

# FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## RECESS MEETING

February 16, 2022

10:00 AM



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



## MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

**Ratification Date: March 16, 2022**

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

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

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****22-0106 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

**Absent:** Hausmann, Morris, and Arrington

**22-0107 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing “Charletta Wilson Jacks Appreciation Day.” **(Pitts)**  
February 1, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Hasan Jelani Durley Remembrance Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
February 5, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Jerolyn Ferrari Appreciation Day.” **(Hausmann/BOC)**  
February 11, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Karen Jordan Appreciation Day.” **(Pitts)**  
February 15, 2022

**Open & Responsible Government****22-0108 Finance**

Ratification of the January 2022 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0109 Finance**

Request approval of a Pension Salary Resolution to give a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to those Defined Benefit Plan retirees who participated in pension plans that did not provide for an automatic cost of living increase.  
**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Arts and Libraries****22-0110 Library**

Request approval to accept name change and authorize the Library System and the Department of Purchasing & Contract Compliance to reflect the name change of The Foundation Center to Candid. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0111 Library**

Request approval to accept name change and authorize the Fulton County Library System and the Department of Purchasing & Contract Compliance to reflect the name change of Infogroup to Data Axel for online access to a database of consumer and business data that can be used for marketing, business research, and other analytical possibilities which is presently provided under the name Infogroup (DBA Data Axel) on the County's AML. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0112 Library**

Request approval to award a contract without competition - Fulton County Library System 21EF131840B, 2022 Edition of World Book Encyclopedia in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 with World Book, Inc., to provide patrons with a physical source of information for homework, research projects and fact searches for all ages. Effective upon BOC approval for a 12 month period. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Health and Human Services****22-0113 Department for HIV Elimination**

Request approval to extend current Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Emergency Relief Project Part A contracts for a period not to exceed three months and to provide no more than three months of continuation funding, in an amount not to exceed \$7,887,647.00, to avoid service interruption. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with selected subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and substance and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chair. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Justice and Safety****22-0114 Police**

Request approval of the 2021 Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification with the U.S. Department of Justice for the Fulton County Police Department, establishing the requirements for participation in the Federal Equitable Sharing Program and the restrictions upon the use of federally forfeited cash, property, or proceeds. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**RECESS MEETING AGENDA****22-0115 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Recess Meeting Agenda as amended by removing item #22-0133 as requested by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Hausmann, Morris, and Arrington

**22-0116 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Recess Meeting Minutes, January 19, 2022

Regular Meeting Post Minutes, February 2, 2022

Special Called Meeting Post Minutes, February 4, 2022

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

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

**Absent:** Hausmann, Morris, and Arrington

**22-0117 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Bridge of Light Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Winnie Varghese Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Larry Dingle Remembrance Day." **(Arrington/Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Pamela Stoner-Gay Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing "Devotis Lee Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**

Proclamation recognizing "Jill Lindsey Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**

\* Proclamation recognizing "Jerolyn Ferrari Appreciation Day." **(Hausmann/BOC)**

Presentation of Certificates: Youth Commission Induction Ceremony **(BOC)**

*\*presented during the meeting*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****22-0118 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.

**Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed thirty minutes at the Recess Meeting.** In the event the 30 minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Similarly, written comments (that were timely submitted) not previously read, may be read at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

**7 Speakers: Deonne Malick (COVID-19/KIDS); Jane Schaepe (Elections); Margie McLeod (Funding); Lucia Frazier (Elections); Susan Ortiz-Villajos (Elections); Sandra Burchardt (Elections) and Maggie Goldman (North Fulton Improvement Network/Budget/Homelessness)**

**12 Zoom Speakers: Ben Howard (Senior Services); Bridget Thorne (Elections/Vaccination); Matt Rowenzcak (Special Meetings/Elections); Candice Stockham (Elections); Jane Zoellick (Elections); Joseph Blount (Elections); Marika Lamoreaux (Elections); Kelvin Muldowney (Elections); Meetali Jain (Elections); Linda Downey (Elections); Patty Nathan (Elections) and Ralph Fruchtman (Elections)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****22-0119 County Manager**

Presentation of COVID-19 Operational Response Update. **(PRESENTED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to end the County's vaccination policy and mask requirements and move to CDC recommended mask guidelines in County facilities effective February 16th. The motion failed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Ellis, Morris, and Hall

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

**Absent:** Hausmann

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington to approve the recommendations of the County Manager and Health Department Director. **(RULED OUT OF ORDER)**

**22-0120 County Manager**

Request approval of a Resolution to extend emergency purchasing authority of the Chairman and County Manager for COVID-19 related purchases; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**22-0121 Human Resources Management**

Request approval to modify the classification section of the Classification and Compensation plan by changing the title of the existing classification of Network Applications Coordinator to Technology Innovation and Support Manager, BOC. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**22-0122 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of spending authority - Real Estate and Asset Management, North Georgia Fuel Cooperative (NGFC) Contract #BL113-20, Gasoline and Diesel Fuel in the total amount of \$1,680,000.00 with: (A) James River Solutions, LLC, (Ashland, VA) in the amount of \$740,000.00; (B) Petroleum Traders Corporation (Fort Wayne, IN) in the amount of \$740,000.00; and (C) Colonial Oil Industries, Inc. (Savanah, GA) in the amount of \$200,000.00, to provide gasoline and diesel fuel for Fulton County. Effective dates: March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**22-0123 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of recommended proposals - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, RFP#21RFP130182C-MH, General Landscaping & Lawn Care Services for Countywide Facilities in the total amount of \$1,300,000.00 with (A) ReIMAGE General Contractors, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, and (B) WorldScapes, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$300,000.00, to provide on-site landscape/ground maintenance and lawn care services for all 106 County-own sites to include the Fulton County Executive Airport - Charlie Brown Field. Effective upon execution of contracts through December 31, 2022, with two renewal options. **(REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE RECESS MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER****22-0124 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, RFP#21RFP131973C-MH, Bus and Shuttle Services in the amount of \$522,857.25 with MTI Limo and Shuttle Services, Inc. (College Park, GA), to provide bus and shuttle services for Fulton County employees and jurors. Effective dates: April 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**22-0125 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, RFP#21RFP132087K-DB, Design/Build Services for the Fulton County Government Center Cooling Tower Repair and Retrofit, in the amount of \$1,677,706.00 with Mallory & Evans Service Company, Inc. (Scottsdale, GA), to provide complete design and construction services for the retrofit of the counter flow ceramic cooling tower serving the chiller plant and emergency generators at the Fulton County Government Center Complex located at 141 Pryor Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed for a period of 210 calendar days or until contract completion as determined by the County. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

## Infrastructure and Economic Development

### 22-0126 Select Fulton

Request approval to award a contract without competition - Select Fulton, 22EF1212022B, Community Navigator Pilot Program, in the amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, with the Greater South Fulton Chamber of Commerce, to provide small business technical assistance and counseling services to no less than 300 firms located in South Fulton. Effective dates: December 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023, in order to align with the grant award contract term. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Hausmann

### 22-0127 Public Works

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners authorizing the Imposition of a 0.40 percent Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales and Use Tax (T-SPLOST) on behalf of the City of Atlanta for transportation purposes; specifying the specific transportation purposes to be funded within the City of Atlanta; specifying the approximate costs of such transportation purposes; specifying the maximum period of time the tax may be imposed; specifying the list of projects and purposes qualifying as transportation purposes to be funded; requesting the Elections Superintendent to call for a ballot referendum to approve the imposition of such sales and use tax; approving the form of the ballot; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Hausmann

## Justice and Safety

### 22-0128 Police

Request approval of an alcohol beverage license application submitted by Shoe Crazy Wine LLC., for the wholesale of wine located at 3800 Wendell Drive Suite 406, Atlanta, Ga. 30336. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Hausmann

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****22-0096 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion and request approval of a Resolution approving updates to Fulton County's Sustainability Plan and Goals for the purpose of accelerating the path towards increased sustainability by 2030 in Fulton County; and for other purposes. **(Pitts/Morris/Hall) (HELD ON 2/2/22) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**22-0097 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County to provide initial fiscal resources to fund the Fulton Technology and Energy Enhancement Authority; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (HELD ON 2/2/22) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN****22-0129 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution pursuant to O.C.G.A. ss 15-18-19 (e) (6), 15-6-27(h) and 15-6-28 to approve salary supplements for State paid staff in the office of the District Attorney and State paid staff employed by the Chief Superior Court Judge. **(Hall) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

**Motion failed for a lack of four affirmative votes**

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

**Yea:** Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts, Ellis, and Morris

**COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****22-0130 External Affairs**

Presentation of 2022 Legislative Agenda. **(PRESENTED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to oppose SB 277. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****22-0131 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. February 9, 2022 CEO Report **(Morris) (DISCUSSED)**

**22-0132 Board of Commissioners**

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

**22-0133 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Safety and security of Fulton County employees, staff and officers; the process of allocation and approval of resources for protection thereof.  
**(Abdur-Rahman) (REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE RECESS MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN****22-0134 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Information Technology Roadmap Update **(Hall) (DISCUSSED)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****22-0135 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, Commissioners: Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier. Vice-Chairman Hausmann was absent.

