see the T-shirts, but it says New Beginnings Senior Center of the year. Let's give them a big round of applause. So glad to have you all join us here today. The proclamation reads as follows: WHEREAS, New Beginnings Senior Center located in the city of Fairburn first opened its doors in 1992 when members gathered at Camp Wesley as their original meeting place; and WHEREAS, in the years that followed, the group moved through several temporary locations, continuing to grow in membership, connection, and community spirit; and WHEREAS, a major milestone came in 2008 when construction was completed on the current facility, making it a permanent home for fellowship, activities, and support; and WHEREAS, three of the original members from the early years still attend regularly, maintaining a living connection to the center's roots; and WHEREAS, more than three decades later, New Beginnings remains a vibrant gathering place for seniors in the Fairburn community built on history, resilience, and enduring relationships; and WHEREAS, this year, 2025, they were named the senior center of the year. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED -- yes, that's worth a clap. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes New



Beginnings Senior Center for its welcoming culture and for being named the best senior center of the year by the Georgia Association of Senior Centers; and does hereby proclaim today, Wednesday November 5th, 2025, as 'New Beginnings Senior Center Appreciation Day' in Fulton County. Let's give them a big round of applause. Our seniors and our youth are our most valuable assets, so it's so important that we do all that we can to protect and nurture them. And I do not know if anyone from the center wants to speak or -- Ladisa, Pam? All right, come on. Welcome. Welcome."

**PAM, RECIPIENT:** "I just couldn't do what I do without my seniors, so I really do appreciate each and every one of them. They really make my job easy some days, but I do thank them for all that they do to make me look like I'll look at the center. I appreciate it."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 7, Public Hearings, **25-0816**, Public Comment. Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing by registering on the county website, [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://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 will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received ten speaker cards. Would the first five speakers, please come forward: Maggie McCullom - \_"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- Chairman Pitts?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I like to make a motion to move up an agenda item. I have to leave early today -- immediately after public comment to hear 25-0845, on page 13."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To move up to after the --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- public comment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any objections? Any objections?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's the number?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "25-0845."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "On page 13, 0845? Then there's -- well, if you do that, there's two of them dealing with the same subject. If we can take them all at the same time, that's fine. If no objections, move up both of them, 0845 and 0846. Any objections, Commissioners?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. No objections. All right, continue."

**CLERK GRIER:** "First five speakers, please come forward: Maggie McCullom, Dean Marty Ellin, Marquita Hutchins, LA Pink, and Paul Bolster."

**MAGGIE MCCULLOM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning to all of my favorite Commissioners. Psalms 139:16 says, "You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day has passed." The big message here is, no one gets everything, but everyone get something. Find your lot in life and indwell in it. Chairman Pitts, Commissioner Ivory, all of my Commissioners, I want to say thank you. October 16th, 2025 came. We had our First Chairman's Senior Day in Fulton County Games. It happened. We had over 300 seniors there. We had food, we had fun, and we had games. We can say we're going to be healthy, wealthy, and unselfish. We want to continue so that we can have life, no arthritis, strong bones, muscles, and carry out to the next senior games. We're looking forward to becoming athletic in the state, national levels. Get ready. We're going to make a change for the good. Here's my medal and my ribbon. I won something. Thank you again for hearing our plea and inspired to believe in us. And these seniors, we are so grateful and we look forward to the next senior games. Thanks to Senior Committee --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- all right, 15 seconds."

**MAGGIE MCCULLOM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- we are so thankful. Thank you."

**DEAN MARTY ELLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Members of the Commission, good morning. My name is Marty Ellin, and I am the very proud dean of Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. My colleagues and I have a very simple message for you, and that is, we understand the importance of this law school to this community, and we promise to sustain and even enhance that importance. It is surprising to me -- it was surprising to me as the dean to find out how many of our graduates are in fact the magistrate court judges, the public defenders, and the DAs, and they operate the immigration shops and the small family law shops, and we are very important because, among other things, if you need a lawyer and you don't have the money to hire a bigger firm, you are very likely to run into a John Marshall graduate who would do an

outstanding job. We prepare our lawyers to be practice ready and close the justice gap: that is why we exist. Two programs in particular to tell you about: we have a veteran's clinic for the 30,000 homeless, or those fearing homelessness, veterans in Fulton County, we offer legal services, representation in misdemeanors, representation for wills, representation for civil actions and consumer issues, and we want to spread the word about that. We go out into the community and we meet people at John Marshall Law School which is right next to the Marriott Hotel. We are available to Fulton County citizens. I also want to tell you about an initiative that has just been started called criminal and civil justice initiative. It is unique in this community, in this region, and maybe in the country. Two of the better-known criminal defense lawyers in this community, John Rappi and Sam Starks, one of which runs Gideon's Promise, which teaches public defenders how to do their job as well as possible, and one who runs the Barrister Society, which is always encouraging younger lawyers to do their jobs even better, particularly if they do criminal defense work --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- about 15 seconds, Dean."

**DEAN MARTY ELLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- thank you, sir -- have joined forces to represent those who are facing a charge and may not have the sophistication or the resources to mount a defense. Please come see us. We welcome you every time at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. Thank you for your attention this morning."

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

**MARQUITA HUTCHINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Marquita Hutchins, and I'm here on behalf of my son, Kaneen Cruz [Phonetic.], who's housed in the Fulton County Jail who has been extorted. I have gave Fulton County Jail --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- excuse me. Excuse me. Start over and bring the mic closer and speak up."

**MARQUITA HUTCHINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay. Good morning, everybody. My name is Marquita Hutchins. I'm here on behalf of my son Kaneen Cruz, who's housed in the Fulton County Jail. I have gave them constructive notice of the things that are going on. He was being extorted for \$130. His commissary, he never received it, never got it refunded back. His health condition is not up to par. They're not doing what they're supposed to do, and also, there -- also, I've tried to get in contact with the federal monitor to be on alert of the situation, what's going on, as far as health. My major concern is his commissary and me putting money on his book, and he's not getting it. And it's just going nowhere because somebody's receiving his stuff and not him."

**LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "So like I told you guys, we're going to continue to apply pressure until the pipe burst. So there's been officers, there's been inmates stabbed repeatedly, and you guys have not even been notified. If so, no one has said a word. Nothing. And we don't understand it. You know why we don't understand it, it's because you guys just gave him millions of dollars, right? Didn't y'all give him millions

of dollars a couple months ago for staffing? Was it staffing for security officers, or was it for certified and qualified deputies? See, the problem that we continue to have with you all is that no one is calling them out. Everyone continues to brush it up under the rug, continues to give block parties, continues to put on photo ops, continue to do all of these fundraisers, birthday parties that the sheriff is putting on, and all of this foolishness on taxpayer dollars. But nobody is calling it out. Nobody is saying what's really happening. See, you guys may think that a win is because you get in. But see, we put you on notice: God said I bring warning before destruction. So trust me, he's keeping in office those that he needs that's about to come up under this wrath that's coming, because y'all can continue to think that I'm playing, when I continue to warn you about a RICO is coming. But trust me, it's on the way. And either you can be a part of it or you can help prevent it from you being involved in it. Now some of you have no choice because you so dead into it, Ike Arrington, now Mo Ivory, now Dana Dana. Y'all are covering up helping the sheriff cover up the --"

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

**LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- mess. Why do I name your names? It's because you guys have been inside of the jail and done nothing, but give proclamations."

**PAUL BOLSTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, my name is Paul Bolster. I'm a former legislature. I may be the oldest person in the room except for the Chair. I am extremely -- I'm here for the third time to talk about the question of commercial assessments that are going on in the county. Your assessors are evaluating commercial properties like high end -- high end office buildings at about 55 percent of what their actual sales value is. You're evaluating hotels at about 47 percent of what their sales value is. You are evaluating the new data centers at about 10 percent of what they're worth. Now my house gets evaluated about 90 percent of its value, maybe a little more, maybe a little less; great process that you conduct to get that done. But commercial property is this vague unexplained notion that your assessors can use some kind of income data from the corporation that has an interest in keeping their assessments low and somehow they can figure out what the property is worth. Now so far, nobody has done much of anything. I've been here for three times, and this time you have a Resolution on the ballot -- on your agenda by Commissioner Ivory that doesn't go very far, but it says we're going to keep a focus on this issue between now and the election. Now think about the elections, about yesterday, affordability, it's not far to go to this issue and see about affordability. We can't have a quality education system, we can't have a quality jail, we can't have quality roads and transportation --"

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

**PAUL BOLSTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- unless you tax the commercial property the way it should be. Thank you very much."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Last five speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: Reed Stillson, Janis Ware, Elisabeth Omilami, Afemo Omilami, and Charles Ingram."

**REED STILLSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good afternoon. My name is Reed Stillson. I'm a Fulton County resident, a candidate for County Commissioner, and I live and work in the Buckhead area, where I'm the leader of a local coffee shop and a community hub. I come before you today to speak on behalf of the cost-of-living crisis that we are experiencing here in Fulton County. With the cost of housing, healthcare, childcare, food and more reaching unsustainable levels for our community, and the recent cancellation of SNAP benefits at the federal level, we hit a tipping point here in Fulton, and it is past time we treat it like the emergency it is. Firstly, to address this crisis with the urgency it demands, I urge you to vote and support of Commissioner Barrett's Resolution declaring a local state of emergency and authorizing the use of excess funding in this year's budget to tackle the food insecurity many are now experiencing. Secondly, to better address the cost-of-living crisis for the foreseeable future, I believe we need to consider a serious restructuring of our annual budget to better emphasize the allocation of funds towards programs to increase access to affordable housing, healthcare, childcare, and food. And given that nearly a billion dollars of our county revenue comes from property taxes, we need to ensure our Board of Assessors are accurately and fairly assessing values of the largest corporate owned properties among us. When we have multimillion-dollar corporate properties paying taxes on 55 percent of their value on average while the rest of us pay takes on 100 percent of our values, we're saying that we are okay with the working class of our community subsidizing tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy. When we have a federal government consolidating power at such an unprecedented level and leaving everyday citizens out to dry, our last and strongest line of defense is our local community and the leaders we elect to represent us. So please, stand with us, help us fight for Fulton for all, not just the wealthy and powerful few. Thank you."

**JANIS WARE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, I'm Janis Ware, publisher of the Atlanta Voice Newspaper, an institution that has been serving this community for the last 60 years and continuing on which is why I ask this next generation of people to come to stand since my white hair may indicate that I am older, and I am. We really want to -- we have great interest in being the legal organ for Fulton County. So I did send a communication to everybody after watching the meeting last month -- or last week of October. And I wanted to just come down and publicly state publicly I really would like to be considered in whatever the rules and regulation guidelines are that we can truly -- if we can fit within those guidelines, allow us to be considered. Thank you very much."

**CHARLES INGRAM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, I'm Charles Ingram. I just got some questions, some concerns about LifeLine and how y'all are handling the situation with my mother's case being mauled by dogs, August the 1st. You know, Mr. Robb, you're so quick to get on, you know, national TV and talk about, you know, renewing the contract with them and whatnot. Why didn't you tell them how the case was handled? How they handled my mother's case? How she laid there for 30 minutes getting mauled by dogs when you sent the police officer enroute to (inaudible) about them hiding the text messages from the (inaudible). Why couldn't you say that on national TV? But you're still using the contract and the company that's hiding

information, hiding the incident report, a case report where my mother died. Why didn't you say anything about that on, you know, national TV. What was -- what's the procedures? What was the next steps y'all are going to take with LifeLine? You know, I got questions -- I still got questions and I'm not done yet. You know, it's funny how she said, you know, pressure busts pipe. I ain't even applied pressure yet. I'm not done. Thank you."

**ELISABETH OMILAMI, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, everybody. My name is Elisabeth Omilami and I am with Hosea Helps. And I know many of you. This is our SNAP coordinator at Hosea Helps. Where my soldiers at? Oh, okay. So I didn't know if you knew that Hosea Helps serves 51,000 people a year; the majority of them in Fulton County. We've served them with rent and utility assistance, hotel stays, transportation which includes airfare if your family wants you to come home, bye; go live with your family until you get on your feet. We are very involved in food insecurity, and our organization is the largest African-American run food bank in this region, and female run. And that is a miracle in itself, because less than two percent of the philanthropic dollars go to African-Americans, and females are right above us in terms of giving, so we can't depend on the foundations. We can't depend on sources of funding for people that are involved in other kinds of community service. We have to depend on the county. And so, I'm here to thank you so much for supporting us all these years. It has been very, very difficult. Today, we're having a major food giveaway at our headquarters at 2545 Forest Hills Drive, Southwest Atlanta. We'll have another one November 7th and another one November 12th leading up to Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving, our plan is to serve --"

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

**ELISABETH OMILAMI, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- yes, 2,000 people with home deliveries. So help us get more funding from the emergency act that's proposed by Chairman Pitts. Thank you."

**AFEMO OMILAMI, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Afemo Omilami. I'm an actor of over 80, 90 movies, television, Broadway stage. I'm a philanthropist, but the best starring role I've ever had in life was the COO of Hosea Feeds the Hungry for the last 25 years. We were given birth out of the Civil Rights Movement by Dr. King who mentored my father-in-law, Hosea Williams. We had teachers like CT Vivian, and John Lewis would come and stand with us so we have a legacy to carry on. If you don't know that now -- this is all the people in here, because I can't assume they are know who Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless is. When Katrina hit, Commissioner, hundreds of people lined at our gate. We gave all we had. We're a small group of people. Mayor Franklin came and heard about what we did, and said well, y'all are doing all of this, y'all are David versus Goliath: here's money to do it. COVID came along, Commissioner Pitts can testify to that, Commissioner Arrington, our men and women were out in the field facing that danger because that's what we do. Y'all supported us and gave us money to continue doing that in the most dangerous times. Now here we are again with SNAP with thousands of people at our gates again. You know what we do. This should be an easy understanding between us. And let's do it and stop all the talking. Our



program is called SNAP Back because that's what we do in Atlanta. We don't just take it, whatever they're doing in Congress, we SNAP back. That's the whole strategy we have, Commissioner Arrington. You come from that. You know what I'm talking about. So let's SNAP Back, Atlanta, and let the nation know, this is how we handle our crisis."

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

**AFEMO OMILAMI, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "And I need you to understand, we are small, but together, we can do big things. So I'm trusting and depending on you to stand with us, and we're going to get through this and give God the glory. Thank you."

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

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning, Commissioners. The first person to speak is Cherise Jefferson. Cherise Jefferson."

**CHERISE JEFFERSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Can you all hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**CHERISE JEFFERSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Great. Guys, yesterday I had a hard time voting, and I know that if I struggled, I know others, too. We really need to seriously address the polling location changes. Now, my original polling place was at Joseph McGee Tennis Center. When they initially changed it, we thought that it was only going to be just for temporary status, temporary purposes. But yesterday, we learned that it now seems to be a permanent change. I have voted at the same location for 29 years. Many of my neighbors, legacy voters in our community, they have voted at Joseph McGee Tennis Center for even longer. And this year when our polling place was moved more than a mile away that created a huge barrier to access. Now I did send Commissioner Arrington a video. I'm going to send each of you all a video also of it. You have to walk down a long hallway just to get to the elevator, and there are enormous amount of steps also for those of us who can walk. But because they've merged the polling locations, the lines are now even longer. Let me be clear, I'm a political strategist. I work out of Washington, DC. We've got an election coming up in 2026 that's going to be huge and that's going to be pivotal. We've got to make sure that we have equal access to all of these polling precincts, and we need to restore those polling locations -- those polling location so particularly our legacy voters will be able to vote, because many of them are selecting not to. Okay? So please, next year is going to be a critical federal election and really one that will determine the direction of 2028 and beyond."

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

**CHERISE JEFFERSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "The last thing we need to do right now - - Okay. The last thing we need to do right now, Robb, is to make voting harder. Y'all, thank you."



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

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- yes, hello. Can you hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Great. I'm speaking again because this issue remains unresolved. I'm glad the gentlemen who lost his mother due to your failure to act and LifeLine's negligence and dereliction of duty along with the other people in Georgia who's been attacked by animals or their animals have been illegally seized, or they've been charged incorrectly due to the mismanagement. I'm speaking again because you have not corrected the issue. The ongoing failures of LifeLine Animal Control and the lack of oversight by the county, including you all; the County, the Board of Commissioners and the County Manager. These failures continue to endanger the public safety. Even placing animal control under the police, LifeLine still holds influence just like in DeKalb where the same structure exists. Sheriff's office has been involved this entire time. There's been no independent investigation despite concerns from officers and animal control staff. LifeLine requires an NDA, a confidentiality agreement that appears questionable. Two new facilities have opened, both in Fulton and DeKalb costing millions. Both are over capacity and failing to meet animal control standards. The county contractor, LifeLine, remains at the root of these issues. Employees and volunteers have reported being required to sign these confidentiality agreements, expose mismanagement, toxic working conditions, and theft, even breeding of animals at the very shelter. Advocates have called for independent oversight, a reform task force, public live streaming's in our facilities, an animal control tracker app, you've done none of it. Not even an audit. For over a decade Lifeline has focused on fundraising and adoption transport, anything other than prevention, enforcement, and safety, their actual mandate, using county databases for mass e-mail campaigns, they've reshaped the public perception so residents see animal control as a rescue group rather than an enforcement agency, which is why people don't --"

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

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- follow them. Now that you've witnessed the failures for yourself, will taxpayers be reimbursed for the services not performed, especially the lives that have been lost. Who's investigating this? Who is accountable? Is this written in the contract?"

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Janet Hill. Janet Hill. With that said, this concludes the Zoom public comments."