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

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

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

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Items Added to the Agenda****22-0136**

Registration and Elections - Request approval of a statewide contract, Registrations and Elections, SWC99999-001-SPD0000136, Temporary Staffing - Clerical & Light Industrial in a total amount not to exceed \$8,650,745.86 with (A) Dover Staffing, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$6,003,945.76 (B) ARK Temporary Staffing Services in an amount not to exceed 1,882,969.50 and (C) Corporate Temps 2000 in an amount not to exceed \$763,821.60 to provide temporary staffing services for the Department of Registrations for the May General Primary Nonpartisan General and Special Election and June General Primary Nonpartisan General and Special Election Runoff. Effective upon BOC approval. (APPROVED)

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve adding item #22-0136 to the Recess Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Hausmann

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve item #22-0136. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
RECESS MEETING**

**February 16, 2022**

**10:00 A.M.**

Alexander Solution, LLC

(Whereupon the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning, everyone and welcome to the Recess Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is February 20 - 16th, rather 2022; it is 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** Vice Chairman Liz Hausmann. Commissioner Bob Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Lee Morris. Commissioner Natalie Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. You may be seated. Madam Clerk continue."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **22-0106**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Recess Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any items on the Consent Agenda? All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis. Is there a second? All right. I'll second. Please vote on the

Consent Agenda. All right."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an item to be added to today's Recess Meeting Agenda. Add-on item 22-0136, Registration and Elections. Request approval of a statewide contract to provide temporary staffing services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Now, this one is an emergency, but based upon our rule that requires a supermajority which would be five votes. So, we'll have to hold that until we have at least five members here. We only have four at this time. Continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 3, Recess Meeting Agenda, **22-0115**, Adoption of the Recess Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, I have an item to be removed as requested by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. On page 7, bottom of page 7, 22-0133, Discussion. Safety and Security of Fulton County employees staffing officers. The process of allocation and approval of resources for protection thereof. This item will be removed."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any other items on today's Agenda? Now again, that one item that is an emergency, we'll take up when we have five members. All right. Let's vote, please. All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion passes; four yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** On page 4, **22-0116**, Ratification of Minutes. Regular Meeting Minutes, January 19<sup>th</sup>, Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, February 2nd; and Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, February 4th, 2022."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER: "22-0117,** Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Bridge of Light Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. Oh my God. Good to see you too. Good to see you again too. All right. It is an honor to present you with this proclamation and attend your event the other day and actually see the buses that you have miraculously transformed into places where the homeless can actually come in and shower, and get new clothes, change their clothes, get on the computer, and do so much – wash their clothes. It was amazing to see your new trailer that actually has five washing machines in it, and four dryers -- that was just awesome. So to present you with this proclamation is an honor and a pleasure. WHEREAS -- and by the way it has full Board support. So, the entire Board of Commissioners have supported it for you. WHEREAS, Bridge of Light was established in 2015 as an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization by cofounders and Atlanta natives Ray Young, and Torrie Everhart, who had a vision of giving back to their hometown. And WHEREAS, the mission of Bridge of Light is to restore dignity and hope to people experiencing transition from or at risk for homelessness and is committed to instilling hope, connecting resources, enlightening minds, and delivering guidance for at risk and homeless citizens in Atlanta. And WHEREAS, Bridge of Light provides a means of empowering people who are unhoused or living in poverty by providing mobile laundry services, free of charge on 'The Dignity Bus Tour', The Clean Slate Project which provides showers, hair salon services, Wi-Fi café, and a clothing closet. And WHEREAS The Dignity Bus is renovated -- is a renovated school bus and a one-stop shop for those in need of technological literacy skills, guidance with job applications, free grooming, hygiene items, and business attire. And WHEREAS, Bridge of Light continually partners with our community organizations to expand their impact within the community and all tools, resources, safe spaces, and services are provided in a dignified manner that helps uplift and provide hope. And WHEREAS, Bridge of Light, has already served over 2500 individuals and is committed to helping thousands more reach a point of self-sufficiency. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Bridge of Light for their positive impact on the local community and for providing valuable resources to improve the lives of those less fortunate, and does HEREBY PROCLAIM Thursday, February 10th, 2022, as Bridge of Light Appreciation Day in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations."

**TORRIE EVERHART, RECIPIENT:** "Hi. I'm Torrie, one of the founders and this is Ray, one of the founders as well. We just wanted to tell you guys that we really appreciate the support -- the continued support. We have been established since 2015 and we are

really doing the best we can to help those that are our neighbors that are without homes reach self-sufficiency."

**RAY YOUNG, RECIPIENT:** "Hey, how you guys doing. I'm Ray Young. I just want to say thank you so much for this honor. We are both from Atlanta and we purpose to further impact and help individuals transition out of homelessness and in the city of Atlanta."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Winnie Varghese Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Hi. Good to see you. It is an honor to present you with this proclamation Rev. Varghese; and it was good to see you at the Women's Legislative Luncheon at Woodruff Arts Center. That was a pleasure. WHEREAS, the Reverend Winnie Varghese is joining the Atlanta Fulton County community to lead St. Luke's Episcopal Church. And WHEREAS, St. Luke's has a long history of providing spiritual leadership and healing to the community and is a place where all God's children are welcomed and everyone is valued. And WHEREAS, Reverend Varghese is a faith leader and published author of national reputation known for her inspiring writing, teaching, and preaching. And WHEREAS, Reverend Varghese earned her Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies from Southern Methodist University and her Master of Divinity degree from the Union Theological Seminary. And WHEREAS, Reverend Varghese served as the Priest on the Strategic Clergy Team at Trinity Church Wall Street, Director of St. Mark's in the Bowery, the Episcopal Chaplain at Columbia University, and the Curate at Saint Albans Westwood, and Episcopalian Chaplain at UCLA. And NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners welcomes Reverend Winnie Varghese to Fulton County and the Atlanta-Faith community and wishes her well in her new church home and does HEREBY PROCLAIM Wednesday, February 16th, 2020, as Reverend Winnie Varghese Appreciation Day in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations and welcome."

**REV. WINNIE VARGHESE, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you Commissioner Hall. And what a wonderful way to be welcomed to Atlanta. St. Luke's looks forward to many, many more years of serving the community. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Larry Dingle Remembrance Day' sponsored by Commissioners Arrington and Hall."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm very proud to be able to present this proclamation today on behalf of Larry Dingle. He was a -- he was a great lawyer, great mentor, but he was an even better person. WHEREAS, Larry McKenzie Dingle was

born on June 26, 1949, in Dillon, South Carolina on a farm where he lived with his parents and siblings. His favorite quote was, 'I'm just a farm boy from South Carolina that's doing, okay'. And WHEREAS, Larry Dingle was educated in the Dillon County school system and the segregated Atlanta high school where he earned his high school diploma. And WHEREAS, Larry Dingle, attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia after high school and later transferred to Georgia State University where he earned both his Bachelors and Juris Doctorate degrees. And WHEREAS, Larry Dingle began his career with the city of Atlanta as a police officer in advance to become the first African-American Clerk of Counsel under the administrations of Mayors Maynard Jackson and Andrew Young until 1990. And WHEREAS, Larry Dingle began his tenure as a partner at the law firm of Peterson, Dillard, Young, Ashland and Powell in 1990; and later became a partner at Wilson, Brock and Irby, LLC. And WHEREAS, Larry Dingle served on several distinguished boards of directors including Southeast Energy, the Bank of North Georgia, Central Fulton Senior Services, and Georgia State University's board of visitors. He also was a member of the Georgia Bar Association for 20 years and he co-authored major land-use laws in Georgia which was published by the National Business Institute. He also represented Tyler Perry in local real estate transactions. And WHEREAS, Larry Dingle was a proud resident of Southwest Atlanta, a lifetime Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and a beloved husband and father, and a mentor, and friend who was loved and respected by many. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Larry McKenzie Dingle for a lifetime of integrity, his contributions to the practice of law, and for his dedication as a civil servant. And does HEREBY PROCLAIM Sunday, February 6, 2022 as 'Larry Dingle Remembrance Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Pamela Stoner-Gay Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Welcome. The proclamation reads as follows: WHEREAS, Pamela Stoner-Gay was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi to biracial parents during a time when interracial marriage was unlawful in most states, including Mississippi. And WHEREAS, Pamela faced many societal challenges growing up as a biracial child in the South which led her to keen social awareness. And WHEREAS, Pamela was heavily influenced at an early age for her father civil rights icon, Dr. Peter Stoner, who was one of the original White freedom riders. He often drove Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to southern towns believing that those in opposition to civil rights would not assault Dr. King, if he was being escorted by White freedom riders. And WHEREAS, Pamela has an interest for positive initiatives surrounding Ward Four and the city of College Park as a whole. And by working with her husband, Ward 4 Councilmember, Roderick Gay, they're spearheading initiatives that include education

and career enhancement, protection of senior citizens and the aging, noise and logistic threats, apartments and tenant rights, city and government accountability, fiscal transparency, and citywide beautification. And WHEREAS Pamela's employed with the state of Georgia for over 20 years, she is the 2022 recipient of the City of College Park Legacy Award. And she and Councilman Gay are the proud parents of three children Blake, Majestic, and Roman. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, commends Pamela Stoner-Gay for her tireless commitment to service to her local community and for social justice. And does HEREBY PROCLAIM Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as 'Pamela Stoner-Gay Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

**PAMELA STONER-GAY, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning, everyone. I would like to take the time out to thank all the Commissioners. I especially, you, Commissioner Arrington. I would like to thank my family my husband, Councilman Gay, and my son, Blake. I would also like to thank the people of College Park; and mostly, I would like to thank my family. My father this proclamation is for my mother and father who stood the test of time through marriage, through love, through everything. And my parents always taught me to believe in myself. They always taught me to help others, to love others, to feed others, to help the homeless. So, I think I have made them proud. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Devotis Lee Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Is Devotis Lee here? Okay. Perfect. Devotis Lee is the owner of D's Café and began her catering business in 2009. And has since grown from doing small events to doing large events. And in 2013, expanded the business to become 'D's Café and Catering'. And Devotis grew up in Atlanta, Georgia and attended Morris Brown College and furthered her education in business, hospitality management, and various continuing education programs and food management and other food service-related studies. Devotis credits her many years of employment with UPS as the force behind her success. As a business woman and owner, using the skills she learned in customer service and relations to expand her catering business; and Devotis has served her community faithfully through her volunteer efforts with groups including the Georgia Department of Corrections, her service on the Red Cross Minority Advisory Board where she served as secretary and president, and SCLC Women, Inc., where she served as cochair alongside Ambassador Andrew Young and Carolyn Young for the Drum Major for Justice Dinner, and WHEREAS Devotis has received several awards and acknowledgments for her volunteer work including the Women of Achievement Award from the YWCA, the Outstanding Georgia Citizens Award from the Secretary of State, and she has received several awards from the 100

Black Women of Atlanta. It is with immense pride during the month of Black History that we celebrate one of our Sheros that does so much behind the scenes, but is part of the integral landscape of Fulton County and the city of Atlanta. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commends Devotis G. Lee for her many contributions to the local community and for her well-earned status as trusted fixture in the business community and does HEREBY PROCLAIM Wednesday, February 16, 2022, as 'Devotis G. Lee Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Thank you."

**DEVOTIS LEE, RECIPIENT:** "Hi, everybody. I just want to say thank you. I humbly accept this award. I want to say thank you to Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and to the other Commissioners. And I'm an Atlanta girl and I love Atlanta. So being a part of the small businesses in Atlanta is good. And we appreciate it."

**CLERK GRIER:** The next proclamation is recognizing 'Jill Lindsey appreciation day sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I see Councilman Baker. Did we see Mayor -- can you all join; and then friends and family, please come down? This woman has been a powerhouse in Fulton County and also South Fulton. And so, I'm just asking those elected officials that are here to support her as well as friends and family. Please join us here at the podium. WHEREAS, Jill Lindsey is a native of Jasper County, Mississippi and was raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. And WHEREAS, Jill is an entrepreneur and founder of Go Green Communities, a domestic nonprofit organization formed on August 30th, 2020, which provides litter pickup every week -- and I do mean every week for communities in the city of South Fulton and Fulton County, and Bethesda Road and Old National Highway. She also serves as Interim Public Advocate and Public Liaison regarding citizens' concerns and issues on our corridor. And WHEREAS, Jill is a member of several Boards including the Fulton County Elder Affairs Board in District Six, the Mighty Six. Also, the Old National Merchants' Association, and Board Chair and Vice President of Feeding Georgia Families. And WHEREAS, Jill is an adopter of Bethesda Road in the city of South Fulton and she is an active adopter of Old National Highway through the US Department of Transportation. And WHEREAS, Jill is an alumni of Fulton County Citizens University Class of 2007, and Fulton County Citizens Police University Class of 2012. Jill has been what we call 'a little piece of leather sho' nuff put together', there's the old folks saying because Jill Lindsey those of you that don't know her, you will get to know her either by e-mail, by phone, by call, by walking in - she is a one-woman wrecking crew, but for good because she loves her community. She loves Fulton County -- city of South Fulton and the state of Georgia. And it is with immense pride that our heroine of making sure that public tax dollars are

not wasted. It is with immense pride that: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commends Jill Lindsey for her steadfast participation and dedication to making her community a better place to live for all citizens and those who visit and does HEREBY PROCLAIM Wednesday, February 16, 2022, as Jill Lindsey Appreciation Day in Fulton County, Georgia."

**JILL LINDSEY, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you everyone. First giving honor to God because he is one of the reasons why I was chosen to be on Old National; because I asked him, where do you want me to buy my home? He said, start by your church, which is World Changers Church International. I want to thank Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman and everyone on Fulton County's Commissioner Board for this great celebration of everything we've been doing on the Old National corridor. And one thing I want to mention is your land is the most important asset that you will ever purchase. So, I want this to go out to all the way to the capital building that we're asking for a mandatory trash and litter to pass in Georgia; because that is one way to make sure that litter is controlled in the state of Georgia. It's a beautiful place. They have it in Las Vegas. We can have it here in Georgia. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing Jerolyn Ferrari Appreciation Day sponsored by the Full Board of Commissioners."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, can we get Jerolyn to come down as well as all her colleagues in the County attorney's office that are here with us this morning. This is a proclamation that I'm pleased to present on behalf of the Full Board -- in Full Board in all caps. It's only fitting that we get to recognize you on a third Wednesday. This is your last day, right?"

**JEROLYN FERRARI, RECIPIENT:** "--officially--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--officially, your last day on a third Wednesday, but you don't have to sit over there and deal with these knuckleheads for the day, right? You get to sit up here and observe for as little as you want to. For those of you that don't know Jerolyn, you got to hear a little bit about her; but you know if you've followed our meetings, she's often sitting right over there and she has been a tremendous asset and gift to Fulton County government for quite some time. And we - this is really a bittersweet day. We're going -- we're going to miss her very much, but we are super excited about the next journey she's going on for her. So, with that, I'll read the proclamation: WHEREAS, Jerolyn Webb Ferrari has served as senior County Attorney, Deputy County Attorney, and Interim County Attorney during her tenure with Fulton County government since January 2009. And WHEREAS, Jerolyn Ferrari earned her Bachelor's degree in the County from Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

her Juris Doctorate degree from Emory School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia. And WHEREAS, Jerolyn Ferrari has practiced laws since 1988 including her 15-year tenure as Staff Attorney with the city of Atlanta's Law Department, and In-house Counsel for Coldwell Banker residential brokerage in Atlanta. And WHEREAS, Jerolyn Ferrari is a member of the Junior League of Atlanta, a Trustee at the Indian School, and a member of the Board of Directors at Three Keys Inc. among several other civic organizations. And WHEREAS, Jerolyn Ferrari is calm, thorough, and articulate explanation of the law – that's what it says right – have left a lasting impression on all who have worked with her and has set a high standard for those who will follow in her role as legal counsel on behalf of Fulton County government. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commend the dedication exhibited by Jerolyn Ferrari during her exemplary tenure with Fulton County and celebrates with her on the occasion of her retirement and does HEREBY PROCLAIM – I don't know about retirement? You don't like that word, right? Yeah, retirement from Fulton County, but she's not retiring. She's going on to some other stuff and share her gifts there -- and does HEREBY PROCLAIM Friday, February 11th, 2022, as Jerolyn Ferrari Appreciation Day in Fulton County, Georgia. I don't know if we got any of my other colleagues that want to say anything else; but, I'll leave with this and I shared with this on Friday. That she certainly has left an indelible mark on Fulton County government and I am super pleased that she's going on to another journey. She's excited about it. And she's doing so with her health and her beauty intact."

**JEROLYN FERRARI, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you so much Commissioner Ellis, Chairman Pitts and Vice Chair Hausmann and all of the Members of the Board of Commissioners - - Dick Anderson, County Manager; your wonderful department heads. The Chiefs of Staff and my family in the Law Department. I'm going to make this quick because I won't be able to make it through. We talk a lot about synergy, excellence – [Inaudible.] such an excellent Team. You can't do a job like this without a great team behind you. And although yes, I have poured into you, you have poured into me so much love and I am ever so grateful for it. Yes, it's been a labor of love -- tough love sometimes, but love always. And you know that last paragraph caught my attention because it's not the number of contracts negotiated, the number of cases won, the number of opinions drafted, it's character. It's a calling; that's what this profession is all about. That's what we instill in our Team. And that's what we represent. I will miss you all greatly, and I will be in touch."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next we will have presentation of certificates, Youth Commission Induction Ceremony."

**REGINALD CROSSLEY, COORDINATOR, YOUTH COMMISSION:** "Good day. My name is Reginald Crossley and I am the coordinator of the Fulton County Youth Commission. These distinguished young man and women, as you see here in the audience, we are going to start our Induction Ceremony. We will open with Chairman Pitts who will read the oath of service followed by the certificates being presented. And each respective Commissioner can take pictures with the respective Youth Commissioner as well. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right please stand. Raise your right hand. I, and state your name; all right, do solemnly affirm that I will support and fulfill the duties of Youth Commissioner for Fulton County and all matters which require me to the best of my knowledge and skill, to advise the Fulton -- what? All right. The following skills: advise the Fulton County Board of Commissioners about how Fulton County can best address youth concerns and issues, design methods to prevent at risk situations of children in youth in Fulton County, positively influence policies that impact children and youth, serve as a positive role model, leader, and voice for the student population, and I do for further solemnly affirm that I will endeavor to discharge my duties in the following manner: Participate in monthly meetings and community projects, maintain contact with Commissioners on youth issues, plan solution driven service projects that will benefit youth and reflect favorably on Fulton County government and citizens, and share pertinent information with my peers on solutions to youth related issues. I pledge that I will fulfill these duties and I will act in my judgment which will be the most conducive to the welfare and best interest of the youth of the entire County. These affirmations I hereby make on this 16th day in February of 2022. Congratulations."

**REGINALD CROSSLEY, COORDINATOR, YOUTH COMMISSION:** "At this time, we will present our certificates of completion for the program. We'll start with District One, and in the absence of some of our Commissioners -- yes, please if you don't mind standing in. First, we would like to call down District One: Venkata Guvvala, representing District One, Maya Cunningham, Ruhi Doddamani, Mireya Abeywardane. Next, District Two: Devika Sharma, Kate Zurinskas, Aanika Eragam, Harshita Challa, Jasmine Stewart. Representing District Three: Shreya Sunil, Maris Fantgrossi, Anish Nayak, Anusha Battacharya. Representing District Four: Emily Anne Santiago, who serves as the Vice Chair; District Four, Rachel Alexander, Wilburn Harris, Arthi Devineni, Sierra Pape. Representing District 5: Hunter Willis, Namiah Louissaint, Maia Henderson, Laylah Jones. Representing District Six: Shaniya Harris, Jada Hall, Kahyah Shabazz, Prevailer Idowu. And last but not least serving as Chair-at-large, Devyn Storms, serve as the Chair of the Fulton County Youth Commission. Thank you."