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Items moved up, on page 13, **25-0845** as amended: Request approval of a Resolution to address food insecurity across Fulton County to increase county contributions to nonprofit partners and senior nutrition programs in response to the loss of funding for SNAP and for other purposes sponsored by Chairman Pitts. And **25-0846**: Request approval of a Resolution to declare a local state of emergency in Fulton County, Georgia due to the suspension of SNAP benefits and the resulting food insecurity crisis to authorize up to \$4.4 million of the \$69 million in underruns be allocated to address the crises and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioners Barrett and Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to adopt, which one is it, 0845. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and I've seconded that. Let me just explain briefly what this does. It asks the County Manager to provide stopgap funding in the event that the federal government does not fund SNAP going forward, but it's my feeling though that the federal government this week will fund totally or in part, nationally funding. And the reason I say that is because two things: number one, the election, there was a lot of concern about the election. And number two, I think that both Democrats and Republicans, nationally and locally, are beginning to understand that the public is sick and tired of the bickering. They want solutions to problems. They don't really care who comes up with a solution, whether it's a Democrat or a Republican. They just want a solution, and I think that message is finally getting through to the men and women who represent us in Washington. So this is self-explanatory; it provides up to \$1 million to provide funding. It authorizes the Manager to use that, and if the federal government provides some funding, but not total funding, that's when this \$1 million will kick in and will be reviewed on a month-to-month basis. The only new part of this Resolution that it also, now would include that we would not cut off any water services for residential customers due to -- due to nonpayment while the SNAP benefits are being restored, so that's it in a nutshell. All right, Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Ivory, and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Motion on the floor is to adopt 0845."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that we absolutely need to do something in this moment and I added my item to the agenda because I have been working on it apparently at the same time you had been working on yours, and I think there's plenty of good in both. That said, some of what you just said in describing your Resolution, I don't think it's actually in the wording, because you're saying up to a million, but the Resolution doesn't seem to say that. So I'm just not sure if that's written somewhere, but I'm not seeing in the wording of the Resolution. It seems like it's the specific blocks of money that added to 700,000 there and there's nothing that says up to a million. I take your point about hoping that it gets resolved this week. That said, as of last news report I saw, the federal government first said they were going to fund using the -- fund SNAP using the contingency funds, but that would only deal with 50 percent of people's SNAP benefits. So you know, cutting out half of your family's meals is not acceptable. And so -- and then secondarily because of the system that we use in Georgia, and various states have similar problems whether -- the

moment that the federal government does say, yes, we're going to restore SNAP benefits, it does not mean that that money would be readily available that day for folks to use to buy groceries. So one of the key differences between what you have proposed and what I have proposed is I'm asking for an up to amount. You have about 700,000. I have said up to 4.4 million in mind, meaning if we only need 700,000 to get through however many days, that's all we have to spend. If we need more, the County Manager would have the flexibility to go all the way up to the 4.4 million. That number was calculated based on the number of people in Fulton County who have already lost their SNAP benefits, which is over 145,000, and the formula provided on the Atlanta Community Food Bank website that says one dollar will help provide three meals. So that's essentially one dollar per day, give or take, \$145,000 per day to feed everybody in Fulton who lost their SNAP benefits. And so, multiplying that out for 30 days at full benefits, that's 4.4 ish million. If half benefits come through, then that would get us through the end of the year. But again, it's an up to amount. In addition, the version that I have provided declares a state of emergency, you know, for hunger. And the reason that I felt that was a necessary thing to do is that it allows the County Manager to spend money and come back to the Board for ratification as he would in any emergency, it invokes emergency powers. And so I think that's going to be a really helpful tool as this situation is shifting very rapidly, and as we debate and discuss, and I think someone, the public commenter said it, we need to put the politics aside and just get to -- get to the feeding of people, and I think doing the state of emergency will help that all be very rapid. So you know, I do very much like that you added, Mr. Chairman, the non-shutting off of the water bills, I fully support that, and would be happy to combine efforts here and come up with something that does all of the things. And I also want to add that while I appreciate very much that you sort of specified certain of the organizations we support like Hosea Helps, the intention of my legislation is to work with all of the partners that Fulton County already works with, including Hosea Helps, and to allow the County Manager and his team to strategically figure out which of those organizations to allot which amount of money to help feed the most people in Fulton. And I think our public commenters from Hosea Helps certainly made it clear that most of the people they serve are in Fulton. The food bank, as an example, serves people across 29 counties. So while I think it's important to support them at some level as well, it may be, you know, more directed to Hosea Helps, but that would be the decision of the County Manager and his team who are more boots on the ground than certainly we are as Commissioners. So that's essentially the proposal, and again, happy to work on whatever combination of, you know, of additions in these pieces of legislation that work together so that we could best serve the people."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Happy to, I guess; see both of these agenda items. Certainly, we, as Fulton County, need to step up and do our part to help serve people. I joined on to Commissioner Barrett's version just because I don't know that the \$700,000 that has been allocated, in the other one is enough based on the 145,000 people and \$3 a day, right? And so, Madam CFO, can I ask you a question? What is the amount of money of budget surplus that we have for this year -- for this fiscal year -- calendar year, fiscal year, they're one in the same."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner -- sorry, Commissioner Arrington when we presented our midyear review, we were projecting about 54 million in underruns on the county's 990 million expense budget."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. I guess my -- maybe my memory is a little foggy, I thought it was like 69, 70 million."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Fifty-four is on the expense budget itself. We had about 15 million that we were expecting in incremental revenue from what we had in the budget, but as far as what we have budgeted as an expenditure budget, we budgeted 990 million. We were projecting that we would spend 936 million of that, which left us 54 million in an expense budget underrun. So as far as resources that we would potentially have available to reallocate within the total adopted expenditure budget, it's 54 million."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And what is the total amount of reserves that we maintain at the 16.66 percent that's mandated?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The reserve requirement is a hundred and sixty-five million."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So we have a hundred and sixty-five million in reserves?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That is an end-of-the-year fund balance reserve. At this point in the year, because we really have not received the mass amounts of our property tax revenues, property taxes are due next week, we haven't carried that reserve all the way through. That is an end-of-year reserve."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. How much do we have in there right now today?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I'd have to look."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "How much did we have last month?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I'd have to go back and look, to tell you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It's north of \$100 million, correct?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "In the general fund? As of the end of last month, I wouldn't know. I have to go back and look to give you a specific amount, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. But your answer to the anticipated amount of reserves for the end of this year is \$165 million?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, because we received the majority of our revenue for the year when we received our property tax proceeds."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Thank you. So we have \$165 million anticipated for reserves, and we have 54 million in budget surplus, plus another \$15 million in incremental revenue, and we only want to allocate \$700,000 to make sure people can eat? Colleagues, I would just say to you that, you know if we've got a \$165 million in reserves, and we also have a \$54 million budget surplus this year, plus an additional 15 million in incremental revenue that we're anticipating to receive, we should be able to allocate up to \$4.4 million or even the four million. Fifty-four million, okay, take the four off, then we have a \$50 million budget surplus, right? And the way that 0846 is worded is that it wouldn't even actually be a full four million because again, as Chairman Pitts stated, if SNAP gets restored or it's not all needed, then it's not there. But I mean people are in a state where they're not going to be able to eat and they're not going to be able to pay bills, they're not going to be able to keep their lights on, their water on, and we're sitting on a \$165 million plus another 54, what's 100 -- let me get my calculator out. Hold on. 165 million plus 54 million is \$219 million, and then you said it's another 15 in incremental revenue, that gets us to \$234 million, and we can't allocate up to four million to make sure that people will eat; \$3 a day for 145,000 people? So I'm going to make a substitute motion that we adopt 0846 and go up to \$4 million because we've got a \$165 million in reserves, plus a \$54 million budget surplus, plus \$15 million in incremental revenue that we are anticipating, for a total of \$234 million. And the way that 0846 is worded and I guess I would make a request, Commissioner Barrett, to make a friendly amendment, to include the language about not cutting the water off. Because the great thing is, if only \$700,000 is needed, then we only spend the 700,000. But what if 800,000 is needed? What if 900,000 is needed? What if 1.2 million is needed? We have to come back? Or do we empower our County Manager now to make those choices and give him -- and make sure that the resources are available. You know, it -- we absolutely need to do something. I am more supportive of the version -- see, a dollar a day, three meals a day, a 145,000 people. You can do your own math on that. Meanwhile, we're sitting on \$234 million and we're going to have another \$1.6 billion budget next year. I don't understand it. I'm going to stop there, but I think, hopefully the people -- the listening public will understand what we're dealing with. Hopefully, these organizations -- Ms. Omalami, I want to make sure you all have the money that y'all need; I just don't know that \$50,000 is enough. I don't think it is for \$500,000 for nine organizations plus another 50 here, 50 there, I don't know how those numbers were derived. How was the 500,000 number derived, Mr. Chair? How was the \$500,000 per organization derived? How did we get to that number? Because I don't know if we used 145,000 people and a dollar-a-day formula, then, I mean, that maybe gets us to a week or two. So I'm happy to support doing additional money. I just think that -- and doing an up-to amount is a better way of doing it and not just randomly picking numbers out the air. All right, we'll give them another 50,000, just give them another 50,000, they'll be all right. People are hungry, people are starving. Let's make sure that we allocate enough to make sure that it makes



sense. \$165 million plus 54 million in budget surplus for this year, plus another 15 million in incremental revenue that's expected before the end of year, the checks come in next week. The CFO just said that. We're expecting that 15 million next week. And we can't allocate up to four million to make sure that people don't go hungry in Fulton County? I'll stop there."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. There's a motion by Commissioner Arrington to approve 0846, which I do not support. Is there a second for that?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I seconded it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett, and you want to --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I just wanted to say that I accept your request for a friendly amendment to add the Chairman's language about the water bills into 0846."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. That's the motion on the floor, not a substitute motion. You want to be heard, Commissioner Ivory, at this point? It depends."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And I guess, Mr. Chair, I was also asking, how did you derive the \$50,000 number per organization? I mean, I'm trying to understand it. I definitely want to give them support. I just want to understand how we got to the number of 500 plus 50, plus 50, plus 50 based upon the 145,000 people and a dollar a day to feed --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- the consultation with Dr. Roshell and the department, what would be needed on an interim basis. This was not pulled out of the air. This is not a one ups man. We've got a problem here, we have a crisis. This was put in place to try to solve a problem while the federal government makes a decision. This will be very similar to how we handle COVID, our COVID money, and if you recall, those of you who were here, we were the model for the nation. The Manager will have the option to come back to us, should it be necessary, at any point in time to increase the funding. This is a responsible way to do this. If we start -- it sounds great when we talking about dipping into our reserves, but that is a disaster waiting to happen if we start that. This protects the integrity of our financial process; it gives the Manager the option to move forward, so but to answer your question, these were not pulled out of the air."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Well, no, my question wasn't were they pulled out of the air; I was asking how they were derived, and I'm happy to ask Dr. Roshell. Dr. Roshell, how did we get to these numbers? How did we get to the 500,000 and the 50,000, and is -- are there -- well, I guess I got a litany of questions. I'll stop there and then I'll ask additional questions."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. So the way that the 500,000 dollar cost estimate was derived, we used the framework from our community services program so that we would not have to procure these services. What I mean by that is, the community development department released an RFP in

February and the Board approved over \$5 million. I believe it was in May for over 150 organizations to receive funding. One of those funding categories is economic security, which includes food insecurity. We have nine organizations that have the infrastructure, and were awarded funds through that competitive bidding process. So what we did is we went back to the applications that were only for food insecurity and looked at what they originally requested. Those nine organizations originally requested \$870,000. We awarded those nine organizations \$370,000. And so, the difference is the 500,000, and is specifically the Atlanta Food Bank requested a hundred thousand during the competitive RFP process, we awarded them \$30,000, and so, our recommendation would be 70. Buckhead Ministries requested \$100,000, we awarded 50. And so we are recommending the additional 50. So the nine organizations -- and so for example Hosea Feeds the Hungry and Homeless requested a hundred thousand; they were awarded 50. And so, we are recommending the additional 50. So we used as the framework our competitive process that we've used for years, and organizations that we know are already providing this service and work. And we went back and looked at what they requested and are recommending funding their full request."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Now so you said those requests were done in February, correct?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "We released the RFP in February, yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Was there a SNAP problem when they made those requests? Was there a SNAP gap when those requests were made?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "No, sir, there was not."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Do you think they would've asked for more had they known that would have been a SNAP gap?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "They did ask for more at the time, but because of the funding, we awarded them --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- well, no, no. You said they asked for \$100,000 at that time."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "At that time, they had no idea that SNAP would not be funded, did they?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "No, they did not."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Do you think they would have asked for more money if they had known -- more than the money that they asked for if they had known that SNAP would not be funded?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "I believe that CSP has a funding max. I don't believe you can ask more than a hundred in the CSP program. So this would not have been the mechanism to request more than that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So what you're saying then is, that because CSP has a \$100,000 limit; is that correct?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So you're saying that the reason that you're allocating 50,000 for these other nine organizations is because there's a \$100,000 limit under CSP?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "I was answering your question as to whether I thought these organizations would have requested more than \$100,000."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. I didn't hear the answer. What's the answer?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "That they could not request more than a hundred thousand because that's the max."

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

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "And we only awarded them partial funding so that we could fund as many organizations as possible."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. I'm not going to beat the horse to death any longer. I think that I have made my point. I think that this is an emergency. I like the idea of, you know, I guess, potentially using CSP model, but because this is an emergency, I don't believe \$100,000 limit should apply. This is a food assistance emergency and so I am, you know -- I'm not supportive of that in this case. But at least I am thankful that you were able to help me better understand why those recommendations were made. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ivory, do you still want to be heard on the substitute motion?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Sure. Thank you, Chairman. I want to acknowledge Chairman Pitts' Resolution and express my support for it. My priority remains clear regardless of whatever the process is, and that is, that I will support measures that provide assistance to Fulton County residents when federal or state systems fail to meet their needs. One in six households in our county rely on SNAP. It's critical we step in to provide resources during this period of uncertainty, and this Resolution ensures that families have access to essential support, and so I'm proud to vote in favor of it. I also fully support Commissioner Barrett's Resolution. This action underscores the importance of ensuring food insecurity and assistance and takes it a little bit further."



The measures in this Resolution will also help families navigate a difficult period. I want to reiterate that my commitment is to the people of Fulton County. If there were three Resolutions on the agenda today that were to provide for food insecurity, I would vote for all three of them, and then I would leave that matter of how that money will be disseminated to our financial team. There is never enough money for people who have food insecurity until there isn't anyone with food insecurity anymore. So I will vote to increase support for residents in their times of need, so these Resolutions both reflect that commitment, and I'm proud to support the both of them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor now, again, the substitute motion, is to approve 0846, which I do not support, and I would ask that we do not approve that and we get back to the 0845. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, do you want to be heard, or do you want to wait until we dispose of this?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I want to wait."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote, please."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm in the queue."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You want to be heard now? All right. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor again."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You've said several times that you don't support the Resolution that we are about to vote on, but you have not expressed a reason. You know, I think this is clearly a political move that's happening right now by you, and I really would encourage my colleagues to put that aside and do what is best for Fulton County. My Resolution does not dip into the reserves, as you mentioned, it is for up to 4.4 million. We have that money in the current budget without touching the reserves. It is a flexible piece of legislation which yours is not, and it is best positioned to serve the people. If you all choose to vote no, that's your business. Do what you have to do, but I truly believe that it is a better, more clear policy that incorporates everything you have, especially now that includes the friendly amendment to do the postponing of shutting off any water. It includes everything that yours does and goes a bit further, and we can afford to go a bit further. And we owe it to the people of Fulton County who are already today hungry, starving, to do as much as we possibly can."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne, do you want to be heard now?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, I spoke with Commissioner Barrett about her -- her bill, and I don't know -- I wanted her to strike some language where she accuses Governor Kemp, and she was, I don't know, willing to do that. Seeing as we had someone from the state office down here celebrating the one-year anniversary of our behavioral health center, I think it's important that we don't bash our state when it's a federal issue that's created this mess that we're in today. I feel like we need to be good partners, we need to be respectful. All it is is in there, and she said her staff drew up