**DEVYN STORMS, CHAIRWOMAN, YOUTH COMMISSION:** "I hope you guys don't mind me taking my mask off this morning. Sorry, I'm just a little short. Good morning. FCYCs, parents, elected officials, and constituents. I am Devyn Joyce Storms, your Fulton County Youth Commission Chairwoman of the 2020 to 2022 term. I represent District Six on behalf of Commissioner Kadijah Abdur-Rahman in South Fulton and I am a Westlake High School magnet senior. I am also proud to be a senior at South Fulton - I'm so sorry. I'm also proud to be a senior Fulton County Youth Commissioner and to have served on this committee for the two and a half years. Today we are celebrating the hard work and dedication that each YC has contributed during these trying times. I understand that the past couple of years has been overwhelming and a little fuzzy to say the least; however, I commend each and every YC on the dedication, not only to this program, but to their community. Although majority of our meetings were via zoom, and we couldn't conduct in-person volunteer hours. We were able to persevere and most of our initiatives came into fruition. Some to mention, are the Second Annual Earth Day Art Contest as well as the Drug Prevention Art Contest founded by the Environmental Committee. The creation and completion of our College and Career Guide Handbook founded by the Social Progress Committee, various PSA's not only geared toward drug prevention, but the awareness of mental health in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12th grade environments; teen dating health; driving safety, and kindness matters for grades one through five. Founded by the health committee and lastly our dedicated and amazing legislative committee who tirelessly works on lobbying for the pink tax policy for the young ladies in schools increasing the dropout age for high schoolers and working to make Georgia college application processes wholistic and scholarship information available and accessible to students in the Fulton County area. Before I continue, I would like to take this time to extend a round of applause to the Youth Commissioners. (APPLAUSE) I just want to say that I admire everyone's tenacity, creativity, resilience, and willingness to press on despite all of our full schedules with academics, extra curriculum, volunteer work, athletics and other obstacles that we may have faced during the pandemic. When I first started, I only had a general understanding of civic justice, the government, and advocacy from years of participating in student government. Participating in events held by my East Point Council members and reading news articles. After learning the ropes of my program, the first semester, I grew the courage to run for a high-level position with - I grew the courage to network and run for a high-level leadership position, network with those in government in my District and find passion for advocating for socio-economic health disparities. As we begin to end this term, with this one full acknowledgment, I would like to encourage each of you guys to remember if you desire to make a difference in this world, you must be different from the world. In closing, I would like to thank Mr. Crossley for being a wonderful Director and keeping this program running for the last 20 plus years. And

once again I congratulate all of you and I can't wait to see the initiatives that we develop within the coming months. And on behalf of the leadership team and current Youth Commissioners, we would like to thank the Commissioners and fellow constituents for their hard work for making Fulton County a County that we hold near and dear. Thank you."

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Madam Clerk, we now have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 members present. There was an add-out item to be added to the Agenda today. It will require five affirmative votes and I would appreciate your affirmative vote to add. Would you sound the item, please?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, Mr. Chairman it's the add-on item is 22-0136, Registration and Elections. Request approval of a statewide contract to provide temporary staffing services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve this add-on by Commissioner Natalie Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please – I'm sorry. Commissioner Ellis, you want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I would like to be heard. Can – I know we've kind of a lot of discussion around this topic and I think it's a little bit unfortunate this is coming to us, you know, as an add-on. So, I did – I do think it's important, if before we vote on it, if we could, whoever's bringing it forward has asked for it to be articulate, you know kind of the timing and why we're bringing it as an add-on in the necessity of addressing it today."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, Sir; I'll be glad to answer that. This procurement is consistent with the temporary staffing strategy that was discussed and then sent to the Board in a memo whereby the goal is to diversify the temporary staffing suppliers that we have from one to several. Through really good work that Felicia did and her Staff; we went through the list of ten staffing firms that are on the state contract, narrowed it down to six to ask for proposals; and then, these three were selected. The necessity of bringing this on now is to go ahead and move forward quicker to get this in place before the primary as opposed to waiting until the general election and believe that we can do that. Obviously, with that date being May 24th and the hiring plans beginning in March, is why it's on the Agenda, today as an add-on. So, all that came together last week necessitating an add-on for the Agenda."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote, please. We appreciate your affirmative vote."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--just added it to the Agenda; yes, Sir."

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you--"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "--Mr. Chairman, there's one other item that we received a protest on; so, if you want to change the Agenda reflective of removing it, it's 22-0123, it's the landscaping proposal."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Removed?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, Sir; to remove it to allow the protest to proceed."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 4, Public Hearings, **22-0118**. Public comment. Citizens wishing to participate in Public Comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing online by registering on the County website [www.FultonCountyGA.gov](http://www.FultonCountyGA.gov). Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes. In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached, prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended, and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Board, we will start with speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received seven speaker cards. Will the first five speakers, please come down: Deonne Malick, Jane Schaepe, Margie McLeod, Lucia Frazier, Susan Ortiz-Villajos."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. It's 10:56--"

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**DEONNE MALICK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** “--good morning. My name is--“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--let me, before you begin -- sorry. As usual when you have 15 seconds last, I'll simply - left, I'll just simply say '15 seconds' which would be your queue to conclude your remarks.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “--I think you might need to adjust the mic--“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--yeah--“

**DEONNE MAILICK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** “--good morning. My name is Deonne Malick. I'm the mother of three Atlanta public school children grades 3, 5, and 7; a Ph.D. level Speech Pathologist, and wife of a surgeon. I come to you today to ask you to advocate for our youngest residents across Fulton County. Why am I here asking you? Because you are the leaders of our County and I have heard in these meetings from our school district that Atlanta public schools receives guidance from Fulton Board of Health and Atlanta Emergency Management. From March 2020 to February 2021, my children were forced into mandatory virtual school. Starting February 2021, in-person school was offered with mitigation measures instituted in what I believe is an inequitable fashion across the County and Atlanta public school district. What this may look like includes recess zones, eating in classrooms and outside versus cafeterias; no field trips; no volunteers; limiting when and where kids can drink water; when and where they can even talk; limit bathroom use; kids facing walls or sitting behind Plexiglas; no visiting enrichment programs or tutoring programs; no assemblies; mandatory COVID testing for all APS staff two times a week; limited in-person parent meetings; mandatory APS COVID testing for APS sanctioned athletes; enrichment programs two-times a week; limited social interaction to classmates only all in the name of COVID safety. Per an APS open records request, we now have over 19,000 of the 50,000 students consented for two-times a week testing. The concern is the impact these COVID mitigation measures may be having on the children's academic growth mental and physical, and social well-being; and the lasting effects, we do not yet understand. I understand that we have varying rates of vaccinations across our County, but we knew these trends existed and you have asked for these to be addressed with increased vaxs and testing and we have diligently been working on outreach. I am now in February 2022--“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--fifteen seconds--“

**DEONNE MALICK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** “--asking that you support the 514 Bill known as 'Unmask Georgia Kids', and allow parents and guardians the right to choose when it is in their children's best interest to unmask their children while in school given their

individual mental, social, and physical health risks. I'm also asking you to read review the urgency of normal tool kit for COVID in kids. Thank you for your time."

**JANE SCHAEPE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Jane Schaepe. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you as a citizen and active voter of Fulton County. I am asking each of you to support the Board of Elections by giving them the resources they need to protect the access to vote for all of Fulton County voters. I am a Critical Care Flight Nurse, and during COVID, I have seen firsthand the damage that can be done when fear combined with misinformation are repeated again, and again. During the January meeting, I was moved to action after hearing the public comments of payroll complaints, accusations of Stacey Abrams' involvement, and Happy Faces, the audit that Mr. Anthony Nicks and the closing discussion from Patrick Eskridge and Mr. Dick Anderson. I did research from valid, credible sources, and I reread the Carter Jones report. I discovered that the statements about the Abrams issues are false. I agree that payroll issues for poll workers should be corrected immediately. God bless our poll workers and they should be fully paid as promised; but also protected. One specific area of my concern after reading the Carter Jones report was his concern for the safety of our election workers. He mentioned several times he witnessed and reported not just bad and shameful actions by party monitors, but at times illegal and threatening behaviors toward election workers. Thank you to Mr. Dick Anderson and Mr. Patrick Eskridge for their guidance at the end of last month's meeting to bring the conversation back to how to manage our future elections starting with May primaries. They were the voices of reason and presented a plan for securing the May primaries and making Staffing changes for future elections. Please give the Board of Elections the resources necessary to correct our problems and support them with integrity and decisions that protect the access to vote--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**JANE SCHAEPE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--for all of Fulton County voters. Thank you."