this Resolution, so it's still in there. You modified yours, Chairman Pitts. She didn't modify hers. When we talk about all these underruns we have and we talk about this \$165 million reserve, 15 million in incremental revenue, it's like we're rich, but yet we know down the pike, next year we're going to have to fund a billion-dollar jail. We have expenses, that we have large expenses. We're looking at trying to build a new hospital in South Fulton to serve our residents. It's not that we can afford it. How we afford it is we come to you taxpayers and raise the millage rate to afford it. So we can spend money now and we can come to you next year and say oops, we spent all the money last year. We have no more money. We need you to turn over more taxes, higher taxes. We're looking at one, two, three million. I mean, it seems like the millage rate has no limit, is what we're told. I also struggled with, and maybe, Madam County Attorney, can we declare -- can we simply declare a state of emergency?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It can be declared on a county level. Typically, it is done in conjunction with state and other authorities, and we would not be necessarily the first ones out unless it is something that only applies to Fulton County specifically."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Because I contacted Senator Ossoff's office, and the funding is through today, so we haven't had a crisis yet. We're predicting that they'll be an impending crisis, you know, we're in this record days of government shutdown, when they can easily restore immediately the funding. If they just pass a clean Resolution, they can do that except there is all these things tied to it. It takes 60 senators; there's only 53 Republicans that are voting for the clean Resolution to restore everything and to stop this mess in the first place. I support Chairman Pitts because I feel as Commissioners we have to look for the health and welfare of our citizens, and that means being responsible with how we spend your money as well as taking care of those in need. Commissioner Barrett mentioned that it's going to take time when the money comes through, but my understanding is the SNAP benefits are on a card. These people are used to just going to the grocery store around the corner and using the card that's digitally uploaded to their accounts to get their benefits. I don't know if they're going to be used to -- they're going to know the nine organizations that we have. I don't know if they're going to have the transportation to get there, I don't know. I don't believe all 145,000 people are going to be flooding our food banks right away. So I feel like the measure that Chairman Pitts is responsible, it'll take care of the need, the immediate need that we have right now as well as being responsible with the spending of our money and the future. Hosea Feeds the Hungry, they're all great; Buckhead Ministries, Atlanta Food Bank. I reached out to North Fulton Charities, which is up in my area, as well as 11 other food banks, to see how our office could help them, and they seem to be okay right now. It's not a crisis right now. They haven't needed any help, but that's not to say what will happen in the future. I'm hoping this record-breaking government shutdown will be quickly resolved, hopefully today, now that the election's over with, that that will happen, but I support Chairman Pitts' bill. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, let's vote. All right. Just a minute. Just a minute. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman is reserving her comments until after we dispose of this, and you want to be heard again, Commissioner Barrett?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yes, please."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "With all due respect, Commissioner Thorne, we did speak. You -- first of all, my Resolution doesn't bash Governor Kemp. It states the fact that there is a federal government shutdown and that the state and Governor Kemp have decided not to step in and help. That said, when you asked me about it, I absolutely said, and I still say, it was not my intention to bash anybody, and, you know, to be fair, he's only person's name that's in there. And if you wanted me to take it out, I would do that, and I offered to do that if you were willing to cosponsor. That conversation ended with you saying you would think about it and you did not get back to me, so that is why the language remains. If the problem did not start until today, Chairman Pitts is giving money today and mine is up too, which means that if we don't need to spend any money, we won't. That is a better steward of taxpayer dollars. Also, there is an issue with the cards that the people use for SNAP benefits being reloaded. That is what is being reported, that it is not an automatic, the day that the federal government says yes, they have to transfer it to the state, and the state has procedures. But they don't have procedures in place to have money coming in this way. So there will likely be a delay. That is where that is coming from, so it is not instantaneous as you suggest."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you. Vice Chair, you want to be heard now or can you wait? Thank you. All right. Let's dispose of this and get back to the main motion, please. Let's vote. The substitute motion on the floor is to approve 0846, which again I do not support. So let's dispose of that one and get back to the main motion."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the substitute motion. And the motion fails: three yeas, four nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Back to the main motion which is 0845 which is to approve. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. You know, this is what happened in politics. Everybody wants their five seconds, ten seconds, 15 seconds of fame. Everybody wants to be on TV. You know, I take issue with the fact that you got Commissioners down here that could talk to each other and could make decisions together. Personally, I had a Resolution that addressed this that was sitting with the County Attorney. When Chairman Pitts' Resolution came up, I reached out to Chairman Pitts and decided to pull mine back. Now do you have to do that? No, you do not. But if we're serious about the business of taking care of the Fulton County taxpaying citizen, why not have a conversation and come up with something we can all get behind? The reason I'm behind the one now is because of this. TSA workers in Fulton County have not had a check. Are we going to put a Resolution in place to help them get some of their bills paid? Are we going to allow organizations like Kendall Rae that sits in Commissioner Arrington's district; she is giving food out at this very moment. She is the youngest farmer in the state of Georgia who is growing food and giving it out in the

community. Are we going to help her? And so, with all due respect, I will not get behind three different Resolutions, no, I will not do that. I'll get behind the one at that very moment serves the need at that very moment. I'm not going to throw any other entity under the bus. Do I have great relationships at the state? I do, and I don't apologize for them. Because if I need the governor or anybody down there to do what they need to do to make sure that food gets in the mouth of all the people, not just Fulton County, then he needs to do it. And so, what I say to you I get tired of the pontificating, I get tired of the showboating, I get tired of individuals getting in their ego, but they say they're not in their ego. Because when we talk about boots on the ground, nobody have a bigger pair of boots that got holes in them than me. And so, if we're going to do something in the interim and while we are doing it, be fiscally responsible. Because we have a lot of other needs. I rung the bell, how many months ago, and said Fulton County is going to have to step in the gap for what was coming down the road. We got a lot of stuff coming down the road, people. We've got organizations that help with domestic violence that got no funding this year. We've got other organizations -- we had a gentleman right in front of us this morning that houses the youth. He has to shut his doors because of his funding that he regularly got. And so what I'm saying is I believe in making sure that government steps in and do what it needs to do, but government can't do it by itself. And we need to be responsible in how we spend this money. We can't give it all to one entity; we can't give it all to one cause, because I am presently talking with Dr. Roshell about what we did during COVID. During COVID, Fulton County stepped to the plate and helped with mortgage payment assistance. We're going to have to look at that possibly coming back. And so, I'm not going to get on -- well, I'm going to get off of my soapbox because everybody can get on a soapbox. So I'm going to get off mine by saying, let's do what we need to do right now in the interim. We can always come back and do other things, but there are a lot of entities that are going to fall in the gap because some people can't get along. End of story. Thank you, Chairman."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I just got one question. If we pass this, how quickly can we get the funds to these folks?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "We would be able to work with legal and purchasing to create an amendment, I would say, a couple of weeks, maybe two max, because we do need to come in to all of their contracts. But it will be a shorter timeframe than if we had to procure them from the start."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Is there anything we can do to accelerate that?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "I'll turn it over to Felicia to respond."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT:** "Yes, Commissioner, we can work very expeditiously. We will put our same process in place that we did during COVID and get it done very expeditiously. We would."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. That would be my hope that we would – it wouldn't be a couple weeks that we could figure out a way to -- you all work together to make that happen?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT:** "We will."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Similarly to what we did back then, so all right, thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So if SNAP benefits are restored tomorrow or by Friday, they would still wind up getting the payments?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT:** "I'm sorry, Commissioner, were you asking me that question?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, I mean, because I think Commissioner Ellis' question was how expeditiously could it be done. I think Chairman Pitts indicated earlier that he's hopeful that it would likely be restored this week. And so, I guess, I'm just wondering, you know, we're going to give it to them regardless of whether SNAP benefits get restored or not."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT:** "Right, Commissioner. As soon as the Board acts today, we will put something in place and act and get that done expeditiously, and we would work with Finance. Most of the organizations already have EFT payment, so we will work with finance to get that done expeditiously."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. I guess my point though is, if the SNAP benefits get restored, would there still be a need?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "The way the Resolution reads, it says, until the SNAP suspension ends. So if we take that literally, then we would not proceed, but we certainly will take direction from the Board that if you pass the Resolution today and the SNAP benefits are restored, because of potential delays in issuance. We would take direction from the Board as to whether you would want us just proceed with what is passed today if any measure is passed."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, I apologize. I don't want belabor the point. I think what my understanding is, and County Manager, if you want to opine on this, you can. Even if the SNAP benefits are restored, one or two things may happen; one, they may be delayed; two, they may only have half of a month's allotment. And so, even if we do do something today and they receive half, they still will maybe be behind

the eightball. So I think even if they get restored, there is no inclination or no information that I know of that it will be the full amount, and it would be in the next week or two. And so, Dr. Roshell, I just want to be clear about that."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO:** "Thank you, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. You are correct. The USDA did issue a statement that they only have funding for half of a benefit cycle. So if the benefits are restored fully, they have also said that constituents can expect delays in issuance."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yes. Just for clarification, on page 3 of the updated Resolution, it says -- it added the language until such time as SNAP benefits are restored, but that appears to apply only to the water services nonpayment issue of cutting off water services -- terminating water services. The second line -- the next line after that starting on 61, says additional aid will be considered on a month-to-month basis pending the continuation of the federal shutdown that appears to be language specifically about additional aid over and above the 700,000 that is allocated here. But nowhere does it say that the 700,000 is only until the SNAP benefits are restored. So it reads, at least to my reading, I don't know if the County Attorney wants to weigh in, but it reads -- from my perspective, it reads that it will be the full 700,000 is to be issued upon signing this Resolution whether or not -- regardless. The reasons for doing it are the SNAP benefits being postponed or canceled or delayed, but the actual be it further resolves do not indicate that it is not to happen if they are restored prior to a check being cut. I don't know if anybody wants opine on that from a legal perspective, but that's what I'm reading in the document."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You don't have to respond. Madam County Attorney, if you're prepared to respond you can respond, if you choose too. Okay. Is there anything else? All right. Let's vote, please. Madam Clerk."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 8, County Manager's Renewal Items under Open and Responsible Government, **25-0817**, Information Technology, request --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- hold on one second. Commissioner Barrett, do you want to be heard? Continue, Madam Clerk."



**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0817, Information Technology: Request approval to renew an existing contract for digital multifunctional devices and support services in an amount not to exceed \$1,341,750."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Cast -- I'm sorry. Commissioner Ivory has the floor."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "This is just a question for IT, thank you. What exactly does this five million cover? Is it fixing what's broken, or just ongoing support?"

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, FC CIO, IT:** "Are you referring to 0817, or 0818?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "I'm referring to 0817."

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, FC CIO, IT:** "This is for the \$1,341,750 for our multifunctional printers and copiers, so it's all of the support and maintenance for those devices."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Just for the printers and devices. Okay. Thank you, that's what I was asking."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion on the floor is to approve. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0818: Request approval to renew an existing contract for network equipment maintenance and support in an amount not to exceed \$5 million."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, 25-0819, Public Works: Request approval to renew existing contracts for sanitary sewer easement maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$382,764.50."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0820: Request approval to renew an existing contract for large water meter installation in an amount not to exceed \$300,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On Page 9, 25-0821: Request approval to renew an existing contract for water meter reading services in an amount not to exceed \$658,966."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0822: Request approval to renew an existing contract for water meter vaults in an amount not to exceed \$200,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0823: Request approval to renew an existing contract for concrete manhole parts in an amount not to exceed \$106,624.76."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Justice and Safety, 25-0824, Police: Request approval to renew existing contracts in an amount of \$153,000 to provide automobile repair services for police departments' fleet."

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



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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "County Manager's Items, **25-0825**, Finance, Presentation of the Strategic Plan Update, Multi-Year Financial Review and Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund Budget Update."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. As you know and we have said, we've been working on an update to our strategic plan as well as a ten-year financial outlook. What you're going to see today is a work in progress, so by no means is it finalized on either dimension, and we'll be setting up meetings, individual meetings with each of you between now and the next meeting to explore that further and seek your direct input. Two points to understand: I think our existing strategic plan has served us well, and we have an impressive list of accomplishments to share. Hopefully, that will be received well. We also have a strategic model with a plan -- a plan on a page which courses the annual update; operation reviews, which of course, are the operations report review, which we do here monthly as well as KPIs at the department level. At this stage, we take more of an evergreen approach, meaning keeping our plan more or less the same, but updating for major changes as the best as opposed to a major redo, but certainly, we're open to again receiving that guidance from you. The major updates, of course, that we see are well-known. It's the consent order -- the jail construction, support for a new hospital as well as pending TAD explorations and decrease pension costs. So we tried to pull all of that together again in a way that can be well understood, and we'll be sharing that with you. Of course, anything that we do on a ten-year basis is based on assumptions, and it's based on projections. The further it gets out, you know, the less likely at times it is to happen, but it is -- you know, it's a process used by major corporations, the Federal Reserve, but what I think we want to do is ensure that as we go through the assumptions with you, you're able to say, I don't think that assumption is aggressive enough, it's too aggressive, or here's an assumption potentially that you should insert into the plan, given your perspective on the future. The ten-year financial plan does include estimates for debt and principal for the jail modernization already approved by you, support for a new hospital in South Fulton, as well as modernizing and consolidating offices and potentially leaving space that's currently leased. So we do have all of that laid out. I think that could generally be settled with expected roll-offs of tax allocation districts, realizing that decision has yet to be made. The projected expenses would be more difficult to, I think, absorb and we'll indicate that as we discuss this, without additional revenue, either additional revenue from property tax or sales taxes, or some significant assumptions around reduced cost growth and, of course, with artificial intelligence out there, that's not something that we shouldn't be thinking through including it in the plan there's an assumption right now would be probably a little bit premature, but I think something that could certainly be discussed. Like I said, we'll be seeking your guidance both today, but then individually, and then more in pressing, I suppose, is the 2026 budget. That will be presented to you in written form per the

ordinance on 11/15. That's prior to the next BOC, and then, of course, we'll come into that Commissioner meeting and discuss that in specificity after you've received it the week before. And what we do know, and Sharon will share, the CFO, Sharon Whitmore, will share with you today, is the amount of request that we have far exceed, at least the ability to fund those, and we'll again seek your guidance on how best to -- best to look at those. So we have just two pieces to this. Mike Rowicki, from our strategy office is going to update -- or show you the update that we have of the strategic plan, and then Sharon Whitmore is going to do likewise on the long-term financial view. Again, no approval necessary today, but again, certainly, our team is up both for any group consensus today as well as then at the individual level and we will be bringing it back per the schedule that we'll share with you. So Mike, I'll turn it over to you."

**MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE:** "Okay. Mike Rowicki, Strategy and Performance Management Office. So today, I'm here to present the first part of our update for this agenda item related to the strategic plan. As the County Manager actually mentioned, our strategic model actually has worked for us greatly over the past 10 years. We'll kind of go over that and the impacts it's had for us, as we go through some highlights later on. First, with our model, we actually start with our basic strategic plan. Our strategic plans are meant to be broad-based. They have a series of objectives that we're looking to accomplish along with the series of initiatives and KPIs that we're looking to track and see progress on. Again, through each year as the Board adopts their budget, we actually create what we call a plan on a page. That plan on a page actually highlights the budgetary decisions that the Board has made based on those focus areas. It then looks at what we've actually accomplished in the previous year, highlighting what it is that we've done with the resources the Board has given to us. Then also, on the back of that page, we also list a series of initiatives that are set for the next year that we're looking to accomplish. If you can go back, please. Then based off of that, we actually look at our operational report, again that we give to you monthly, that highlights what we've accomplished. We tie that to our performance key, performance indicators, with all of the departments and what we're looking to do. We have those reported quarterly by the departments, and then we also look at it again. It proves results for us. And the next slide, please, actually gives you a highlight of what we've actually accomplished in 2021 through 2025 so far. So for Health and Human Services; some of the things that we've accomplished, I'm going to kind of highlight a few: completion of Project Care with the help of Dr. Roshell and the County Manager leadership. We've actually used that plan and actually have started again, construction of the freestanding emergency room in South Fulton. We've actually opened up three more healthcare clinics across the county. We've actually opened up a behavioral health crisis center. For justice and safety, things that we've accomplished in this 2021 through 2025 time frame. Again, successful implementation of Project ORCA. We've opened up a diversion center. We've also started using virtual court rooms in the justice system. For open and responsible government, some of our items we'd like to highlight are the elections hub and operations center has been opened up. We've actually gained a AAA bond rating for the county, which helps us to finance some of these projects at a lower interest rate. We've actually have received a National Customer Service Association All-Star Award for our customer service satisfaction across our county. Arts and libraries: Again, library rehabilitations have been completed. We've

actually, for Fulton County library systems, have circulated over four million physical and digital checkouts. For our students, what we've done through Fulton County Schools is reach 94,000 students. For Atlanta Public Schools, we've reached 55,000 students with our services. For infrastructure and economic development, one of our biggest items, again I would say, is our cyberattack response, which we were successful at in doing it in a timely manner. We've actually invested in Big Creek and Camp Creek water treatment plants. And all the things that we're doing in the Fulton Industrial District with renew the district. So again, those are just highlights of some of the things that we've accomplished. There are many more that are on our list each year, we just want to give you some of those to think about. Next slide, please. For our new strategic plan, what we're actually looking to do is, again, make this an evergreen plan. We want to look at this on a ten-year or longer timeframe, making this a plan that works with what we want to do in terms of our long-term needs, initiatives and match what the community wants to see. So each year we'll look to update this to fit whatever is meeting the needs of the communities. We want to stay focused on what we call our focus areas, and those focus areas are going to be health and human services, justice and safety, open and responsible government, arts and libraries, and infrastructure and economic development. One of the themes that we do want to use this year for the update is we want to actually maintain and use our Experience Fulton, which will provide us the opportunity to share with the community all the great things and opportunities that Fulton County has to offer to our citizens and our visitors. As part of our new strategic plan update, we are also going to be looking to update our operational reports for the Board and for the public. With that, what we're going to be looking at is what we call Fulton By The Numbers, and what I mean by that is, we actually track all the KPIs for the departments, we look at their accomplishments, we want to actually highlight those in our operational reports for every department and look to be a little less focused on some of the justice and safety issues, but still present those at each Board meeting. Next slide, please. So, one of the things that we do want to do is, actually review just a couple of things with you in terms of each of our focus areas: for our focus area for health and human services some of the objectives and initiatives that we're looking at. For objectives, what we're going to be looking at is how we promote healthier lifestyles and prevent illness across all of our communities. And for objectives, we'll also look at expanding healthcare access in underserved healthcare dessert areas. And what we mean by that is we're actually be looking at enhancing healthcare access in underserved areas as an initiative that supports Grady, Morehouse Clinics, and upgrading the ER in South Fulton and the possibility of a hospital in South Fulton. Next slide, please. For justice and safety, what we're going to be looking at are for some of these objectives are implementing and monitoring nationally recognized standards to ensure a safer, more humane justice system, along with strengthening the resilience against terrorism, cyber threats, pandemic, and natural disasters. And some of initiatives with that are dealing with our continuity of operations planning that we are currently doing, and we'll look to complete that with some tabletop exercises, and then we'll also look at the designs or programs for the special-purpose facility at the Fulton County Jail as one of those options. Next slide. For open and responsible government, some of the objectives that we like to highlight are the delivery of the efficient services using performance metrics, technology, and resource optimization, and then also ensuring access and transparent government operations. Again, we look to be a

transparent government, tell people what it is that we're doing. We'll do that with initiatives such as enhancing our ERP system for better internal services and delivery. We'll review our processes, Voter Registration and Election Office to ensure that we have timely results in reporting. Next slide, please. For arts and libraries, what we're going to be looking to do is for our objectives under this area, is foster innovation and digital inclusion through arts and library services, along with measuring the impact of our residents and their experiences. And some of the initiatives we'll look at there, again, we're going to continue the implementation of the strategic plan for the vision of the library of the future with the library system that they've presented to the Board in the past. We're also going to look at the availability for citizens to receive more virtual library services and improve those other opportunities for circulation. Next slide. For infrastructure and economic development, what we're going to be looking at here for some of these we'd like to highlight is, again, lead and sustainable and resilient government operations, and then invest in infrastructure that drives economic growth such as water transit in the airports. Those initiatives again are going to be the 'renew the district initiative' that we've been working on, and working further in the years on that. Again, the investments that we're going to look for water treatment improvements in South Fulton, which could be approximately about \$500 million. And then we're also going to be looking at how we can help to administer and renew the T-Splost program to fund those critical transportation and infrastructure projects for our communities. Next slide. In order to get to a final strategic plan, what we actually have proposed is what you have before you today in your agenda item is a draft of our objectives and our initiatives for the Board, then a presentation today then we look to actually complete a draft of the document for review by January 7th. And then we would look to have this strategic plan adopted as part of the project budget process on the 21st of January. And then we will go through and complete based off those funding decisions of what happens, complete any negotiation with departments on KPIs, because as funding decisions are made, those KPIs can go up or down as we do each year. Then we will continue to look at those operational reports where we're reporting to you, any of those continuous improvements, all of those accomplishments that we've been doing throughout the community and throughout the year. With that, what I'd like to do is turn it over to our chief financial officer, Sharon Whitmore, for the financial perspective."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "If we can, I think you said you want to -- I thought I heard you say that the next strategic plan will be for ten years instead of five years?"

**MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE:** "We're going to look to make it evergreen, so we're looking over to align it with at least our ten-year multiyear financial plans as we're looking through."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. I don't -- I mean, I don't know about that, right? We've got -- we have four-year terms for Commissioners. And so, the will of the Board and the will of the county, theoretically, could change every four years, right? Or, you know, we have elections in off years, so every two years, right? And the composition of the Board could change. And so, I think the five-year plan is a better -- is better than a ten-year plan in that regard, right? Because the composition and will of

the Board will likely change during that ten-year period, right? And so, I think that while it may be a good idea to have, I don't know necessarily what evergreen means. I mean, I think I know what you mean when you say that but, you know, again, I think the strategic priorities of the Board will change as the Board changes. And so, maybe it makes sense to have some type of evergreen-ness to that strategic plan, but it also needs to have the flexibility to reflect the will of the current -- of the current boards as they serve, right? And so, I don't know, I guess we can continue to talk about that, but we did a five-year plan in 2021, I think we had a five-year plan before that. And so we've been doing five-year plans, so for me to hear today ten-year plan is, you know, I guess, I don't know, a little weird that we would go from five-year plans to ten-year plans, but maybe it makes sense. I look forward to following up with you guys to talk about that more."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "First of all, thank you for bringing up that important point. I think we were trying to strike the balance between -- there are these nonsequiturs that I don't think we've ever faced before in terms of a ten-year program to build new and rehabilitate the jail. It'll probably be -- I don't know what the time frame will be for South Fulton Hospital, but I suspect it might go past four plus years. And at the same time, so by saying evergreen, I'll say that I take responsibility for that term of art, we used to use it in technology where if you didn't do a forklift upgrade, you just tried to keep enhancing the system, so it's notionally trying to strike the balance that the priorities of the Board would change, facts would change, directionally though, and we could update the plan every year as opposed to necessarily having it even run for four years, but that we had this longer-term view dictated by these nonsequiturs, I'll call them, are major financial commitments. And as you see this financial plan, it may become more obvious that again, as all those things work together, they don't play out in a two-year or three-year time period. But I hear what you're saying, let us -- you know, again, that's the purpose of this is to take your input and see if we can find a sharper way of presenting that, but that was the thinking behind it."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "So as the timeline and the Board input regarding the plan, I wanted to find out if it was possible for that full draft of the plan to be completed by the end of the year instead of January 7th thereby giving us the time to sort of digest it, read it through, and offer, you know, meaningful comment. Is that feasible for you?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. And I'm hoping that as we meet one-on-one, that'll be a productive conversation obviously also, that will inform what we would present as a final plan; but yes, ma'am, we can do that by the end of the year."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Great, thank you. I really appreciate that. And I want to talk about connecting accomplishments to the plan. I notice that the update highlights several accomplishments of Fulton County, which I think is great, but I'd like to ask that



we start framing those wins in the language of the strategic plan itself. Sort of -- can we make sure our reporting connects each effort or outcome back to a specific goal that was in the plan? When I sort of looked at what you presented, it was great accomplishments, but I could not line for line put it back to actually an item in the strategic plan, so just in the spirit of transparency, I think there should be a clear line between our strategic plan priorities and also the progress that we're sharing with the public, you know, line for line. Could we try to work on that a little -- is that feasible?"

**MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay, great. And that's just good stewardship, I believe. So the department KPIs also alignment, looking ahead into 2026, I'd like one of our goals to be aligning the departmental KPIs directly with the strategic objectives as well, so that everything that we're seeing in the strategic plan aligns to an accomplishment and also a KPI. Because when my team sort of looked at everything, we were all over the place trying to figure out how these things lined up. So do you think that's a reasonable goal that we can --"

**MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE:** "-- yes."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- okay, great. And then, sort of as a comprehensive approach, will that be for us to -- what will be the comprehensive approach for us to receive a fully flushed out strategic plan versus what you said is sort of the evergreen, what's the approach to that?"

**MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE:** "So we actually we will draft that, again, broad-based plan, again, we can look to do that by the end of the year. We will actually work with the executive team; we will work with some of the department heads, and will work through some of those objectives and measures to make sure that we get everything there for you."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Great. And I'll just say that the spirit and the intent behind those questions is just sort of to make it more clearer, open, and transparent for the public that if they wanted to look at the strategic plan, that they would then be able to follow how the departments are performing under the strategic plan and how also we are performing -- you know, we as a county are performing in terms of the results of the exact items on the strategic plan, so I would just like that."

**MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE:** "Yes, ma'am. Those are some of the ideas that we're looking for in terms of the operational reports to make sure that all the things line up when we update for you."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Rowicki, for the presentation and the effort. I know we had a lot going on this year so no small

feat to even get to where we are. Just to follow up with what Commissioner Ivory was saying, and I mentioned this yesterday when I was talking to all of you about it, but I felt like the same thing was a little bit true on the current year objectives, initiatives, results columns, that there wasn't a clear line between the objective and which initiative it met and what the results were for that thing. So I think drawing those lines also would be very helpful. And the other thing we talked about yesterday that I just want to kind of reiterate is, I'm offering an evergreen plan in the sense that I think, you know, given that things do change, coming up with a five-year plan by year three, things could be completely different and then sort of those objectives don't really work for years four and five anymore, for example. On the other hand, I don't want the moving to an evergreen plan to sort of shortcut the community engagement, stakeholder engagement across the board, and maybe the re-shifting of the priority areas or strategic focus areas or whatever we're calling them now, because there again, those were developed -- the ones listed here were developed five years ago, and three of us were not here then. So we did not have input on those being the priorities or focuses. And so, I think -- and I understand that there's not right now, given the amount of time between now and the end of the year, we're not going to be having stakeholder engagement throughout the county or, you know, including employees and the Board and all those things. But I do think that that is an important part of an evergreen process to include that every so often to make sure that we still are aligned with all of our stakeholders. So maybe there's a moment to define what the steps are in an evergreen process are, and maybe it's, you know, every two to three years there are some stakeholder meetings and engagement. Maybe there is a reframing of, you know, discussion of the priority areas and what they should be, and maybe they do stay the same, right? But at least this way, we're engaging with everybody. So it's a living plan, not only from objectives and initiatives, but also at the higher level. So I'd love to see sort of a clear definition of evergreen."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. I don't think we had thought that through, so we'll start thinking about stakeholder engagement."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you very much."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I want to take this time to commend the work that you all do in making sure we have the information, and more importantly, the communication of the relationships that when I or my staff have meetings with you all, you all allow, not only to give us information, but at that time, to give us -- for us to give you all any concerns that we have. And you all are very accommodating, so I just want to publicly say that I appreciate what you all are already doing. I just want to say that for the record. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any other comments at this time, Commissioners?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we could go to the next slide. In addition to updating the strategic plan, the next part of that was us looking at the multiyear financial plan and aligning it to the strategic plan. So the next couple of slides are going to just kind of give you an overview of that. We do and are trying to get sessions set up with each of you so we can review the details of the plan with you one-on-one rather than trying to cover that in a meeting like this, because there are a lot of things and a lot of moving parts to do that plan. And so, the next couple of slides -- and the purpose of the multiyear financial plan, again, was to align our high-level financial and strategic plans. We wanted to expand our multiyear financial view from five to ten years. Historically, we have done a five-year view, so we wanted to expand that from five to ten. I think the Manager's comments earlier about the reason for the move to ten are -- were very well spoken. The plan will provide the general view of our expected revenue and expenditures over that ten-year timeframe, and identifies all of the underlying assumptions and millage rate impacts and applications. Next slide, please. This slide is provided to kind of share a snapshot of what's ahead for us in the next ten years. We will see impacts on our general fund revenue, significant impacts, or the potential for significant impacts with the tax allocation districts that we are currently participating coming to a natural end in rolling off. And during this ten-year cycle, we will have the opportunity to renegotiate the local option sales tax distribution certificate. The current certificate will end in 2032, and we will have the opportunity to renegotiate and seek a higher share of local option sales tax. The plan, as the Manager indicated, provides for significant capital investments and the debt service to support those capital investments, jail construction, a South Fulton Hospital in partnership with Grady Memorial Corporation, office consolidation and modernization allowing us to return agencies and departments that are in current rental space around the downtown area. And then the completion and buildout of both the north and south health and human services centers. It provides for a conservative expense growth for services and functions, and the way the model is designed, it is designed to calculate and determine what the millage rate will need to be to support all of those underlying expenditures. And it's designed to ensure that we maintain and/or are able to expand some services through enhanced efficiencies. I think the Manager mentioned and Mike, at the podium, mentioned technology and implementation of AI where it makes sense. It also provides for estimates for consent order compliance expenses and the association millage rate impacts with that. And then as the Manager mentioned, it includes the expected decline in our defined benefits pension contribution, which will help offset some of the increase in cost that we'll see associated with just regular operating costs as well as consent order related costs. Next slide. So how can we fund those strategic capital investments? This slide, we really wanted to focus on why it's so important for the increment to return to the county from the current tax allocation districts, because that is a source that is being generated currently and will continue to be generated out of the county's millage rate and its revenue that's being generated now, it goes to the redevelopment agency instead of coming to the county. But as they reach their natural expiration and those increments are returned to the county, it's available for us to use to support our general government needs. Specifically, in this case, we've identified it to support the strategic capital investments based on the plan or the expected expiration dates of the tax allocation districts and



growth rates between 4 and 4.5 percent. We expect that we will have returned to us 2.4 billion to 2.7 billion through 2057, and that's a little longer than the ten years that we're talking about, but the reason for that is because we're tying it to those significant capital investments and long-term debt service. So we've shown below then how it can be used to support the debt service associated with jail construction, that South Fulton Hospital, and office consolidation and modernization. So 2.4 to 2.7 billion, depending on the growth rate through 2057 will support about 2.6 billion in the expected estimated debt service for those strategic capital investments. Next slide, please. One of the major questions that we asked ourselves as we were building out the 10-year model is whether or not the flat 8.87 millage rate will be sufficient to continue to support incremental operating expenditures during this ten-year plan. And what we see is that, with the assumptions that we've built into the plan between '26 and 2020 -- 2033 that the estimated incremental costs related to the consent order and other operating costs do present a challenge within the existing millage rate, and as a result, may require an increase or other actions to suppress and align expense growth to revenue growth. Between 2033 and 2037, we begin to see millage rate relief. As the significant expense that the county is occurring for the contribution to the defined benefit plan rolls off, and as we are able to renegotiate the local option sales tax. Those two things together combine to provide a fairly strong relief on the county's general fund millage rate. So these are the very high-level so-what's, if you will, coming out of the multiyear plan that we've developed. As I stated, our intent is to meet with you and share all of the underlying assumptions and more of the detail that we just really didn't feel like we could present, have enough time really to present and talk about in a Board meeting. With that, I'm going to transition to now talking about the '26 budget development, where we're at, and ask --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- the Board -- yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, before you do that, any questions before she does that? Okay, Commissioner Ivory."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Chairman Pitts, thank you. Thank you, Madam CFO. In those, as you mentioned that they -- those are assumptions about the local option sales tax and the TADs. Have you worked these same numbers in the opposite assumptions that those things did not happen, you know to assume that, in the first assumption, that we assume that all the TAD money would be returned to the county and that a successful renegotiation of the LOST would happen. Have you run the numbers if that did not happen to see what the opposite assumption?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We have not explicitly run the numbers to be able to say what that impact would be. The model is designed where we can we. We were just trying to build it out with all of the -- all of the inputs. And so the way that it is constructed, we can we remove those items and it will then, you know, basically calculate what the millage rate impact will be without those things. Also, you

know, it's whatever we put in from an expense perspective, we would be able to take out, and you know, see how that looks. But we did not run it explicitly without."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay. And just in our many conversations, all of us, the County Manager and the executive team about that, I'd love to see what that input would look like just for the sake of being able to be open and transparent with questions that will -- I mean, we will get the question, right, from constituents about the budget. I'd like to not frame it in just one assumption that, you know, the best thing can happen, you know, from a Board vote perspective. But what if the scenario where that that did not happen, what would we also be looking at? And that -- it wouldn't even be the only assumption, because it could fall somewhere in the middle, right, when negotiations happen, or whatever. But I would love to see all of those potential inputs from the farthest, you know, over here to the farthest over here; is that feasible?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Makes perfect sense."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly, to sort of follow on what Commissioner Ivory said, I think -- well, first of all, I know you said, Madam CFO, that you're going to -- we're going to have individual meetings, where you're going to kind of present the ten-year outlook in more detail, correct?"

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. And so just on that, like, the numbers you give in the -- on, I guess it was slide 15, with the through 2057, 30-years number, the total for 30 years of the 2.7 billion or 2.6 billion, are you going to kind of give us a year, an annual cost, like, breakdown of that? So we can kind of get it in, you know, saying, 2.7 billion over 30 years isn't really as clear of sort of knowing annually what the repercussions are."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I -- we can, yeah."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I mean, I --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I mean, we have --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- just knowing what the shortfalls or -- or you know what I mean, would be if we don't do it per year versus over 30 year --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, we didn't run the model, the whole model all the way out to 2057. We -- this particular slide, slide 15, was intended to specifically show that the costs for this strategic capital investments could

be borne out through the return of the TAD increments to the county. So we didn't run the whole model out. When we -- when we take out TAD, the return of TAD increments within that ten-year time period, you will see what the impact is -- is then. But if you want to see a schedule of returned TAD increment by year through 205, compared to the annual debt service, projected annual debt service requirements by 2057, I believe we have the information to be able to show you that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I don't -- I don't necessarily think I -- I don't want to see it through 2057. I really just meant, you know, if we're doing a sort of a ten-year outlook, because of the TADs don't roll off until a little bit later. And so just sort of an understanding that, you know, if this one rolls off in 2030, and this one in 2031, et cetera, that we kind of see what the annual implications, when the debt service might start for some of these projects --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yeah, so --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- and things like that just so --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- in the model, you'll see, you know, again, we've made an estimate of when debt service would start on a Grady/South Fulton Hospital or when it would start for the office consolidation and modern -- modernization. So we -- yes, we can show you all the bits and pieces of that. But we only did all of that through 2037 for the ten-year piece. Yeah, we can show you year by year for the whole ten-year cycle, all the ins and outs."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And I do think, also, I think this is sort of to Commissioner Ivory's point as well. But if it wasn't, I apologize. But also, I think, as it relates to the TADs, I do think it would be good to be able to sort of, you know, experiment with some different numbers to say, you know, what if we extended this particular one for five years versus not at all? What if we reset the base at some level instead of not participating at all? So I think there might be ways in which we can still sort of participate in helping some of the areas that might still need help without saying, yes, we're all in, or no, we're all out. So it would be nice to be able to sort of have some kind of model that we can move numbers around and see what that might look like."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And that's a great point. And the reason that we felt like it was incumbent upon us to do something of a longer term view. And I think it is flexible enough to look -- look at the puts and the takes. I think we put this forward because we were trying to think through, how could we offset all of our debt and principal on these three major items. It so happens that the TAD, if they expired in their natural term with these projected growth rates, would do so. But that doesn't say, and I understand exactly what you're saying, that you couldn't have some puts and takes on those to refine that further."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, all. Trying to see how to ask this question without being offensive. When you all do the TADs, you do it based on not only the committed or commitment and the amount of time, but also I would think the benefit of what it is to the county. And so I noticed that you all do that, and I would like for you all to continue to do that. I know that dealing with the TAD is a hot subject and all that. And I don't expect for you all to get in the middle of that very politicized conversation. However, I am pleased with the facts that you have presented so far. And I just want to commend you all for committing to making sure that we have all the information. As Commissioners, it is on us as legislators to take that information and do what we need to do with it. That is not you all's role. I want to be crystal clear to the public that I believe in staying in my lane as well as I want your lane to be free and clear of me. And so I appreciate you all giving us the information. But at the end of the day, we're the legislators, and we're the ones that make the decisions, those decisions are not on you all. Want to be crystal clear about that to the public. Thank you."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. And we understand that as well."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Madam CFO, please continue."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we could go back to slide 17, please. Thank you. So moving forward and specifically focusing now on 2026. As you know, we recently completed our departmental budget hearings. We've received all of the departments' request for funding and for funding above their base budget amount. The total amount that we received this year in incremental spend requests is \$262,613,621. Of that amount, roughly 69.9 million was identified by the requesting agencies as being consent order related. There were 34.2 million in requests received for items that the management team had already factored in a funding allocation for -- for things that we, you know, already knew we would have to fund, like the Board's resolution on the contracts for services, making that a recurring expense. The inclusion of funding for the State Court Judges that was -- that were approved in legislative session; funding for the 2026 election cycle and things like that. So 34.2 million came in as incremental spend requests that we had already factored into our overall big picture number. And then there was 158.4 million that came in that was either earmarked as a main -- a cost to maintain current service, a cost to expand current service, or a cost to establish a new program or new service. We currently proposed about 14.8 million that was in the maintain or the expand column. And the majority of that is really things that were statutory, regulatory, contractual contract increases, or some other compliance requirement. Next slide, please. So with that in mind, this is what the 2026 general fund budget development looks like. We are projecting that we will have about 232.7 million in fund balance based on expected '26 --