**MARGIE MCLEOD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good afternoon, [Inaudible.] Commission. My name is Margie McLeod. I'm a community activist in the community. We have a crisis. The homeless crisis. And what I'm saying to you, Robb Pitts, we need to share that money that you give to the animal shelter -- the biggest one - let's have a bigger human shelter. I love dogs. I got three dogs, one named Marcy., the other one named Teddy, and the other one named Rosie. It's not that we need to share that money because we have a crisis here in the city of Atlanta. Then we don't have rent control. We have people right now is displaced because they cannot afford the rent. I know we need rent control here in the city of Atlanta. And then also, we need – seniors' is getting put out and that's why I came. I have orange on. It wasn't planned for me to have

orange on; it's because I was supposed to be here. Because people who cannot speak, they need help. We need housing. We need low income housing. And since we don't have that, my dream is, have the biggest human shelter in the city of Georgia. The rural areas is hurting also. So what I'm just saying I'm not taking nothing from the animal shelter. \$25 million? I was going to come down here earlier, but it's not that I don't -- we need to share that money. So, is anyway, Robb Pitts, that we can share that money and build the biggest human shelter in the city of Atlanta. Thank you."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Lucia Frazier. My fellow Fulton County citizens, I hope you're listening. All the money that you keep coming and asking this Board for, is being sent to the Elections Department. For more, I don't know. More temp agencies? I think we've been talking since September that we don't want the temp agency. You were surprised when we tried to get rid of them, and the Staff told you, 'well, we can't; we weren't preparing' and you had told them before to do that. So, I hope everybody's watching. We've been calling this out for a while. The state audit confirmed that this temp agency is a cover-up and a way to abuse our money – our money. I hope everybody's listening. Today, this Board is sneaking in another Agenda item for more money. I don't know why you have to sneak it in. My fellow citizens, please watch how this Board allocates your money. 2012 we've spent \$9 million in elections; 2016, 10 million; in 2020, 18 million; 2022, 37 million and you're asking for more money again today. I am very confused and I'm concerned about everything else that's suffering for what? We don't even know. Are we in for more surprise deviations to cause chaos and confusion to provide cover for the team that runs the ball so they can change the color of the ball before it gets to the end zone? Please, pay attention to this Board, my fellow citizens and keep watching. And for the lady ahead of me that says that there were no corrupt connections--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--that's wrong; and please stop bringing people here to tell lies while we're trying to help our community because we love our community. Thank you."

**SUSAN ORTIZ—VILLAJOS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, my name is Susan Ortiz-Villajos. First of all, I wanted to say that I'm thankful to God that no one got hurt in your firebomb incident, Mr. Arrington. And I was pleased to see that you're exercising your Second Amendment rights to carry a firearm to protect yourself and your family. I hope you will vote for candidates that will fight to preserve those rights. I'm also thankful to the Board for making sure that the Fulton County website was finally updated to announce that all positions for the - the open positions for the elections. Now, I sure hope people will actually be called after they apply. I was pleased to see that I have

already been contacted to work election day, but not for early voting yet. I'm not sure if Happy Faces will do that automatically since I worked the last election. I also wanted to remind you that the application to register to vote at the bottom you can check a box if you would be interested in being contacted to work the elections. I checked yes, but was never called when I moved here. This is another part of the process that needs to be looked into. Who sees these checks? And who is supposed to respond to engage the community? Another point, the website now mentions a five-week commitment for early voting of 18 days plus a week of training that adds up to 25 days which is more like four weeks; so, that doesn't make sense. And that same line about five weeks appears under the election day poll worker tab which could confuse or dissuade people. There is also a 35 word per minute typing minimum requirement mentioned--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**SUSAN ORTIZ—VILLAJOS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--of the training for early voting, it was apparent that some who were hired by Happy Faces, did not even know how to do a simple copy and paste of the registration number; much less, type at that speed. So once again, I'm here to tell you that hiring practices are questionable. That is not to say some people could not be line monitors or perform other duties. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next two speakers: Sandra Burchardt and Maggie Goldman."

**SANDRA BURCHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I'm Sandra Burchardt. I live in Fulton County. It was wonderful to hear all of those wonderful things that people have done, and to give them the attention and the -- to make it known they have been doing some really great things for this County. However, some of us come with heavy hearts. This morning as I was praying, I read something that said if you stand by and you're quiet, and you watch it happen and you're participating - you are participating in a crime -- it is clear. Well, I thought about this State Farm arena videos that a lot of us have seen. And it keeps coming to me that what we saw in those tapes was corruption. If you don't recognize that as corruption, then there's some question about integrity. Some of us keep coming to speak truth. Truth does not go away and neither will we. We come because we care about truth above all. We care about truth, justice, and freedom. We are motivated by truth. We are motivated by integrity like some of the young people that you encouraged today. Fair elections do not have to be complicated. They are only complicated when the goal is to cheat. Those cameras captured behavior that was very embarrassing. We want it to stop. Unfortunately, some people want it to continue. Thank you."

**MAGGIE GOLDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. Maggie Goldman, Johns Creek, District One. So, I've been following the maps process carefully and I just want to say that the Fulton County Board of Education was able to prepare and send their map before Christmas and we definitely could have done a better job in getting a map out sooner. However, we did provide a map. I'd really like to continue talking about the budget process. I would like you to start looking at the 2023 budget now so that we can have something prepared before we vote -- before you vote on the millage rate over the summer. Many other groups including the Board of Education are able to prepare a budget ahead of their millage rate. There was \$71 million in unfunded requests last year; surely, we can do a better job of reviewing those things ahead of time to see what we might want to incorporate in the future. The judicial system was likely underfunded to begin with before the COVID backlog. Maybe we need to keep some of the Staff that we added due to COVID. We really need to take a longer look at this ahead of time so that if perhaps a change needs to be made to the millage rate, we are prepared to do that. Now, maybe we won't. But, we should look at the budget ahead of time. I'd also like to know what's going on with the about million dollars that we got from the federal government to go to homeless service organizations. It looked like that might have been on the budget on the Agenda sometime in February, but apparently it's not. I've also heard a lot of requests for more money for--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**MAGGIE GOLDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--rapid rehousing funds which I believe is a security deposit and three months of rent to help people get out of extended stay hotels, homeless shelters, and all the homeless service organizations that we have. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, the next speakers will be via Zoom; and we have 14 speakers."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Fourteen?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning, Commissioners. We have 14 speakers; and the first to speak is Ben Howard."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings, Commissioners and Staff. And special greetings to you citizens of Fulton County. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. Kudos to all at our senior multipurpose facilities who make those nutritious and delicious meals available to us seniors at such a reasonable cost, and with such a pleasurable demeanor. I find it's time for me to seek outside help in getting

the various iterations of Senior Services Management to do right by the Commission on Elder Affairs. Why should the Commission on Elder Affairs hold a meeting in February, when online, there was only the Agenda from the January meeting? Why are Commission on Elder Affairs members being led to believe they are not subject to the Georgia Open Meetings Act and its requirements including summary minutes in addition to regular minutes? Why are the Members of the Commission on Elder Affairs being told that the real reason why those Council on Aging vacancies have been kept open these many months is that Ben Howard is a candidate to fill one of those Council on Aging slots? Those questions and others, just might be answered with outside help is brought in."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Bridget Thorne."

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, Commissioners. This is Bridget Thorne. I see on the web site that you've opened up some spots for the community to be more involved in other areas of the election process. Thank you for that. I think that is one small step and the right step in restoring trust in our elections. Now, I think it is imperative that Fulton elections start operating more efficiently and stop wasting our taxpayer dollars. Richard Barron is going to the media and saying he is facing funding challenges with his \$37 million budget. In 2020, after analyzing the \$25 million expenses that was given to the auditor, 7.3 million was spent on nonagency capitol. That is equipment you shouldn't have to buy again. 6.5 million was spent on COVID expenses. We shouldn't have to spend that again. That is 13.8 million total. And now, with the budget he has here that's very generous. Stop over-staffing the precinct. Part of 2020, as a precinct manager, I would have eight workers. Now, that number is about 14. Great. Now, I have about five or six workers who get to play basketball in the school gym. It's ridiculous and it's wasteful. There's no need for line monitors when you have no lines. There is no need for a compliance officer. The Manager should be responsible for reconciliation reports. It's their job. Not some outside compliance manager. There is no need for poll techs in every precinct. Allow current poll workers to get a poll tech certification and just pay them a little bit more for that certification. There is no need for additional provisional ballot Clerk. Your assistant manager or one of your assistant managers should be responsible for that training in that--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**BRIDGET THORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--area of elections. On another note, it's time to stop the vaccine and masks mandate for Fulton County workers. You know even your health officials say that whether you're vaccinated or unvaccinated, you're still going to get omicron; so, it doesn't matter. So, stop testing. If you're going to do so,

then test everybody because everybody can catch it. Thank you. Appreciate your time."

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

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. I have a genuine question for you this morning. Do you believe in transparency and open communication with the public? Not do you use it as a talking point; but, do you really believe it? If so, we've still got a long way to go. Let me share an example with you. Chairman Pitts, you mentioned that the public would enjoy working with the new BRE Chair, Ms. Woolard; and that she was fair and transparent. Well, I'm still waiting on that day. Last week, you along with two other Board Members voted to amend the bylaws so that public comment would be eliminated from special meetings. Is that a sound fair and transparent to you? Let's also clarify something about these special meetings. There's nothing special about most of them. Do you know what most people outside of government call that - they simply call that another meeting. It's evident Fulton elections are not headed in the right direction, currently; and what is this attempt at an emergency funding of a temp agency? Or multiple temp agencies? Simply instead, what are y'all doing? It's been clearly stated by audits and residents to stop using temp agencies and stop wasting taxpayer dollars. It's been articulated multiple times, not only by the public, but by this Board as to what's the Elections Departments plan to residents in all aspects of the election process. It's been weeks since this was mentioned; so, what's the plan? Commissioner Hall, did you ever receive any answers to the questions that were posed to the Elections Department a month ago--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--fifteen seconds--"

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "--I'm not aware of [Inaudible.]. We currently have a significant issue that is not being addressed by this Department and it needs attention yesterday. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Candice Stockham."

**CANDICE STOCKHAM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. Good morning. My name is Candice Stockham, and I am a Fulton County resident. And I would like to ask the Board of Commission to support the Board of Elections for the entire 2022 election cycle. Also, I'd like to ask the Board of Elections to continue to search for a new Board of Elections director. So, thank you for your service, and thank you for your time."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Candy Muldowney. Candy Muldowney. Okay, the next person to speak is Jane Zoellick. Jane Zoellick. Excuse me for a second. Jane Zoellick."

**JANE ZOELICK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. Good morning, all. I'm Jane Zoellick. I'm a resident of Fulton County, District Three. I am here to ask you all to please support the Board of Elections by giving them the resources sufficient to staff the entire 2022 cycle sufficiently; so, that we can all exercise our right and privilege to vote in a free and fair election here. Please don't allow distractions from this very important work by political concerns or by people who have not motivated by the best interest of all Fulton County voters. Please also continue the search for a new elections director and preparing for the upcoming election as we all know numerous issues and much to be done and we appreciate all of your efforts in securing funding to ensure the rights of all of our voters. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Joseph Blunt."

**JOSEPH BLOUNT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I'm Joe Blount, a resident of Fulton County, District Four. And thank you for the opportunity to speak. I have a couple of brief comments and that they are: the Board of Elections should be provided the resources that they need to staff the 2022 election cycle. The Board of Elections should focus on their search for a new director preparing for the upcoming elections. They should not be distracted by political concerns and I would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for their attention to the matters. Thank you for your service to the citizens of Fulton County."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Linda Downey. Linda Downey. Okay, the next person to speak is Marika Lamore; I'm sorry, Lamoreaux."

**MARIKA LAMOREAUX, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I along with several other people are here to voice our support for the Board of Elections. I am a Fulton County resident and I believe that the Board of Commissioners should support the Board of Elections by giving them the resources they need to sufficiently staff the 2022 cycle and the Board of Elections should focus on the search for a new elections' director, and prepare for the upcoming elections and not be distracted from its important work by political concerns or people who are not motivated by the best interests of all Fulton County voters. Thank you so much for your service, and thank you for your time."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Cani - Candy Muldowney."

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, this is actually Kevin Muldowney, registered incorrectly under my wife's name. I noticed a line item on this week's Agenda for open and responsible government. As mentioned earlier by Matt Rowenzcak, at last week's BRE meeting, Cathy Woolard, this supposedly nonpartisan Chair, submitted a change to their procedures to suppress public comment at special meetings by only allowing said comment at the discretion of the Board. This move is not open or responsible to the constituents of the County. I believe the initial firing of Richard Barron was a direct result of the pressure brought about by concerned citizens through these very same public comments at a special meeting. The suspense – the suppression of citizens comments is just one step away from the suppression of they're votes. I realize this was not a direct decision by the Board of Commissioners, but the question has to be asked, is this the kind of partisan decision we can expect as a result of the obvious political imbalance on the current Board of Registration and Elections? The vote to pass the suppression was straight along party lines, three Democrats versus two Republicans. Looks like suppression is a Democrat value. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Meetali Jain."

**MEETALI JAIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. Good morning, Commissioners. I'm a resident of Fulton County as well. I'm glad to see that the add-on item was added to the Agenda today. I would encourage the Board of Commissioners to fully support the Board of Elections with adequate resources that they need to sufficiently staff the 2022 election cycle particularly in light of the very real threats to security and safety that have already started to manifest and because of how critical these elections are. I'd also encourage the commission -- the Board of Commission to guide the Board of Elections to focus in on the search for a new elections director and to prepare for the upcoming election cycle. I'm really concerned that the Board of Elections not be distracted from its critical work ahead in the months ahead by political agendas or individuals who aren't motivated by the best interest of Fulton County voters like me. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Mohamed Sillah. Mohamed Sillah. Okay, the next person to speak is Linda Downey."

**LINDA DOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. Good, good morning. My name is Linda Downey. Can you guys hear me?"

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, we can."

**LINDA DOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you for providing the opportunity for me to speak today. I've been a city of Atlanta resident for 13 years and I would like to commend the Fulton County Board of Elections for the positive experience I had when early voting in the 2020 elections. I saw a smooth and orderly process where I was able to vote early at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium. This meant that due to the sheer size of this space, I didn't have to wait in line too long and I was able to maintain a safe distance in light of the COVID pandemic. So, I would like to express my continued support for the expansion of early voting, the expansion of absentee voting (inaudible) to ensure adequate polling stations so that voters don't have to wait in line that are too long, and also a focus on the search for a new elections' director. Our democracy will benefit from the engagement of all the citizens. Thank you so much."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Patty Nathan."

**PATTY NATHAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I'm Patty Nathan, a resident of District Two. I asked the Fulton Board of Commissioners to support the Board of Elections by giving them the resources to sufficiently staff the 2022 cycle. The state legislature has imposed many obligations without providing any funding to cover the costs. They need an additional \$53 million to adequately fulfill their obligations to the residents of Fulton County. I can think of nothing more important to the citizens of Fulton County than protecting their vote. Georgia and Fulton County will be under national microscope, once again in this election cycle. The entire country, indeed the entire world, is watching. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The last one to speak is Ralph Fruachtman."

**RALPH FRUCHTMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Ralph Fruachtman and I'm a resident of District Four. I also want to ask the Board of Commissioners to support their Board of Elections. Fulton County deserves a well-run election and funding is crucial. Election performance in our County could not be more visible and it could not be more important. Please give the Board of Elections the money that they need. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And this concludes our zoom comments."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, that was the last of the speakers. We don't have any e-mail comments today."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **22-0119**, presentation of COVID-19 operational response update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's 11:27 Mr. Manager--"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "--yes, Sir. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Our Team will be virtual today in that Dr. Paxton's in her office; Matt is expressing some symptoms and awaiting PCR test; and then Doug Schuster, proud to say, is a new grandpa as of last night with baby Will, 6 pounds 7 ounces; so congratulations to Doug; he's also listening in. Briefly, the trends are still positive with the exceptions of the death per day rate which is the ultimate, of course trailing indicator. The cases at 230 to positivity rate at 7.7 percent, and hospitalizations at 450 represent improvements from 445% --- AUDIO TROUBLE

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** "Moderator, if you could mute Mr. Ralph Fruchtman. Mr. Ralph Fruchtman. Thank you."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "--so, that all being said, Fulton County is still in a high transmission category, and we've asked Dr. Paxton to speak to you today relative to her perspective on the trends as well as the potential impacts on policies that you would need to consider relating to masks and vaccination test requirements for County employees in buildings. While we don't recommend any immediate changes today, we do believe that a move to encouragement versus compliance will make sense given another couple of weeks. So do expect us to have specific masks as well as vaccination policy recommendations in the next BOC meeting. We'll also be addressing our overall public approach in the next meeting. The vaccination testing strategy is concurrent with the federal government policies which we believe effective on April 1 will change. So again, expect us to come back to discuss that with you during the March meeting. At present, we're seeing still good success with events and incentives. Particularly, APS basketball games have yielded some nice results over the last couple weeks doing 65 vaccinations and a lot of good feedback from parents, and we'll pass that on today. With ERAP, of course, we have announced publicly and now will underscore again we have received in hand the 25 million additional that was initiated by the Chairman and then very much facilitated by the Commissioner of DCA. We're very pleased that that's been received. We have now started the process for an additional 25 million which we believe we'll be successful in securing. So, much credit to Dr. Roshell and her Team and she can discuss any of those details. In addition, Dr. Roshell can discuss what was announced this week which is the receipt of the 50,000 home tests that are now being distributed through over 20 library and clinic locations; so, that's also good news. As you know, we're moving forward now into economic recovery as we had described. And we have some I think very exciting initiatives included in your package today: small business loans, workforce development, and a unique partnership with the South Fulton Chamber. And Samir can provide some

updates on that but again as we've been talking about as we make progress on suppression of the virus, the critical next step is elevating our economic interests, and these programs, I think, can do that. Our flagship effort project ORCA continues to gain momentum and recognition from the state as well as nationally. We're all very pleased with the hiring progress, the logistics and most importantly the progress on reducing the number of cases. Technology has played a huge role in the success of this as well and it's appropriate that we spend a brief review on the IT roadmap effort today. And of course, Alton is prepared to provide you an update including George, excuse me, Judge level scorecard which I know has been much-anticipated, and those are included in your package. With our employees, we have now reached 86% vaccination level; and had a – had only 36 cases, new cases and very few facing termination for noncompliance. So, we believe we can normalize operations fairly quickly, and work to continue the long-term reconfiguration of our work environment as we've talked about that will allow for more flexibility for remote working as well as pandemic proofing our buildings going forward. And then last, on the financial outlook, it remains the same. With two important changes: one is, we have allocated 1.7 million now explicitly for support of the diversion center. That's coupled with the 800,000 that was already included in the budget. So, the full 2.5 million for 2022 is now secure and then the addition of the 25 million in ERAP funds are now included; which gives us an overall \$329 million program to manage and relating to COVID response. So, Mr. Chairman, we are again virtual, but as you can see on the screen, we're ready to answer the first part of any questions or provide any further highlights. And then we'll call on Dr. Roshell, Samir, and Alton for some additional information."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you Mr. Manager. Want to take questions or do they having anything to add?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Matt, do you, do you want to call attention to anything specific? I mean, we recently want Dr. Paxton to speak to her perspective on the trends and implications for policy."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFECMA:** "Of course, actually, I'm going to ask Doug to start off with just going over slide three, giving some points on that one; and then we'll cut, hit a couple other mean points and Dr. Paxton would talk to full bullet points on her slide. So, Doug, could you start from slide three, please."

**DOUG SCHUESTER, EMSI:** "Thank you, Matt. As you all can tell, things have been getting better and in absence of the huge omicron surge, we would still be at very, very high totals. So, the trends are good, and we're – we're trending in the right direction; but we must remain vigilant and careful. Fulton County case rate is still four and a half times above the CDC standard for high transmission but trending in the right direction.