the expected '26 expenditure budget, we would need to reserve 183.5 of that, leaving us 49.2 available to balance the budget. We expect revenues of about 955.1 million. And that is using the 8.87 mills as a base just to determine a revenue figure. So that brings our total available resources to 1,004,300,000 based on development of the '26 base budget, making adjustments for adding in things that were added doing '25 and have a recurring impact, taking out things that were nonrecurring, we're at 1,041,000,000, which is a \$36.7 million gap. So our expected expenditures exceed our expected resources by 36.7 million. In addition to that, based on the requests that were -- that were received, and the process that we have been employing to review items that are coming up that are related to the consent order, there's -- there is a possibility of 30 to \$60 million worth of incremental costs in 2026 associated with that process. So when you add that to the 36.7, then you're looking at a 66.7 to a \$96.7 million funding gap. And that would bring our total expenditure budget range from 1,071,000,000 to \$1.1 billion. Next slide, please. So with those -- with those numbers and that picture in mind, what we wanted to do next was to seek direction from the Board about how we might consider planning to close this gap between now and when we have to present the budget to you on the 15th of the month. So the first, the first item is a request to seek direction on a funding plan for consent order compliance. Next, we wanted to seek direction on a funding plan for other operational, incremental costs. And we've laid out some items that, you know, we may want to have some conversation or consider. On the expenditures side, we've already in our numbers built in a \$10 million attrition factor. So do we need to plan to increase that, which means that departments would have to modify their hiring plans for the year and plan to fill positions, stagger them or -- or defer them to fill them at a later point in the year when they have the full resources available to do so. Or should we consider elimination of vacant positions? Should we consider eliminating any current programs, the current base budget as soon as we continue to provide all programs at the '25 funding levels? Should we limit or eliminate any of the funds that we've already considered for enhancements, whether they were regular, for regulatory, statutory, or you know, contract, contractually obligated, meaning a contract that had a built-in increase. Should we hold departments their '25 expenditure levels? And should we plan not to provide county employees with a cost-of-living adjustment? Currently, we've built in a cost-of-living adjustment for employees. This would be a -- and adjustment year. We've been on a -- basically, a three-year cycle cost-of-living adjustment, then two years of bonus, pay-for-performance bonus payments, and then a cost-of-living adjustment. Or are there other options that, you know, we have not already identified that we should be considering to reduce the expenditure base. On the revenue consideration side, should we assume a higher digest growth factor? We've currently assumed 2 percent. And that's in billable digest, I should say, that's not the total gross digest. That's the piece that we know outside of the TADs that we're going to get the revenue on. Should we assume a higher collection factor? Because we have billed now for the last, I believe three years, if not four, in the middle of November,

instead of October. Our collection rate has been coming in a little bit less than the 96 percent that we have traditionally used when we developed a budget. So we've marked that down to the last three years average of 95.2 percent. Should we increase the millage rate, or are there other revenue options that we should be considering? I'll go on to the next slide, Mr. Chairman, and then we can open the floor for discussion. So this, this last slide is simply the, where are we and what are the next steps. So after today, we are November, the we-are-here arrow, we're doing the update to the Board. We have to get some direction from you here in a few minutes. And then as we've stated, we are looking to have some one-on-one sessions between now and the 14th to talk specifically about the strategic plan and the multiyear financial plan. It is kind of related to the '26 budget because that is the first year of the ten-year plan. And then on or before the 15th, as the Manager mentioned earlier, we will officially submit the budget to you, provide you with a copy of the proposed budget. And then we plan to formally present it to the Board at the second meeting in November, November 19th. Following that on December 3rd, we will hold the one legally required official public hearing on the 2026 proposed budget. And that will set the stage then for the Board to adopt the budget in its final form at either the first or second meeting in January. And of course, it's not listed here but we typically, after we present the proposed budget in that second November meeting, we typically add a discussion item in each of the December meetings should the Board want to have any further discussion about the proposal. So that is where we're at in the process and the steps. So if that -- if Mr. Chairman, with that, I think we're all ears for discussion and direction on what would be amenable. Or if you have any thoughts around closing the current gap that we're looking at."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We hear you. Since you're all ears, Madam -- Commissioners, comments, questions? Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah. Certainly, we can talk more in individual sessions. But I think certainly on the base general fund budget, my -- I'm certainly going to be looking for an option that maintains our existing millage rate. I do think your sort of miscounting the number. You're talking about on your revenue -- on the revenue side, I do think that some of the -- it sounded like some of the consumptions were fairly conservative. So I would encourage us, as y'all are going formulating, still working on this, to have a little bit of reconsideration around -- around those numbers. And might even provide more color on that or get more into it. But seems like there are some opportunities there on the revenue side that we should, we should look at a little bit more aggressively than maybe what you have in the model. Not -- and I would say they're probably on the gross side versus the collection factor. And then, you know, in terms of the expenditure considerations, I think kind of all options need to be on the -- on the table, you know, whether those are a menu of things or they're a phasing of things, particularly, you know, as we're thinking about stuff, you know, enhancements and all that sort of stuff, maybe there it's a phasing approach as opposed to a non-



approach. And then, you know, rather than -- and maybe it's sort of a -- on the cost-of-living, perhaps that's a phasing or perhaps that's a slight reduction. So you know, I think we need to be looking at all of those options as opposed to one or -- one or the other. So that's just my 2 cents, obviously, we're going to get into a lot more discussion on this."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Arrington. And y'all taking notes on what the Commissioners are -- all right."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Madam CFO. As always, very thorough presentation. You know, for me, I am worried about increasing the attrition factor or eliminating vacant positions because the reason that those positions are vacant is because we're not offering enough money. If we are offering -- if we were offering what ICE was offering, we -- hey, those positions would get filled quickly. So you know, I'm concerned about increasing attrition or/and eliminating vacant positions. Elimination of programs, I guess that could be a consideration. But you know, I guess we would have to look at the programs and measure their return and decide whether it makes sense or not. How many people they're reaching, what's the impact of those programs? Limit or eliminate enhancements, I have -- I don't know, but I mean obviously, we're going to have to comply with the consent order. So it sounds like we got \$60 million worth of -- 69 million, I think you said, worth of what the departments have identified as consent order requirements. So I think we -- we have to start there, and everything else kind of has to work around compliance with the consent order. But I think in order to comply with the consent order, we're going to probably have to increase some salaries, and not eliminate -- part of the consent order is staffing up, right? So you know, increasing attrition and eliminating vacant positions won't help us comply with the consent order. Do not provide cost-of-living adjustments, that's going to be tough. But maybe, as Commissioner Ellis said, maybe there's a way to, you know, do it at midyear or something so that it doesn't have the full impact in one year, right? Maybe it starts in July, so we only have half of the impact in 2026. I -- and I think I'll go with what Commissioner Ellis said then, you know, it's two sides of the same coin. Either we have to cut expenses, or we have to increase revenue. And so I would lean more to trying -- towards trying to increase revenue. And I guess, I'm going to have to call the Assessors. You know, heard -- hearing all this stuff about the commercial properties and that not being taxed properly. Now, you know, there's a lot of misinformation. So I mean, even my property is valued at a certain amount, but I'm only assessed at 40 percent of that value. And so I don't know how much information is in there. I'd love to talk to you, Mr. Bolster, about that. But you know, my understanding is that properties are assessed at a -- that it's appraised at a certain value, but it's



assessed at 40 percent of the value. And so I would rather be looking at those revenue opportunities, particularly with commercial properties if that is an available avenue. Higher collection factor, if y'all got somebody that can collect better than Mr. -- our Tax Commissioner Ferdinand, I'd love to meet him. Increase the millage rate, you know, we have maintained that millage rate for at least four years. And we -- you know, I've been here, this is my 11th year. We have decreased it virtually every year, decreased or maintained every year since I've been here. And so we may have to look, unfortunately, at doing that. I remember a couple years ago, though, for purposes of the budget, we assumed a higher millage rate even though we had no intention of adopting it. And so that may also be an option as well, particularly given that on average over the last ten years, we average about \$70 million in surplus, right? So I don't get scared when I see a \$30 million shortfall in the 2026 budget, because I know over the last 11 years, we've had a \$70 million surplus every year. So that doesn't really scare me, because all that means is, then if we have the same \$70 million surplus minus the 30 million, then we'll be at a \$40 million surplus for 2026. So I think we need to think about that as well. You know, the average surplus over those last ten years, you throw that 70 million in there and offset that 30 million by that, then we're -- we're, there's no gap. There's no gap. Or if you assume a higher millage rate based on that, right, even if it's a small increment, 8.88 or 8.89, I don't know what the numbers are and the math. But I think there are ways, again, for budget purposes, to cover that \$30 million gap. And again, the average annual surplus for -- the annual average surplus over the last 11 years it also a great place to start. And I'll stop there."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, County Manager and Madam CFO for a great place to start, like, a good baseline and a lot of good questions asked here. I think it's a little challenging to give direction on all the questions that you have listed without some more data. But I would say in particular on the direction on funding plan for consent order compliance, I think we even need a little, at least for me, I think I would need a little more clarity on, you know, what we have to do and when it would hit. So I think we know, we have to do everything. We also know some of the things aren't going to hit this year. And I know there's a lot to weed through with all the various lists we have of potential expenditures. But I think knowing -- we've also had several times where we've put money in non-agency, waiting for a particular building to, you know, project to begin, and then it didn't begin that year, something like that. So I think on the consent order stuff, it would be good to sort of have some more concrete numbers. And I -- I don't know how quickly you could get those, but because I -- you know, a 30 to \$60 million range is pretty broad. So anyway, I think it would be, you know, I think we have -- we are obligated to do a certain amount on the consent order funding and should, and so must. So that, you know, let's figure out what that amount is for this year and narrow it down. We're going to have to narrow it down for

the budget anyway, right? So let's get that, as much clarity as we can on that. And then I think that is the direction from my perspective. In terms of revenue versus cutting expenditures, and there's only so much we can do in revenue increase, right? We're just talking about increasing the assumption of the -- of the growth rate. And I know that you all didn't pull 2 percent out of the air. I know you guys were telling me yesterday where that number came from, and that's from predictive models of actual growth and of those things. So I think it might be reasonable to push that up a little bit, to sort of, you know, because we haven't been as low as, I think you have it at 2 percent right now; is that right? And I don't think we've been that low for quite some time. That doesn't mean we won't be this time, because it has been coming down for sure. But I think there's probably some, you know, we might want to look at pushing that up a little bit just to see how that changes the outlook. And then making sure we have a contingency, and -- or we know we're, again, is it going to be under runs or what have you? If -- if it comes in at two. You know, I think this is the same thing on the program side. I agree with Commissioner Arrington, I don't think increasing the attrition factor or eliminating vacant positions is the way to go personally. There may be some, and that might be a surgical question versus a chainsaw question. Like, there may be some vacant positions that haven't been filled for multiple years that we want to think about eliminating. But maybe that's not across the board, maybe it's department by department. I would look to you all to recommend some portion of that, if that makes sense where that would be. On the elimination of programs, it's a pretty broad term. And I think the public probably doesn't -- and even for us, like, what does that really mean? What programs, and which ones are even available to be, quote/unquote eliminated? What does that look like? And I think, there again, we would need to hear from you all, well look, these are some of the ones you might want to consider and here's why versus like, us just sort of willy-nilly pointing at a department and saying, we're cutting that program. So I think looking for some specifics on what particular programs could even be cut, what the impact of losing those programs might be. What the -- and what the, you know, money saved would amount to for the ones that potentially could be on the chopping block, as it were. I question the whole into the 2025 expenditure levels only because costs go up. So what does that mean? If the -- do you mean 2025 expenditure levels, plus the additional cost of the contracts and what have you for particular things? So I'm not quite sure, again, what that really means. Is it really 2025 expenditures, or is it 2025 expenditures, plus the necessary increments to pay for supplies. You know, and even basic things, even if it's not contractually, but if the cost of paper has gone up, but they need more paper for their printers, then it's going to cost more to provide the same service. So if we're saying, maintain the exact same service level, then that, that's one thing. But if we're saying the expenditure level, and possibly, we're going to get a service reduction, then I wouldn't really be in support of a service reduction. I'm not going to be supportive of a budget that doesn't include cost-of-living adjustments. I think that, you know, people, including those who work

here, really are concerned with being able to make ends meet. And not keep paying people a cost-of-living adjustment, especially in the current climate, I think is, you know, just now what our employees need. And I think in addition to that, we heard, you know, I sat through the majority of the budget hearings. And I think, you know, we talked about this yesterday that we, you know, we heard from several departments that recruiting and retention was an issue, and I, you know, very much fear that if we stop doing COLAs, even though we still don't even do them every year, but if we stop doing that, then we risk having even greater loss of current employees or difficulty in hiring. So I would really caution against that because of the long-term implications, and you know, the additional -- we all know, I think, if you ever have been a manager or worked in a corporate environment or anything, or even just sort of read about it, that it cost far more to, you know, recruit new people and train them than it does to retain the ones you have. So I think keeping that COLA and taking care of our employees is pretty critical. I would very much like to see models with increased millage rates, as Commissioner Arrington pointed out, that may or may not have to be adopted, but at least to see what does that get us. So maybe there's some combination of creeping the millage rate up a little bit from an assumed perspective and keeping the growth up a little bit, you know, and doing some surgical cuts where necessary or where we could without really hurting our citizens or our own employees. So I think some -- my -- my overall direction, in conclusion, is some combination of all might be the way to get to where we need to go."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah, I agree with Commissioner Barrett that need some more details on programs. But obviously, when we meet one on one, we can ask those -- get those specifics. And I don't expect you to provide us a book here today. I also agree with Commissioner Arrington, the 36.7 million doesn't seem like a scary number to me. But I do see the need to maybe keep the COLAs. If it's been standard every three years that you do some sort of adjustment, I think we need to keep that, as Commissioner Barrett stated, for retention purposes. With all that being said, I'd like to try to maintain the current millage rate. And then a question of consideration might be the new Bill, HB581 that was passed. I don't know if we can factor any of that into additional revenue. That Bill stated that no longer just filing appeal, you get a freeze, you have to win you appeal. So I don't know if that would be an added income to us because they have to win those appeals now. When I spoke with my Board, the Board of Assessors Office this week, they said the appeal rate has been lower than it has been in past years. So I have no idea how we can track or calculate if there's any impact from that Bill that was passed and the lower rate of appeals that are filed this year. And that's pretty much it."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Last thing, I do think, you know, I think it may be more apparent when we -- when we have folks or departments that are coming forward with enhancements, but also think it's relevant for just this -- as an operation as a whole. You know, technology is not a solution for everything, but you know, there are arguably, places where we are behind the curve or there -- they're opportunities for whether -- whether it's AI or whether other, you know, technology mechanisms, which could be deployed. I think also another thing is, we've has sort of a certain assumption around, you know, okay, if we should be providing services all over the place. And you know, we've got -- but we've got data, something that tells us that there's not a lot of people coming and looking for services in certain areas, they'd rather be certain places. And I think there's some anchoring around some of those things, where when people are coming for enhancements, they -- we should be asking them those questions, you know, how -- how should you be thinking about reorienting where you were providing services or end your resources that you have and moving them to places where the people are going and want to see the services. You know, some of that anchoring may be we've got -- we want to have all things in this facility, for example, whereas, you know, people would prefer to come to the edge of the city for services, opposed to get into this piece of -- this downtown area, you know, for hassle factor, et cetera. But I think we need to be asking those questions throughout how folks are allocating their existing resources. You know, I think that's also a conversation we're going to need to get into, you know, relative to the consent decree as well as the Sheriff. We're obviously going to be funding a lot more. I think that there's some challenges that need to be made to him relative to the way he's allocating his resources, which may have some sort of outset on some of those demands related to consent decree. So I think all those questions need to be asked and considered as we're -- we're thinking about all this stuff."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you, Vice Chair. You're about -- Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one more quick thing. One of the things I know we -- we sat, you know, many of our -- us, our staff or us as individuals, Commissioners, sat through the hearings. And most but not all of the departments presented a PowerPoint of what their sort of overall -- I think there were specific questions that you guys asked, and they were answering those questions in those PowerPoints. Could we get copies of all of those? I think it would be helpful as we think about enhancements. And just to make the point I, as everybody knows, but just for the, you know, anybody who's looking or watching this meeting, that enhancements make it sound like they're asking for, you know, like, cake and cookies and parties and things. Enhancements are just things that are not -- that are outside of the base budget. And a lot of the enhancements -- well, I'm not going to say a lot. There is a percentage of the quote/unquote enhancement requests that have been

asked for year after year after year, and have not been granted. So -- and they include having additional staff in order to be more efficient. They include technology that might make things more efficient, things like that. So I think it's a fallacy for the public to think of those as just extras, because they're really not. Some may -- in some cases, they may be, but in some cases, they really are not. So anyway, just wanted to make that point, but also to request those documents. And I don't know if you guys also were able to share the dashboard information that you were providing to them at all at this point, but that would be great as well."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Barrett, we are working on pulling all of that together into a document to share with the Board."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Great, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Other comments or questions at this time?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** "No response."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Nobody said anything about lunch. Y'all ready to -- okay, I shouldn't have brought it up. All right. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and also Executive Sessions. Executive Session items deal in litigation, real estate, and personnel. Motion to do so by Commissioner Ivory. It was seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote, please."

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

**Recessed for Executive Session at 1:03 p.m.**

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**Resumed Regular Session at 2:03 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Without objection, ladies and gentlemen, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam County Attorney, items from Executive Session."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item 3 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 9, **25-0826**, Human Resources Management request approval of a Resolution amending resolution 25-0314, to clarify the eligible employees selected for participation in the Childcare Pilot Program may be reimbursed for childcare payments made directly by the eligible employee or by other members of the employee's household."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 10, **25-0827**, Information Technology request approval of a statewide contract in the amount of \$500,000 to provide telecommunication services and products countywide."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0828**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval of a statewide contract in the total amount of \$145,000 to provide fuel card management services."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0829**, Request approval of a statewide contracts for tires, new tires and retread tubes in the total amount not to exceed \$105,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0830, Request approval to increase spending authority in the amount not to exceed \$200,000 to cover the costs associated with increased volume and heavy equipment repairs."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0831, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for janitorial services in an amount not to exceed \$533,743."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote.

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 11, 25-0832, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for generator system maintenance and repair services in an amount not to exceed \$135,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Cast your vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0833, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in the amount of \$200,000 to purchase building materials, hardware, tools, paint, and roofing materials."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0834, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in a total amount not to exceed \$150,000 to provide delivery copy paper and related office supplies."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Have a favorable motion by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Cast your vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **25-0835**, Public Works request approval of an intergovernmental agreement between Fulton County and the city of Roswell for water distribution services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "A favorable motion by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0836**, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for laboratory testing services in an amount not to exceed \$165,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A favorable motion by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0837**, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for fire hydrant maintenance and repairs in the amount not to exceed \$300,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote. Clerk?"

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 12, **25-0838**, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for water meter testing and repairs in an amount not to exceed \$218,650."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0839, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for standby utility pavement, patching and paving services in an amount not to exceed \$368,045."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0840, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities request approval of a MOU with Grady Health System for the purpose of continuing integrating strategies to provide medication-assisted outpatient treatment and substance abuse."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to adopt by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Vice Chair, Ellis, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just a quick question. I just want to verify, we're using funds from the opioid settlement, as opposed to general fund money on this one, right?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, that's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Great, thanks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And that will leave how much in the opioid settlement, about right at 300,000? 300 -- 3 million, rather?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir, I believe that's correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. No, three, 3 million, yeah."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes, unanimously with Commissioner Arrington."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0841, Request approval of an MOU with Atlanta/Fulton County Policing Alternatives Division Initiative to resume financial support for delivery of pre-arrest diversion services in the amount of \$400,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ivory, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just -- I wanted just -- we had been having some conversations about -- oh, I'm so glad you're here. I want to first say,

make clear that I 100 percent fully support pre-arrest diversion services and the work that PAD is doing in our community. And you know, I know that this is needed and it reduces the strain on our justice system. But I wanted to clarify this contract, because I had a great conversation with the executive team and with the County Manager about our -- a little bit of confusion that we have in the core services between the Diversion Center and PAD. And this may have come up before, but I just wanted to get clarity on it. What does this specific contract that we're going on right now cover? Are we talking primarily about operational support, or does it include those itemized services like transportation, cards, and things like that?"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Latrina Foster, Director of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities. As it relates to the \$400,000 request for policing alternatives and diversions, the \$400,000 is utilized for client support only, which means it covers transportation, MARTA cards. It covers clothing, it call -- it covers emergency housing, shelters, things of that nature to assist the individual that we're serving, to ensure that they have the necessary resources."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay. And can you just help us to better understand how PAD's work differs from the Diversion Center?"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Yes. So PAD, Policing Alternatives and Diversion, started off with Fulton County, a partnership between the city of Atlanta and Fulton County as a pilot. Initially, PAD was a community response team, and they would, instead of the Police Officers taking someone to jail, had the option to call the PAD team. As time went on, as a result of our Justice and Mental Health Task Force, from there, there were recommendations to create a Diversion Center where the Police Officers no longer had to wait for a PAD member to meet them at a gas station, at a restaurant, to intervene with the individual that the Police Officer was currently dealing with. So the Diversion Center was birthed out of the Justice and Mental Health Task Force that went on for several years, it was one of the recommendations. PAD continues to provide community response interventions, so they are triaged to the community by 311, and they also receive referrals from the Diversion Center staff. The Diversion Center only receives diversions from Police Officers. They cannot receive diversions from an individual. I can't drop an individual off at the Diversion Center, only a Police Officer can. But PAD can be triaged out to a scene to assist someone that's in need."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "So --"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "I hope I provided you with clarity."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yeah. I'm -- I'm figuring it out in my head. Because I think you said that PAD was originally started as like a pilot program to the Diversion Center."

But it does seem that it takes two different paths, in that a PAD call comes from a inbound into the community pickup versus a Diversion Center drop off, which can only happen from a Police Officer. Although, it seemed like when the pilot program for PAD was started, that it would then feed into sort of what the Diversion Center has become; is that not correct? Because there seems to be differing views of whether or not -- not whether the services are needed, but whether they're duplicative in a way that could be fixed so that it's just one service and not sort of two that have two different lines, two different reportings and things like that. And I've heard that from different entities."

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "So as it relates to PAD having the ability to respond to the community, I think is imperative --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay."

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** -- that if a community member calls 311, they will have someone that is triaged to the scene immediately, right --

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Eliminating the interaction with the Police Officer --"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Altogether."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay, got that."

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Altogether."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay. Okay, so I think that's -- I think that's hugely important. Do we -- when we were in discussions with the County Manager's team about this item and we talked, we sort of went through the items like the transportation cards and all of the things that PAD uses, we talked about how when we found that the Diversion Center was being underutilized, that we don't really have a measurement for figuring out whether or not PAD is being underutilized or whether -- where those resources are going. So do we currently receive regular reports on PAD's outcomes, the number of diversions through PAD, the follow-up services, the success rates? Is there some kind of report from PAD?"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Yes, ma'am. And we can -- I'll be happy to provide you with a report --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Excellent."

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "-- on PAD's performance."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay, excellent. Then I'd would love to -- I can't wait to get that. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Yeah, I guess my questions were going to be similar to Commissioner Ivory's in as far as, are there any duplication of services, right? Because it -- I remember the last meeting, we were talking about the underutilization of the new Detention Center, right? And so, you know, when I saw this on the agenda, I'm like, wait a minute, we've got 5 million going to the Diversion Center, and we got 400,000 going to PAD. And somehow we need to find a way to make this all make sense and come together under one roof. And I was at the South Fulton Municipal Association meeting. And a lot of the Council Members and Mayors were unaware of PAD. And so we told them that we would be reaching out. I know Jessica was there, and she was going to reach out to them. But A lot of the Council Members and Mayors in the South Fulton cities were unaware of PAD, and were happy to learn about it, and to the extent that they wanted their own Diversion Center in South Fulton. And I was saying, well, hey, the one we have now is underutilized. I don't know how we'd spend money on the second one, and we're underutilizing the first one. But they were excited about the opportunity. So hopefully, we can get together with PAD and the Diversion Center, especially if we're spent -- I mean, like, I don't even know why we need money -- why we need this 400,000. This 400,000 ought to be coming from the 5 million that we're not using from the Diversion Center, right? Like, why -- Mr. Manager, why we're not using this -- why aren't we using the under runs and the 5 million from the Diversion Center to finance?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Very good question. And one of the things that -- and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman will -- can support this. They came up at the last Justice Policy Board meeting, is taking 100,000 each from Atlanta and from us, from our collective 2.5 million that we committed to Diversion Center, and use that to support a program of co-responders, including a Behavioral Health Specialist -- I'll probably mangle this, where funding had gone away that had previously been provided by ARPA. We reached out to the COO of Atlanta. She considered it, and in the end, agreed to allocate 100,000 of their 2.5 million, and we would add 100,000 of our 2.5, since we were not utilizing those funds in total. It's a good question that I hadn't really thought of, Commissioner, at the Justice Policy Board level, to reallocate further from the 2.5, I'm not sure why it couldn't be done is the honest answer."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I mean because it -- if it's truly that much of an under run and we're nowhere near using our 2.5 and they're nowhere near using their 2.5, I mean, again, I'm happy to support pre-arrest diversion. But you know, we got two pots of money that we're pulling from, and really maybe it ought to be in the same pot or coming from the same pot, which would free up more money to put in reserves?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just one point of clarity, our Diversion Center operates countywide."

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Correct?"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Unless this contract changed, PAD only operates within the construct of the city of Atlanta."

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Correct? So this is really more of a shared contract, which we're contributing to. What's the amount that the city of Atlanta is contributing to this contract?"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "So at this time, I'm not aware of what the new amount that the city of Atlanta is contributing to PAD, standalone, outside of the Diversion Center."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Was that your question, Commissioner Ellis, or to the Diversion Center?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "No, to PAD."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Right. I --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Should we hold this now, and y'all get some of the stuff sorted out?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Because I don't think we have that answer. But we can follow up and find out, because there's a great deal of conjecture about that in the --"

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- city of Atlanta last year. And I don't know what the final number is --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "As well as this allocation figure -- I'd -- okay, I'll offer a substitute motion to hold."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Can we have some discussion on that?"



**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "That's fine."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'd just like to know the timing, and if, you know, is it something that's needed --"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "No. No, sir --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "It's for next year."

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "-- this is a renewal for 2026."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I got a substitute motion to hold by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Any discussion on that? Commissioner -- hold on -- Commissioner Barrett, you want -- on the sub -- on the motion to hold, you want to be heard? Commissioner Thorne, you want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah. If you could research further if we allocated for a mental health official to travel. Because I know a lot of the cities in North Fulton already do that. So we'll be reimbursing or funding Atlanta's program and not -- other entities might want to say that --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- they would like to have their's funded as well."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The substitute motion on the floor is to hold. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you still --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, I'll be brief."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I just want to make sure for the listening public, because sometimes when we have elected officials saying certain things, it becomes cross, as though these are serving the same need, and these are serving different needs. For instance, when Councilwoman -- what is the one that just won the Chair? Kaya. She called me because there was a pregnant woman at the carwash with twins sitting out in the carwash. The police had already been around there. She wasn't breaking any law or anything, but it was a concern to the community. I immediately called PAD. PAD dispatch went and found her, found out it was kind of a domestic violence situation. Somebody had put her out of their car with the baby, and she was pregnant. So PAD immediately got her housing, even though it was temporary that night. Police Officer really couldn't do anything with that because she wasn't committing a crime. There was no diversion. So we want to be crystal clear what PAD does and

what the Diversion -- and if we're going to hold this, Vice Chair, which I have no problem with holding this. But I will ask that we would have PAD come here and tell this Body what it is that they do. Because I think there's some misunderstanding, and there's some lumping of stuff together that really should not be lumped together, because PAD does something totally different. It does work with the Diversion Center, but PAD does something totally different. And the hours that they're accessible, the people that they send out, and the different situations that they deal with. I mean, some situations, I can't even bring to life, but they went out scenes where someone didn't have any clothes on. And they had to take clothes out there to them. And I know that don't seem like a big deal to somebody. But if you have a restaurant owner, and it's a naked woman behind his restaurant, he's trying to figure out what to do and calling the police. And so I would only ask from my fellow colleagues, if we're going to do this and hold it, let's bring PAD in so PAD can tell us what to do. Thank you, Chairman."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "What they do."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The substitute motion on the floor is to hold. Commissioner Arrington, you want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, just briefly, because not only -- I'm fine with PAD coming and hearing from PAD. But it's not, to me, it's not just PAD or just the Diversion Center. It's that PAD and the Diversion Center and our executive team need to be talking so we can -- it sounds like we don't need to be allocating \$2.9 million. We might be able to get all this done for 2.5 or \$2 million. And so, you know, I'm fine with PAD coming, but we -- like, there's PAD and there's a Diversion Center, and there's understanding the differences between two. And then there's also coming up with the plan to make it make sense, so that we're just not throwing money out the right pocket and out the left pocket."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Sorry. I was going to try to hold off, but I do have a couple just for clarification. The PAD is a standalone entity at this point. Is it a -- is it a nonprofit? What's the structure of PAD as an organization?"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "It's nonprofit."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So it's a 501(c)(3)?"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, okay. So, and just to be, you know, for continued clarity, that PAD predates the Diversion Center by a number of years --"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- and it is, at least from when I last toured, which has been a minute, they are -- they were like at capacity, and had to expand in terms of their services, and weren't able to do round the clock and some things like that. But they were not sort of struggling to have enough people to -- they're meeting a need, basically is what I'm getting at, not the other way around. And so I would hate to see us -- I'm happy to hold if it helps us get clarity on where the funding source should come from. But I don't think we should reduce funding to them by any means. I think they need the funding, and I think they're doing great work. And I think whether or not the city -- how much the city of Atlanta does or does not give, while certainly good information have, this is not -- they're -- they would be giving independently to a 501(c)(3) as we are, correct? Am I getting that wrong? So I think that, that shouldn't hold us up, I guess is my point, whether they are or they're not or how much there are. And the third -- last part is that they do, the 311 connection that is the city funded, 311 is city funded; is that right?"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Yes, I believe 311 is funded by the city."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah. And those calls go straight to them --"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- during the hours that they're available, correct? No, please go ahead, Ms. Foster."

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "I was going to say the calls, yes, goes to 311, and then 311 will --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Diverts --"

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "-- reach out to --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah."

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "-- the PAD representative --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Not -- doesn't transfer, but calls them, yeah, got it. Okay. I just wanted be clear, because I think, I certainly appreciate what my colleagues are saying about us having a comprehensive, like, here's all the things we're doing for diversion. There's this type, there's that type, there's other cities doing XYZ, and having a more comprehensive look at that, and maybe a funding source that we know in total how much we're spending on diversion. But I would hate to see us take anything away from what PAD is doing, because I think they're serving a lot of people and we need -- we need them in the mix."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Anything else? All right, the substitute motion is to hold. Let's vote."

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

**LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, DBHDD:** "Thank you, Commissioners."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioners' Action Items, **25-0755**, Request approval of a Resolution to increase the compensation paid to each member of the Fulton County Boards of Equalization from \$100 per day to \$150 per day; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "A motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, Colleagues, I would just ask that, that you support this. Again, I spoke with the Clerk of Superior Court. Originally, I think it was a request to take it to 200, but the Clerk says she would support it going to 150. And so hopefully, you guys will -- will support this, to make sure that the people on our Board of Equalization who are helping us get our budget, will continue to work and continue to serve, and that we don't -- so that we don't have attrition, and that we don't have to eliminate any of their positions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Any other comments? Let's vote. I'm sorry, Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "But when you spoke with the Clerk, did she indicate that she was willing to fund that increase within the confines of her current budget?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, no. I think she said it could come out of the diversion money we were just talk about. That's my recollection."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. You answered my question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, let's vote, please."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0842**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2 of the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to the Code of Ethics,

regarding a preliminary process for Commissioners who seek to file ethics complaints against other Commissioners; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I have motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I was just going to hold this in the interest of time, because my time is limited today, and this isn't urgent."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, all right. We'll, without objection, we'll hold it at the request of the author. Next."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 13, **25-0843**, Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager to include a report on Animal Services in Fulton County in each quarterly operation report beginning January 1st, 2026; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I think I was still in there from earlier --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Oh, sorry."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- from the last one. But Commissioner Thorne, I'm happy to work with you on that, but I, unfortunately, I can't support any -- I'm -- there are a lot of changes that need to be done with the Ethics Board and Ethics Code. And I'm happy to go through all of them with you. But until we talk about that, until we -- until we do that --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner, I -- I think you're on 0842, which we're holding."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, but I was in the queue on 0842."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, okay, sorry."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. 0843 now is before us. Is there a motion, 0843? Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ivory."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair. I bring this forward as an item that I've had discussion with the County Management team to begin including quarterly

updates from Animal Services in the county's operation -- operational report starting next year. These updates would include relevant data from both the shelter and field operations, things like intake numbers, adoptions, community engagement efforts and response time. I'm doing it because we get a lot of constituent questions about how Animal Services is performing. And I think this would give the Board and the public a more clearer picture of the work being done and where we can continue to improve, especially since we've been in the spotlight with, you know, some very horrific activities. So transparency in this area not only helps us identify where additional support might be needed, but also highlights the good work our staff and volunteers are doing every single day. So County Manager Anderson, I'd just like to ask, is this a reasonable and manageable request for your team?"

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay. Well, thank you so much. I know your team already prepares a thorough operational report for the Board, so I wanted to make sure that this addition is something that can be integrated in smoothly, and I think we discussed that. So I thank you. This is a viable lift. I think it would be an important step toward keeping both the Board and the community better informed about our animal welfare efforts, and I hope my colleagues will support it."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Commissioner Ivory. I just wanted to say, I seconded and I'm going to support it. I don't necessarily know that we needed a Resolution to do this, because I sort of think that we were already going down this path of, A, making some changes around animal control, but also, you giving us more frequent updates. That said, I think, also, just wanted to point out that per some of the earlier presentations that I think Madam CFO gave, or you, Mr. County Manager, I forget now, I like the idea of including a lot more departmental updates. And I do think we need to do everything we can for transparency. So I, you know, I'll support this as written. I think it fits into what you are already working on."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any other comments? Vote."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0844**, Request approval of a Resolution to create a Commercial Property Assessment Task Force to provide input to the members of the Board of



Commissioners, in collaboration with the Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors and its staff on the valuation of commercial properties; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ivory, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. I'm again bringing forward an item to establish a task force of subject matter experts appointed by this Board to provide insight and public education about Fulton County's commercial appraisal process. This has been something that has been communicated to me by many residents of District 4, a real desire to better understand how commercial properties are appraised and how those values affect the overall tax base. The goal here is not to question or second guess our professional appraisal staff. I have tremendous confidence in their work and their integrity of our process, and met with that staff this past week for a great many number of hours to better understand how this could further their -- their things that they need help in. Instead, this task force is about clarity and communication. The commercial appraises process is complicated and driven by state law, and most residents simply want to understand how those calculations are made and how they impact county revenue. This group would not help translate that process -- this group would help translate that process into clear, accessible information the public can trust. The bylaws for this task force will be developed in coordination with our County Attorney's Office, and the focus will be strictly educational and explanatory. As the sole commissioner who voted to raise the millage rate this year, I take seriously my responsibility to ensure that all our tax bases, residential, commercial, and otherwise are being utilized accurately and fairly. Our county is in real need of resources, and we owe it to our taxpayers to demonstrate that every property class is paying its fair share in line with state standards. I also want to acknowledge that the 2024 state audit confirmed Fulton County's appraisals are consistent with state requirements and estimates. That's important validation, and it's exactly the kind of information this task force can help digest and communicate to the public in a way that builds trust and understanding. So again, this is not a check on our appraisal team, but it's a bridge between their technical work and our residents' right to understand it. It's fair, transparent, middle ground that supports both our staff and our community. And I hope that my colleagues can support it. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seconded it, mostly because I wanted to make sure we had an opportunity to talk about this, which I -- and I do think it's a very important issue, and I appreciate you bringing it to the agenda for discussion and action, Commissioner Ivory. I think we do need to have some additional communication to the public beyond what we currently have to clarify the processes, the

difference between how commercial property is appraised versus residential property by law, by state law. And I appreciate the information you just read. I think Commissioner Ivory is talking about the work that the Assessors' Office does. I think there is a lot of confusion, and it would be helpful if we had a good way to clear it up. That said -- and to correct any problems if they exist, right? But I do think a task force is -- I don't necessarily think this is the best way to go. I think it's provide -- you know, sort of creating another layer of administration and people who won't really have the power to do a whole lot. And standing that up is going to take time, bylaws creation, meeting time, staff time to make that happen. I just don't know -- I think there just might be an easier way to get to the transparency without a task force. So, you know, I'd like to see us do something, but I'm not quite sure this is the right avenue."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I would concur with a lot of the things that were expressed by Commissioner Barrett. Yeah, one thing that I do think would be good for us to consider, and we just sort of talked about this relative to Animal Services. So I won't do this in a Resolution, I'll just ask, you know, we -- we've had a history in terms of, you know, kind of this Board having some disagreements with our Tax Assessors over time, and I've -- I've been front and center on that some years ago. But one of the things we did, sort of coming out of that, in that we got away from, is we had the Assessors and/or the Board coming down and talking with us on a consistent basis. And you know, in one year, it was, I want to say, monthly, we had them come down. I don't think it's necessarily we need that now, but this shouldn't -- this shouldn't just be a discussion that takes place right at the point in time that we're discussing our millage rate and/or assessments are going out, because that's not the time where we're going to effectively get anything done. We're just going to be pointing fingers at each other. So I would recommend that we start a process while we're having -- and have a member of the Board of Assessors, plus, you know, the Assessors themselves, come down and provide us with, you know, an update and give us the opportunity to ask questions. And I think it also will start to inform, you know, kind of the specific things that we're hearing from constituents relative to communications needs. I mean, for example, one of the things that we identified was that we had clear gaps in communication relative to homestead exemptions. And you know, we really changed the narrative on that significantly. And many of you and many of us up here have done town halls on that. We've been consistent about it, and really sort of turned all people -- there are people from a residential standpoint that are still not, maybe not necessarily, happy about their residential assessments, that -- that discussion has been tremendously more balanced than where it was eight, nine years ago. And I think we can get there on this commercial property side. It has some different nuances to it and some different complexities to it. Freight -- you know, fewer properties, much wider span in terms of values and so forth. And some, you know, I

don't know -- correct -- you know, some difference of sort of, you know, wide range of perceptions on some of these things in terms of how they're supposed to be valued. But I think that would be a great place for us to start with these quarterly, minimally quarterly discussions, and then, you know, get one scheduled sooner rather than later, so that we can start having a dialogue around the things that are on our mind. And citizens can hear that, and that's going to foster more questions, more accountability, and likely a better result, you know as we move forward. So I would recommend that course of action. I know we've heard, also heard from our Board of Assessors and Assessors assessment staff that they don't feel that this a way to go either in terms of getting us -- having us see a trajectory of improvement, as well as I've heard from. Some people have been very vocal about this area as being under assessed that they don't -- they don't feel like that this is, you know, the best measure to get at these things, either. So I just think it's a valid issue for us to continue to have. And we need to have some more aggressive conversation around and foster some more accountability and transparency and potential improvement. But I don't -- I don't think a task force is necessarily the way to go -- the way to go about doing that."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I guess I'm supportive of this idea in general. And I think that we do need to have these conversations, particularly given, you know, even the comments that we heard today from Mr. Bolster about commercial property. I think it's really valuations and assessments. And I think sometimes we and the public get confused between the difference between those two different things, the valuation and the assessment. My understanding is that the valuation is virtually the appraisal of the property, the value of the property, whereas the assessment is the amount that is taxed, right? So when \$100,000 property is assessed at 40 percent of that 100,000 value, so you pay taxes on that, on 40,000, not on the full 100,000. And so I think we need to certainly have clarity around that issue. I do want to echo Commissioner Barrett's concerns with these task force and committees. It's kind of a double-edged sword, right? Because if -- the problem that we have, we don't really have the staff and the resources to support the task forces and committees like we really should. But if we don't put this in place, then I don't know how we get back -- I don't know how we get back to it, or how it gets back on the agenda. I mean, frankly, you know, I love to have Mr. Conley maybe come down and talk about this at the next meeting. I don't know, Mr. Manager, if you could put him on the agenda, or if I need to, or one of the Commissioners need to put him on the agenda. But we need to talk about it, because I mean, if there's just a misunderstanding between valuation and assessment, then that's an easy fix, right, and then we don't need a task force. If it's just making a -- educating the public to let them know the difference between the valuation and the assessment, it's a real easy fix. I think it's more than that, and I think we could benefit from having taxpayers and experts in the community at least make recommendations to us that

maybe we can add to our legislative agenda, or maybe that we could provide to have Fulton Delegation, right? Obviously going to be too late for this year's session, but, you know, I think there's value in both. But you know, like Commissioner Barrett said, I remember we tried to do -- when we did the Reparations Task Force, we couldn't even get Commissioners to nominate people. They couldn't -- they didn't have a quorum, they couldn't move forward, they had to do bylaws. It took two years to get it populated. And so I'm supportive of the idea in general. I wonder if we could maybe hold this until after the -- the next meeting, and maybe after we hear from Mr. Conley, to see, you know, what his thoughts are on this. And then have you talked to him? And yeah --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- I'd love to hear what he had to say."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yeah, so we had a meeting with him on Wednesday several hours, my -- our team. And -- oh, Tuesday, was it -- I'm sorry, it couldn't be Wednesday, because today is Wednesday. Tuesday, and very informative. And he also, too, shared some of the concerns about what would -- that I also shared with the County Manager that he wanted to make sure it wasn't an extra layer of, you know -- you know, oversight on him. And that's not at all on what it is, but more to what you're saying, that the -- this is all in reply to the constituents, saying, somebody explain this to us, like, what -- how do other counties do it, that are similar to us? And we certainly don't have the resources, nor does his group -- and he's here right now, nor does his already understaffed department have the resources to start doing sort of an education campaign for constituents. So we wanted to -- we expressed to him that we would want to do that and take that on. So I know task force seems to have like, a bad, you know, a little bit of a, ewe, what are they going to do? Who's going to be on it? All of that kind of stuff, whatever. But it's really like a working group to better help and be more transparent for -- from them to the constituents. And that's really the intent of where I was going with that, and at the request of my constituents in District 4, where many of the properties that they are always raising as objectionable lie."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. You made a substitute motion to hold?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I did, but Mr. Conley is here. I was holding so we could hear from Mr. Conley. I was holding so we can hear from Mr. Conley, and he showed up. But I'm happy to hold or hear from him now."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which one? You have no objection to hold it?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "No. I have no objection to hear from him --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "How about you just give us a brief update. And maybe we can still hold, and you can give us just your understanding of what's going on, and we, maybe we can talk and before we bring it back and try to make it make sense for everybody. Mic, yeah, you got to turn the mic on. There we go."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "Can you hear me?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, sir."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "Good afternoon, Chairman. Good afternoon, Commissioners. Roderick Conley, Chief Appraiser of the Board of Assessors. We have received some feedback, some concerns from taxpayers. And we main -- we remain open to consideration to some of their feedbacks and the thoughts that they share with us. Thank you, Commissioner Ivory, for your mentioning of the audits and the standards that staff has worked hard to make -- ensure that they met. To your point, Mr. Arrington, I believe there are some fundamental misunderstandings. Again, we remain open to having dialogue, and we have, and we will continue. But I do think continue or increase outreach may also be a way for us to kind of bridge some of those gaps, if that makes sense."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yes, thank you. And I do -- I do think that makes sense. I have no problem with holding."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Arrington, you still have the floor. You're going to make that motion?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. Motion to hold."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Commissioner Barrett, you still want to be heard? All right, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "While I certainly appreciate the idea of holding to keep the conversation going, I'm not sure I'm going to be on board with the task force as a Resolution. That said, I would like to keep the conversation going. So -- and make sure that we get somewhere. And I appreciate you coming down, Mr. Conley. I want to say, first of all that I think you guys do a really good job on the outreach that you currently do for residents. When we did our town hall, and I know a lot of my colleagues have done town halls jointly with your department to help explain assessments and appeals and all the things, and I think you guys do a good job of that. And so I think it might be worth trying to put some kind of slideshow together, or something that kind of explains the difference, at least at a high level on how commercial versus residential are appraised, that you have various methods, how those methods are chosen, which departments are the -- you know, who's your oversight department? Where the laws come from? And the rules of the different bodies that interact, the Board of Equalization, the Board of

Assessors, where do we fit in as Commissioners? Where does state law fit in, right? And then also I think, you know, there is -- there are a lot of reasons that properties appear to be assessed at a lower value than people think they should be. And I think even sort of laying some of that out in terms of, is it an abatement because of a Development Authority deal? Is it multiple -- multiple parcels? Is it -- you know, is it a freeze that went on that now maybe won't happen again because of the changes around 299(c)? So I think it would just be helpful to kind of almost have like a, you know, like an infographic that explains all the different pieces and parts. Because I think what happens in the -- in the public dialogue is that it just becomes a very high-level conversation of, my home, I'm assessed at 90 percent of my value or appraised at 90 percent of my -- assessed at 90 percent of my value and somebody else at, you know, a commercial property only at 50 percent. And there -- there's not, the nuance isn't built into that rhetoric, if you will. So I just think the more we can do to be transparent, and maybe it's this thing where we all then go out with you to our various constituencies to sort of help spread the message of how it works. The other thing I think happens, and we've been hearing this, it was from as soon as I -- when I was running, I was aware of this issue, and then since I got here, and I know a lot of people have talked about it and worked on it over the years. But there are certain sort of properties that keep coming up as examples. And it might be good to just, like, sort of address those very specifically, not all of them, because could take you -- that's like a whole other job. But to pick certain ones at least, and sort of show your work, essentially, this is why it's this way --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Commissioner Barrett, can I just -- just tell you this one thing that, that is what he's done already. He has -- he has -- oh, I'm sorry."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Well, that's what he has done many, many times in the town halls, and even in a --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "No --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- in a breakdown of let's say, Ponce City Market, for example, has done a whole breakdown, and it hasn't been satisfactory for the public."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. But I think that it has to be ongoing. It can't be just -- because, you know, only a handful of people come to a town hall. And you know, word is, sort of people are -- spread the word, and they spread that sort of high-level messaging. So if that's -- if there's a way to make that -- and I just -- that's sort of continuing, what -- what Vice Chair Ellis said. If there's regular updates, and some, you know, data, this is how many appeals we have, whatever it is, that we just continue to keep the messaging and for, you know, in the forefront for folks. That we, we are aware, we're paying attention, and we're -- we're providing you the sort of real



information. I'm just saying what -- but for what I'm hearing from my constituents, and what they're not aware of and lacking and all of that, and as many times as we explain it, it's complicated. So we need you guys to kind of be the ones to do the explaining, I think. That's -- that was my only point. All that to say, I think another suggestion might be -- because I know you guys are busy, you know, we have Mr. Nawrocki as an example, who interacts with Justice, and sort of acts as that liaison. It may be that somebody just needs to, sort of, from, you know, from your side, be the liaison, as opposed to having a whole task force in the middle that there's somebody that's specific -- and you may already have that too."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "We do."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But you know, that is producing those kind of -- that kind of data and reporting."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "The one thing -- the one thing I don't want to get lost in this, is like, we -- we have a group of people that we appoint --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- right? And they are our task force. They are, you know, these citizen representatives, through us, collectively nominated. And I'm perfectly fine to hear from Mr. Conley. I do think that's great. But I think they need to be part of that as well, right? And because they are -- they need to be representing, you know, they're like any other board, right? I mean, they're -- they're hiring, they're hiring you, right?"

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "You know, they're providing you feedback with the way that they -- things are going and things that we need to think about improving upon, just like we would with our own staff. And so I think that needs to be part of the process for us communicating directly with them, and it being more in a public forum, as opposed to just random. So, you know, when we have you come down here, I want to see, you know, both you and you know, whether it's the full board, doesn't have to be the full board but you know, a representative from there. And -- and it might be good for us to have, you know, maybe one meeting a year where we have a joint meeting, right? I mean, that's something -- but it minimally, you know, when we do a quarterly update, let's have folks from both sides be down here. Because I do think there is -- there are some open opportunities for certain things that folks feel like they're not being -- being heard on, and that board taking action on or being responsive back to them, you know? So it's not necessarily always just -- just like we wouldn't say, hey, you know -- you know, our Manager didn't do a good job explaining it, our citizens expect us to be able

to explain it as a -- as elected folks. So in turn, you know, for the folks that we have on the Members of the Board of Assessors, we expect them to be able to explain some of the stuff back to us when we call an asking questions. Not that they -- you know, and by in large, maybe that happens most of time. But we -- I think that there are some opportunities for all of that to get better and collectively this thing get to a better space than where it is right now, whether that manifests itself in significant changes in valuation or not, would remain to be seen. You know, but at a minimum, we need to get to a point where we've got, you know, as high of degree of the confidence from the public on where we are with commercial assessments as we do what residential assessments, and clearly we're not there at this point in time."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, I'll be brief. Thank you, Mr. Conley, for coming. I just want to go on record. I'm not supporting this. And the reason I'm not supporting this, I feel as though we can get to where we need to be without this. I think you, since you've been here, you've made some incredible strides to educate people and to get them to understand how the process work. I'm a big person that believes is staying in my lane. I want the County Manager to work in his lane. I want everybody, including you, to be in your lane. That doesn't mean that we can't have a conversation about communication. We can have a conversation about some things. But I think sometimes, especially in my opinion, this is a hot-button issue. It's an issue that's going to come up when certain individuals are running for office. It is what it is. We deal with it every year. However, I'm one that looks or wants to look at government running smoother and less convoluted, less trying to add another layer as opposed to dealing with what we have now. And so I understand what this may be trying to get to. I don't think it's the correct vehicle. So I just want to publicly say to you and the maker of it, I can't support this. I think we got a better way of doing this. And I want to thank you for what you and your staff does. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay, yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Appraiser Conley, I want to just say thank you for the amount of time that you took the other day to sit down with us and go through this thoroughly. You know that anytime I put something forward, I've researched it thoroughly, and have asked all the questions. And I'm glad that by the time we left that meeting, you were in support of this, because it could do something to help out. But I'm fine whether a Resolution passes or not, to continue doing the work that my constituents asked me to do, and that's what this came from, as I had shared with you. You know exactly who those constituents are. So we will continue to do the work. And then I just wanted to say thank you to the County Manager, who I also had a long conversation with about this, and felt that this could be helpful as well. But it

doesn't matter whether we pass this, hold it, or don't do it. We'll just continue to figure out solutions for how to get the information to the constituents so that they can better understand it. And my office, you know, both my Chief of Staff and my Deputy Chief of Staff, three lawyers at your -- at your disposal, along with the County Attorney to try to figure out how to make what is complicated language much easier for the citizens to understand. Because town halls have not fixed this problem, the Board of Assessors has not fixed this problem for a long time. And so it really was just an intent to make a clearer. So let's just keep the conversation open, and we can keep talking about."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "Understood. And thank you guys for you feedback. Thank you for your continued support. As you know, this is not a conversation that started overnight. It's been going on for quite some time."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yeah."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "Again, and I look forward to working with you guys, so we can make sure we get the message out."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thanks so much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "See you at our next meeting. Lot of what's been discussed, we're already working on. But that's here nor there. All right, next item. Huh? Yeah, I'm sorry. Motion on the floor is to hold. Thank you."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0790**, External Affairs presentation and approval of the 2026 Legislative Agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. As she's -- she's coming up, they are coming up. Some of you are aware that the son of our Lobbyist, Speaker Terry Coleman, his son died unexpectedly this week. So, yeah, anyway. And then secondly, before we adjourn today, let me give a shout out to, I think is unanimous, to our Board of Elections for another election that was well run. I give us another A-plus for the way the one yesterday was connected, so -- conducted, rather. So Ms. Nadine Williams is not here today, but if she's listening, we can certainly communicate with her how proud we are of the work they're doing. Okay."

(Commissioners Applause.)

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you for that, Mr. Chairman. And of course, we're keeping the Coleman family in our prayers. We will --

at the last meeting, we spent a lot of time and reviewed all the items in great detail. Today, Mr. Chairman, typically the Board chooses to approve our legislative priorities item by item. So that's -- that's up to you, of course, but that's what you've done in the past. So I just wanted to mention that. We're going to go through these pretty quickly. There are a couple that we will make a few notes about just based on questions we've had over the last couple of weeks. And of course, if there are any questions, please stop us. So first one, so Chairman, I'm assuming you would like to continue to vote item by item -- okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But quickly."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes. We're going to do it the easy way today. All right, next slide, please. This is just a recap. Next. Part -- policy priority, Justice resources, additional Judgeship for Superior Court and Judicial Officers. And again, we reviewed these at the last meeting in great detail. Any --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I am adamantly against this. I am adamantly against Senate Bill 10. So I don't know how anyone else is going to vote --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Would you --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- but I, again, have had horrible, horrible encounters and interactions over the last 29 years with Judicial Officers and Judicial Assistants, who are not reportable or accountable to the general public. I am absolutely adamantly against Judicial Officers. I understand we need more Judges. I understand our Judges are overworked. But this is not the answer. And Colleagues, I implore you, please do not support this."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner Arrington, would you like to bifurcate this item, which includes both the additional Superior Court Judgeship as well as the Judicial Officers?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, yes. We do, yes. Because the only part I'm opposed to is Senate Bill 10, definitely I'm fine with --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "So the first priority, then would be additional, seeking support for additional full-time Superior Court Judgeship."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess we need to vote --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I can't make the motion, Chairman --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So what do you want to -- you want a vote on each one?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That's what I -- again, it's really up to you, but that's what you all have done in the past."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Yes, we -- yeah, just a -- the -- yeah."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Just for clarity purposes, this is one the Superior Court, additional Superior Court Judge?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, Commissioner, thank you for that."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. The next would be support for Senate Bill 10, which would authorize the Chief Judge to appoint up to five Judicial Officers."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, let -- now, give us the pros of this. And we've supported this in the past."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, sir. So this was in response -- this is a Bill that we worked on last year, based on the direction of the Board of Commissioners, to add Judicial Officers. There are, in Senate Bill 10, there are limitations on the kinds of cases. It also explains the qualifications of the Judicial Officers. This Bill crossed over. It has already passed the House. It is back in the Senate, in Rules. And so I'm not sure I could add much more, but they -- they would be providing additional support for Superior Court."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Yes, the Superior Court already has Magistrate Court Judges helping them, hearing cases. They already have Judicial Officers and for family law. There is no reason for any additional Judicial Officers. Judicial Officers, I'm just telling you, they -- I mean, it's awful. They gave somebody's custody away, didn't have jurisdiction. The person had not been served, but by the time that was over, the damage have been done, and there was no way to undo it. And these people aren't accountable to anybody. They're not accountable to anyone. Absolutely not."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ivory."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "I think to better understand it so that we can sort of put it in context of real life, it's non lawyers, acting as Judges?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "They would be -- I should just note, Commissioner Ivory, they would be Attorneys. They would not be Judges. They would not be elected judges. They would still be Attorneys though, and they would have to meet the qualifications; is that correct, Ms. Campbell? So they are -- they are Attorneys, but they are not Judges."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay. So Attorneys with how much qualification? How many years of service? Because that makes a very big difference for, you know, an Attorney to act as a Judge and take custody away from a mother, or in -- you know, have somebody spending time incarcerated from an Attorney that hasn't necessarily been practicing in this area for any length of time. I share that concern."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Of course. And I just want to add a little clarification. There are currently Judicial Officers operating in the Superior Court in the family division only. They are not handling any other kinds of cases. One other -- one other, I guess, point that is this Bill as drafted is that they would not be able to handle elements of like, Seven Deadly Sin cases or --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "-- very serious felony cases. Jasmine, could you speak please to the qualifications? I don't -- I just did not bring the Bill itself with me."

**JASMINE CAMPBELL, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes. From what I remember, they made the same qualifications as the Superior Court Judges, it's just that they're not elected. But they still have to meet those same requirements that the Superior Court Judges have. And they're appointed by the Chief Judge. I can pull the Bill, too. I don't remember the exact language. But I -- I'll be able to pull up the Bill."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "And we're doing this as a measure because it's a faster, lower course option than additional --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- Judgeships, is that the reason?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The additional Judgeship is a requirement that the state must allocate or decide who gets an additional Judgeship. That is decided by the State Administrative Office of the Courts. Fulton County has currently 20 Judges. We have been seeking an additional Judgeship for quite some time. Only this year, there is a formula that the State Account Administrative Office of



Courts uses to evaluate workload. Based on that, although we have a very heavy workload, we have not made it to the top five. We are in the top five now, but we are not in the top three. So it's very much dependent on the state budget. So this would give, if this were allowed, this would give the Board of Commissioners control on funding for those positions. For example, it would not be requiring the state to fund those positions. So they're really the -- the underlying issue is the just massive volume, issues in the jail, all of those kinds of things that we're familiar with. I understand Commissioner Arrington's support. He has expressed that previously. I did want to mention that this became part of our 2024 package based on a Bill or a Resolution that this Board adopted in December of 2023, right before you joined the Board, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay. I mean, can you just tell me, what's the accountability structure for a Judicial Officer?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "So they are accountable to the -- again, they're appointed by the Chief Judge of Superior Court. So they would be, those Judicial Officers are reporting to the court structure, to the Judges themselves, to the Chief Judge in particular. And so it's my understanding that they are doing work similar to what a like, a physician's assistant on behalf of a licensed practicing physician."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yeah. Thank you so much for that. I'm going to side with the guidance I've been getting from my team, who have been in the courtroom in these very situations, and with Commissioner Arrington, to say that I think the serious nature of what Judges do that I would want to have a Judge that the people chose to do that. So I'm not going to support this. Thank you."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the key issue for me here is, is first of all, the Superior -- and just correct me, Jessica, if I'm wrong. I'm making -- I'm saying, this is a sentence, but it's sort of a question. The original request to have more JOs came from Superior Court."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, so Superior Court is asking for this because they are 5.6 Judges short. And even if we were to get lucky this -- this Session, but it doesn't sound like we will, and get a Judge to appropriate, we wouldn't get five also, correct?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "We would get one?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "We hope to get one."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. So we would still -- even if we get one, we would still be 4.6 Judges short. And I think, you know, they do meet the same criteria. They you know, the Superior Court is asking for them because they need more Judges, or more Judicial Officers hearing cases so that we can move cases through the system faster. And I think this gets back to overcrowding in the jail and all the other things. So I think we need to do everything in our power to improve throughput in our justice system. And you know, that is why we passed the Resolution we did back in '24. And I think -- I think, it's worth moving forward that's especially given that as we are able to -- it doesn't preclude us from getting Judges through the traditional process. So as we get those, we would be able to, sort of, you know, get rid of the Judicial Officers, and we wouldn't need them anymore. But for now, I believe we need this as a stopgap measure, so I'm supporting it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion on the floor is to approve. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I would just say, we already have Magistrate Court Judges that can hear. There's no -- there's no need to have Judicial Officers. They're already Magistrate Court Judges hearing Superior Court cases every single day, civil and non-felony, non-serious felony, just like in there. It's already happening every single day. It's already happening. Why do we need to bring on more people? We have people that -- we have Magistrate Court Judges that are doing this all day, every day. They're already in place, they're already on board. So this is a -- this is a bad, bad idea, and it's going to hurt people."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Magistrate Court Judges are appointed by the Chief Magistrate Judge, correct?"

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "They're not elected. These folks would be appointed by the Superior Court Judge and not elected, correct?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "They have the same qualifications, correct?"

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay, thank you."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion passes; four yeas, two nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Next is, online publication of legal notices. I did want to clarify, make one quick point of clarification, because I got some questions from the last meeting. One, next slide, please, the last discussion at the last meeting, we talked about this notion of allowing online publication of legal notices with the legal organ to meet the legal notification standard. I did not and do not suggest that Fulton County is dissatisfied with our legal organ that is not even actually in the purview of the Board of Commissioners. So wanted to make that clear, I know that the newspaper industry has faced a number of challenges. We have, our lobbying team has connected with the lobbyists for the Georgia Newspaper Publishers Association, so would be in dialogue with them, as well as others. So I did just want to make that clarification based on some questions we've received. It is also factual that the Atlanta Journal-Constitution has announced that they will cease print publication by the end of this year. That has a direct impact on some of the notices that we are required to publish. So that's all I wanted to say Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So what are you recommending here?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Approval of this item as part of our legislative agenda."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I think Vice Chair stepped away."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. You said that we don't determine who the legal organ is?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That is correct. That is a decision that is determined by the Clerk of Courts, the Probate, Chief Probate Judge and the Sheriff."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And so who is the current legal organ?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The South Fulton Neighbor Newspaper, although they publish as Fulton County Neighbor Newspaper."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And there was a problem that you mentioned at the last meeting about the timing or the frequency."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "It's definitely been a change. And many people have -- have expressed a challenge that pre -- our prior legal organ was the Fulton County --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Daily Report."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "-- Daily Report for many, many years, and they printed multiple times a week. The Neighbor prints one time a week, and so there's bit of a longer lead time to get those legal notices published. So the suggestion of allowing the online notice, you didn't have to wait for the print publication to come out was one part of that. This Board has also talked a lot today about transparency. Most people, I think we would agree, get their information online, and so rather than going to find -- so not suggesting they -- they can and do publish it online as well, but that online notification can be done, typically faster than a print paper."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Well, I mean, I guess I'm supportive this. But I -- I wonder, you know, what's the -- if we post it online, we could post it on our own website. We don't need to post it on the legal organ, when, right, we can post it on our website."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That -- and we do typically post most of our legal notices online. I think, Commissioner Arrington, their -- the Georgia Newspapers Publishers Association has been typically very concerned about the economic impact on small newspapers. You know, I've spent my whole adult life working with newspapers, and certainly think they have a very important role in our community. So I don't think we're trying to make a proposal to negatively impact that industry."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. And you said it's the Clerk of Court, the Sheriff, and who else?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And the Chief Probate Judge."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And they all, all three of them, have to agree, or it's, they go --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "They choose --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- by a vote? Is there a --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "They collectively select it. I couldn't speak in great detail about their process, but they --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So there -- there's no written process? Is there a state law? Is there a County Resolution, I mean or --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "There is a state law, and I'll be glad to pull that for you."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "But -- but again, this proposal was not about changing the legal organ so much as the process of the notification."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ivory."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "So you're saying we would still keep our same legal organ, we would just go online with it?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "And our --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That, and again, those ads are currently published online, but to allow that online notification to meet the standard in anticipation that, just as the AJC has seized print publication, others may do that in the future."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "So I just wanted to clarify, because the Atlanta Voice was here today."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "And so I think that they were saying that they would like to be the legal organ. Were you -- were -- did you receive that as saying that they would like to be the online legal organ if this -- if we go to the legal organ, are we --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I don't -- I didn't have much more information than what they shared today, Commissioner Ivory, and we'll be glad to talk more --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "-- with them. But again, the nature of our -- I wanted to clarify that nothing in this legislative priority was meant to insinuate a change in the legal organ, but more about the process of advertising."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "And that an outline legal publication would be deemed acceptable --"

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- as a publication."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That it's acceptable."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay, thank you."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Just quickly, Chairman. Janis Ware, I'm very familiar of the Ware family --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- grew up in Southwest Atlanta, her father and everything. I -- from my conversation, she wants the opportunity. I think it's more important to her that she has the opportunity, since she is from a family that has historically been around when others have not survived, and she's still at it. And so I just want to say, if there's an opportunity, she wants the opportunity. That's all I wanted to say."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I will make sure to pass on that information."

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

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

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



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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Just a few more, Chairman. All right. They'll go a little faster. Next one is about supporting local control and opposition to sovereign immunity waivers, and that this Board, as part of our legislative priorities, opposes legislation that would diminish Home Rule authority, restrict the rights of duly elected officials to govern local affairs, and oppose efforts to weaken local control or waive sovereign immunity protections."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Let's vote."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Next is increased state support for Behavioral Health and Diversion Programs. This includes efforts by Georgia DBHDD to expand crisis network advocacy for programs that reduce the cost burden of behavioral health medications for people in jail, and support of the use of the Diversion Center by local law enforcement, in efforts to expand pre-arrest diversion as alternatives to incarceration."

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

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Next is expand healthcare access and strengthen the healthcare workforce, advocating for increased healthcare access for residents, support expansive access to health insurance programs such as Medicaid, Affordable Care Act, Healthcare Marketplace and other affordable healthcare solutions. Advocacy for ACCG's position, urging the Department of Community Health to maintain healthcare coverage for pre-adjudication inmates, also supporting increased state funding for medical residency programs to help grow the work healthcare workforce."

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

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Next, the Housing Authority of Fulton County, requesting an amendment to requirements for the Commissioners of the Housing Authority, to ensure compliance as written here."

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

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Next is support for House Bill 886, which would prohibit the use of public funds for advance in payments in cyber-attack incidents."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And how many more?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Just a couple more, Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We talked about y'all really shorten our list --"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- that's a criticism we always get."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Those first -- and I wanted to -- I'm glad you brought that up. Those first three that we discussed are the highest priorities --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Those are the main ones, okay."

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

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next would be -- and this is, we just heard from the Chief Appraiser, and about the need to simplify that process. So this is supporting ACCG's efforts to clarify and improve implementation of the established rollback rate specifically, which was part of House Bill 581 and House Bill 92."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Now this is one that we all need to get behind and work."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Agree."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Interested in the Board of Assessors, this is a big one that there's a -- be a lot of opposition to it from the real estate folk in particular."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next one is about Next Gen 911 supporting ACCG's position. This would affect many of the smaller 911 systems operating within Fulton County, and would increase public safety across the county."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open."

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

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Next is about just ongoing support for secure, fair and accessible elections, ensuring that cost for special elections that are borne by either the state or typically the state, especially where they call an election, for example, two weeks after a general election."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm not sure if this legislative agenda would speak to it. But we know that we had the mix up with 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. when the state has a race. And so I would like, anything that we can do at the state level to bring it concurrent, which means that if municipalities, I know if they have over a certain amount --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- they have the opportunity. But I think can find some kind of common ground. And that may be a conversation for later, but I do want us to make sure that we're having those conversations --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- even they're offline."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Commissioner, great point."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion on the floor is to adopt. Let's vote."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you very much. Next is about Transit Board representation, seeking a permanent seat on the ATL Board and parity with other MARTA agencies and appointment of MARTA Board members."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote. I'm sorry. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Two hands up, two votes for this. Good Lord have mercy."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Almost done."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You said two more about five ago."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I said -- all right. Support for legalization -- I think you're going to like this one, so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What is it?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I said --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Oh, yeah."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "This is for support of legalization -- we've talked a lot about revenue today, and as there is a lot of support, AJC just did a poll about Speaker the Speaker's proposal to reform property taxes, which is our number one source of revenue. So this would really be looking at other revenue options, such as casinos or parimutuel sports betting, with the idea of dedicating those funds for public safety, mental health, and public health services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'd like to agree with Commissioner Arrington, two hands up on this one. Let's go. Let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open."

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

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "All right. The next is, this is from the Marshal's Office about making some changes to the -- the fee authorization in eviction cases. So we went over this a bit last time, but this is one that they brought forward as a challenge."

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

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. The very last one, this was, Commissioner Barrett, you brought this to our attention last -- at the last meeting. Many -- some counties around the state have established Family Justice Centers. This would be -- these are centers that serve especially individuals who've been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. This would simply be advocating that the state provide financial resources for centers of this nature."

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

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you very much for your patience, and we appreciate your support."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Have you set the legislative dinner reception yet?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "We'll be sending that communication out to everyone this week."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

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

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No further items that come before us, we are adjourned. Thank you."

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.**