98 percent of all new cases are from the omicron variant; the other 2 percent is from the omicron subvariant. And then very importantly here, 45 percent of all new cases, 91 percent of all new hospitalizations, and 96 percent of all new deaths are still from the unvaccinated population. And a point I'd like to make here is unvaccinated people, omicron is just as dangerous as any previous version of the virus. And then, the worse news bullet of the day is we are at an all-time high, 6.6 deaths a day, 65 people have died with COVID related problems since the last Fulton County Board of Commissioners meeting. And like I said, we are expected to continue to see a surge in deaths based on our surge from the holidays on cases. So omicron is deadly if you're unvaccinated. But Fulton County hospital bed availability continues to be in a severe shortage situation as the number of patients are decreasing pretty sharply with COVID, their non-COVID patients that have been waiting on procedures are now filling up those empty spaces. So, still critical there. Two of our indicators on the scorecard are red: hospitalizations and deaths. As you all know, those lag. They are trending in the right direction and two are yellow. Next slide, please. You can see right here quickly that orange is much better than the dark purples and reds; but we'd like to be in the yellow situation. Next slide. This shows the CDC recommendation where 236 below 50 is moderate transmission. That's the recommendation for masking. Next slide."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFECMA:** "--hey Doug if you mind, I'd like to go ahead and skip to slide 11. Dr. Paxton, if you could, step in here and go ahead and cover these points, and add a little bit of extra commentary. Dr. Paxton, you are on mute at this moment."

**DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH:** "Sorry, excuse me. I just want to say thank you to Doug and Matt; and I just wanted to briefly emphasize some of the points that are on this slide. As you just saw, there very clear recommendations from the CDC about when it's really safe to, to start unmasking widely. And that is depended on you know the level of COVID transmission in the communities. And as you've just seen despite, and we're so happy for this. Despite the falling number of cases, over the past few weeks, that we are still in very high, and still at very high levels. The Fulton County -- the new case rate is that is 236 per 100,000; and where as we'd really like to - we'd be in a much better position when we get to the point of being less than 50 new cases per hundred thousand. Now, what we do know is that you know we're still lagging, all of us in the United States, as much behind in terms of getting boosted against COVID-19. So, we are still putting a huge amount of emphasis on that as we're you know continuing to fight this omicron surge. And so about 27 percent of the US population has received their coronavirus vaccine booster shot. And we're right there in Fulton County. You haven't seen it this time, but you've seen in the past we have very clear evidence about how boosting can help prevent you know very severe complications and

keep people out of the hospital. The other thing that I was just going to talk about is that the vaccine mandates work. And what was meant by that is that we know that vaccinations work at keeping people from first of all getting sick. You are probably about five times less likely to ever even contract COVIS, COVID if you are un, if you are vaccinated. And if you do happen to have a breakthrough infection, despite being vaccinated, that you are anywhere from you know depending on what you look at, ten to 50 to 90 percent less likely to be hospitalized for that, you know for COVID. So, in short vaccinations protect individuals from severe COVID. They protect our coworkers as Dick just talked about. The fact that 86 percent of Fulton County employees are vaccinated has actually as you can see that has helped to decrease the number of cases and people who are out sick due to COVID. It also protects the most vulnerable in our community and it definitely eases the strain on the hospital system. So, what this says about vaccine mandates work. Vaccines work to prevent illness and death and vaccine mandates work to get more people vaccinated. So, that's the explanation for you know on this slide. So, the little points that I wanted to bring up is one, it is actually a quote from Dr. Walensky, the head of the CDC, which I think is very relevant to this situation. And one is that it's about masking, and she has said 'masks are for now, not forever'. And what I think - where I think that we in Fulton have a huge advantage, is that we have our own data. We're not relying on sort of what's going on in the rest of the United States. We have a very rich database ourselves that we look at literally, every day. And we also have due to Doug's facility with projection models, we actually have an excellent graphs that show us where we could might expect if we continue on the same trajectory when we might expect to see that we are at such low at, that we are at low levels that would meant that would, you know, justify a change in our approach. So, I just wanted to bring that up to, to you all and of course, I'm here to answer any particular questions that you might have for clarifications."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFECMA:** "Hey, Dr. Paxton. Just want to highlight two or three more things and then we'll go ahead and open the floor about questions for Dr. Paxton. Let's go to slide 12, Moderator. Just want to once again, showcase the great work of the Team: 535,000 vaccines administered; 13,757 boosters; our mobile team once again approaching that 42,000 mark of the amount of folks have been vaccinated in the community. We have resumed first and second dose incentives program and that actually started on February 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. So, individuals that are looking to receive a first or second dose, they can actually take advantage of a hundred-dollar incentive. For that, they must be a Fulton County resident to be able to go ahead and take advantage of that program. Next slide, please. Since the last time that we did get together, we only saw to Dr. Paxton's point, only 1 percent increase – a lot of folks took advantage of the booster. We are tracking that, leveraging the state databases and such; since a 281,094 citizens of Fulton County

have took advantage of the booster program. We'd love to see that go just more than 1 percent every two weeks. So, at this time, we're at 46 percent of our eligible population. If the Moderator could switch to slide 16, it's the APS basketball logo on it. We have had great success with this. The County Manager alluded to it in his opening comments. It has been a great partnership with Atlanta public schools. Fulton County public schools is looking to see if they can implement something similar. But we have vaccinated over 265 individuals at four different Atlanta public school basketball events and games. that the thing that we actually heard back from APS leadership on Friday that we wanted to share great news that the parents were actually calling in telling the folks that it was so great to have it, the convenience piece. We've heard it from our Commissioners. Let's make it as convenient as possible. We took advantage of this one opportunity and it worked out in our favor. The parents were bringing their kids either to basketball games or to watch the basketball games and it was right there, and they said, why not. So, that was one of the good things about that program. We'll also have another outreach program that'll be going on at the Parkland elementary cluster with Fulton County public schools on February 26th as well as March 26<sup>th</sup>, that you'll see up there. The last piece I will cover before we ask Dr. Roshell to go ahead and make any comments about the home vaccination test kit program. It's on slide 17 Moderator. We have had two locations that we opened not long ago, as well as our other standard sites that we have on the bottom of the screen for testing. We have seen a significant drop-off in testing at all of our locations. We'll be watching the Morgan Falls location very closely. To see when it will be time to go ahead and turn that site off and get ready for an additional surge in the future; that's something we're watching closely. The Mercedes-Benz Home Depot Backyard will sunset this Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we're extremely grateful to the State Department of Public Health as well as Arthur Blank and all of his business units; one, for opening up this site for us to be able to do this. We did actually also add vaccinations to that location and people have been taken advantage of that is well or also seeing a pretty significant decline in a lot of folks that have taken advantage of that site. So, it's time for us to go ahead and move on to different aspects of our COVID response program. I'd like the Moderator, switch to the next slide and pass it to Dr. Roshell for any comments."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you, Matt. I would like to just draw the Commissioners attention to the fact that we have begun distribution at 15 libraries starting on Monday. This is in partnership with our Board of Health partners. We have test kits available at 15 library locations throughout the city and if the Moderator or the Clerk's office would turn to page 19, you will see these libraries here the individual constituents can access a test kit packet from the library. There are two test kits per person. You must be present or you must pick-up the test kits in-person. These are while supplies last and the test kits are available during regular operating hours. We

also have six health centers and constituents may also pick-up test kits at these health centers. Again, the test kits are free and they are for use with anyone two years of age and older. For information about the test kit program, constituents can visit [FultonCountyGA.gov/home](http://FultonCountyGA.gov/home) test kits. And at that site, we were keeping an update or running total of when a site runs out of test kits. So, this is a one-time opportunity. It won't be an ongoing program and so we want constituents to know if a library that is convenient for them no longer has test kits on hand. The next distribution will be for our CSP partners in our health equity targeted ZIP Codes. We've also added churches that are in our health equity COVID ZIP Codes simply because we've heard from many churches that they are resuming in-person services and that this will be a great way to provide this, this resource. And finally, we will be providing the remaining test kits to our own Staff. That concludes my update Matt."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFECMA:** "Thank you, Dr. Roshell, I appreciate it. And thank you, once again, for highlighting the very success that between the Fulton County, as well as, the Fulton County Board of Health, between yourself and Dr. [Inaudible.] we've had a great program to be able to share with the constituents that we serve; so, thank you for that. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to turn it back over to you for any questions or concerns."

**CHAIRMAN PITS:** "Thank you sir. Commissioner Ellis followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you to our - for y'all here for y'all joining us virtually. Y'all have very nice blue backgrounds that blend well with your attire as well; so, you're coming at us in HD. So, you all are looking good. Matt, we hope you feel better soon. Just – one thing I did - we have some comments from the public and we probably have all receive some e-mails and stuff as well. But, I just wanted to clarify or have you all clarified for public consumption that when it comes to our schools, we do supply them with data, and we have - I think we work closely with them. But, the policies that they implement and choose to implement are theirs. They are not driven or dictated by Fulton County public health or Fulton County government. We could just – if you could just speak to that or whoever wants to address that. Maybe Dr. Paxton, that would be—"

**DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH:** "—oh, you abs - thank you. You absolutely said what I keep trying to tell people is that we at the Board of Health serve as advisors, we provide information, but we do not make policies. So, thank you. You very succinctly stated it, that the individual policies of different school systems are at the determination of the school systems themselves."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. As is really for Fulton County government too, right? I mean, you're advising us and we're making this, you know, kind of choices. The one thing, and we skipped over this slide, and I think it bears a little bit of attention to, I think, when it comes to vaccines, there's definitely in cases right? I mean, we've had – we've not had a consistent methodology for testing over the life of the pandemic, right? It's been very different, right? In terms of how much you had and all of that sort of stuff; so, kind of know what the true incident rate was throughout that period of time – it's been evolving, right? You know, so, it's not sort of a static sort of fixed base at testing. We can go back and look at. Similarly, when the vaccines were launched, I think one of the things that sort of got glossed over or maybe not emphasized enough was that vaccines were not necessarily going to prevent you from getting COVID, but they did feel like they had high -- high likelihood of preventing you from being hospitalized or dying from COVID, right? [Inaudible.]"

**DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH:** "Very true."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "And I think so certainly we have had a lot of people who have contracted the omicron variant, with all of this plethora of testing that's out there where folks have been vaccinated. But I think one of the things that we've not really highlighted as much is something that we do have very concrete data on that's been, you know, we starting to have some degree of consistency you know because folks have been vaccinated for some period of time relates to hospitalization data, and Matt, I do think or whoever wants to talk through it this slide seven in the deck, if we could just go to that, and if you all can make some remarks around it I do think that's important for public consumption when they're thinking about you know kind of the impact of vaccinations."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFECMA:** "--do you mind stepping in here?"

**DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH:** "Sure. No, actually I do not. In fact, there's an additional slide that I would have put in here that illustrates something called the base rate fallacy a lot of people fall for. What this is showing us, and I think on this top slide is that showing just basically the breakthrough cases that we have seen and we do see it – it shows very well that if you are vaccinated there are still some people who have breakthrough infections. Though that's represented even by those you know the blue and the orange; and of course, if you're unvaccinated, that you are, you know, also at much risk. But then if you go down, when you look at it, who's actually ending up in the hospital? And it is by a large percentage it is the people who are unvaccinated because they're getting infected and they're having much, much worse outcomes. And when you look at deaths by vaccination status which is you know, that figure 33, that really very starkly shows you that only 1 percent of the people that are dying who have

been fully boosted – are have been fully boosted. That the rest of that 96 percent of our confirmed COVID deaths here in Fulton County are among the unvaccinated. So, I mean it's clear. It is supported by the data about how important vaccinations are.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Thank you for that. And I guess my only comment on that top chart is for too is the relevancy of it you don't really know because you know you can't really make the assumption that unvaccinated people or fully vaccinated or fully boosted people are getting tested at the same rate per capita so that the percentages may have some degree of relevancy where they may have no degree of relevancy. So, but I think the bottom two things were the things that I'm glad that I want to highlight just for public consumption so thank you for that. The other thing and I don't know this is really the kind of point in time where we want to talk about it, but you know the issue of sort of guidelines and guardrails and that sort of stuff versus using the term mandates and so forth. I do – it's my opinion that we ought to move as it relates to vaccinations of our employees and vax or testing kind of elements as well as mask requirements in our buildings that we should move away from the policy of the two that we have right now and move more towards a guideline standpoint of you know – in my remarks with that really don't relate to you know any sort of debate around the effectiveness or not effectiveness of masks or of vaccines, but you know specifically you know on the masking piece I don't feel like we have the ability to enforce this anyway. So, have having, and I see it in our buildings, some places it's very loosely enforced. Some places, it is, it's inconsistent and asking our employees to be in a situation where they're required to potentially enforce something with a citizen member who's coming in for services or try to determine whether or not they have some sort of you know reason they can't be masked, et cetera. I just think it's sort of reach the point it's counterproductive and we would be better served by just posting within our buildings we are in a period of time where according to CDC guidelines, that masking is you know the preferred way to go and that's our request in our buildings. But we move away from the statement of requirement. And similarly, I think on the VAX or test piece, I think given the rate of vaccination of employees is up at 87 percent that you know we move – we've gotten to the point of its sort of lost utility of continuing this sort of VAX or test structure that we've had in place. I think it's probably this stage, it's become more of an administrative burden than it is, you know, some sort of benefit and you know in addition to that, you know, I still don't understand where we are. We're passing out test kits, which we spent a lot of money on, but I don't think that those test kits are worth sending out. We're allowed to be submitted for testing requirements in accordance with our policy, is that right; we're still---”

**DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH:** “--that's true; We don't. No ones' out there not obligated--”

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**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--yeah, so, there’s an incongruence with that that we’re dropping a lot of money on tests and we even had the federal government sending out money – sending out these tests to people, but, they wouldn’t be -- that would have no utility when it comes to this particular program that we have in place. So, you know I think that you know utilizing the terms, more guidelines and putting that data out there I think it’s perfectly fine, but I think we’ve sort past the point of utility for both these for using the terms requirements you know or and/or mandates when it comes to these two particular issues. And I would like to see us move away from that, you know from a policy action starting today.”

**DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH:** “Commissioner Ellis, can I make just one point about the utility of the rapid test. You are completely correct. They are not entered into our databases, and so that is absolutely true. But their utility, though is that they do allow people who have these and they test positive to be able to act on that very quickly. And so that’s the whole reason behind getting these out and you know into the hands of everyone so that they can find out their status and can take the appropriate steps. It’s not so much about what has come in, you know, it’s how it’s going to get into our database so that people can make informed decisions.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah. And I understand the utility of the test. I was really more speaking to kind of the way that we’ve chosen not to build that in to our VAX or test program when it came to County employees. Because I was really speaking more specifically to that and sort of the incongruence of that.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “All right. Thank you, Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I wanted to ask a question and have Dr. Roshell dealing with the actual centers that are going to be giving out the tests. Am I -- am I of the right mindset - it sounds like you all may be managing it where if one is lower in giving out the quantity and one is higher, then you may manage that as in shifting inventory from one to the other? Or am I just overthinking the process.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “Thank you for that question, Commissioner. No, we did not discuss shifting any inventory. We simply wanted to make sure that consumers know when the inventory is exhausted.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. Do you think you may look at that maybe--”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “--we certainly can--”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--down the road--”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “--yes, Ma'am--”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--also, I would like to know will there be an option for the test kits to maybe be mailed in the future or is it strictly pick up, you know, with the CSP's?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “We designed the program for pickup.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Pickup only.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “Yes, Ma'am.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. And also, I noticed that you said churches, but I would like to know if synagogues and masjids; would they be in that group; that you may try to target especially areas that you may see a spike in.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “Yes, Ma'am, I should have correctly said our faith partners.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. No problem. I just wanted to make sure for our listening audience; and by the way, I think you all are doing a great job. Thank you.”

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Commissioner Morris.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Thank you, Vice Chair Emeritus. Couple of, couple of questions: I guess, the first one following up a little bit on Commissioner Abdur-Rahman's comments. On slide 19, I know, I know we're really having emphasis on the southern part of the County. I note that six of the seven libraries are way south of the county. We have one up in Alpharetta. I'm wondering did you think about maybe one halfway between John Wesley Dobbs and Alpharetta say in Sandy Springs library somewhere? I'm struck. We all sort of make generalizations sometimes about where wealth is and where poverty is. I was struck some years ago, coming into discussion with Fulton County school board how many homeless children are in the Fulton County schools north of Atlanta; so, there are folks who are in need up that way. So, I just make that comment. I know the CSP partners may be distributing them around in other parts of the County. Is that a fair statement?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** “Yes, Sir. And on page 20, we did include Sandy Springs, Roswell, Milton, and John's Creek.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay, I didn't flip over."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Sir. For that very reason--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--okay--"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--we wanted to make sure there was at least one access point--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--okay--"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "--for all 15 cities--"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "--well, as Gilder Ratner used to say on Saturday Night Live, never mind. Second question, I guess this is for Doug or Matt. On slide 13, the numbers -- it says on the second bullet point in the middle totals represent percent of total population 668,610,000 but then I'm confused by the bottom bullet point, about tracking boosters. It talks about 40 percent of the eligible population and that's got a parenthesis, the 281,000 which is the number over in the right. Is that 281,000."

**DOUG SCHUESTER, EMSI:** "I could speak to this. The 281,000 is 281,000 of the 610,000 so 46 percent of the fully vaccinated people are up-to-date on their vaccine and booster. It is confusing, but this is a state database."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay. Okay. Well, that answers my question. And then I think it also answers my last question which is the term fully vaccinated here you're really referring to the two shots under Pfizer? Not fully vaccinated being the two shots plus a booster."

**DOUG SCHUESTER, EMSI:** "Correct. The CDC defines that as up-to-date on your vaccine like most other vaccines, they've kind of gone with fully vaccinated is the original two doses. Up-to-date would be the 46 percent of those individuals that have been boosted."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay. Thank you."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, Sir. Dr. Roshell, do you want to comment any further about ERAP as an update?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you, Mr. Manager, the only comment I like to make is that we are of course continuing to provide services for the community those constituents living in Fulton County outside of the city of Atlanta since we've received the additional \$250 million. We have approved and sent for payment 780 cases totaling 5.7 million. I did also want to update the Board on the question regarding

including the city of Atlanta with the reallocated funds from the state of Georgia. In conversation with Commissioner Nun, he advises us not to take that direction at this time until we can stand up a duplication of benefit tool. He believes that there would be a high propensity for duplicated benefits without that tool in place and we together are working on that tool. Once that's in place, he would like to revisit this as an option. That's all I have today, Mr. Manager."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Continue."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, Sir. I want to ask Alton Adams, our Chief Operating Officer for Public Safety Technology and most importantly as it relates to this our Senior Liaison to the justice area to discuss project ORCA."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Thank you, County Manager. Good morning, Commissioners. If we can, can we flip to page 39, please. Last week, our - the Supreme Court presiding justice for the state Michael P. Boggs spent some time up at the capital talking about the backlog. And among other things, he pointed out how significant the statewide backlog is. The efforts at the state level to disburse funds to address the backlog, and how difficult it is in his words is merely impossible to measure case backlogs until courts return to pre-pandemic capacity. And the reason I say that is because Fulton County is the largest County in the state has its disproportionate share of those cases, but it is very much a statewide and a nationwide challenge as our courts start to reopen. My objective today is to give you a quick update on where we stand with our goal to reduce the case backlog project ORCA and to answer any questions that you might have in terms of where we are. Next page, please. As a quick reminder, this project was established to deal with cases that were accumulated either before the - - before COVID or during COVID, and the reason I said before COVID is that there are a number of cases that would have been heard or adjudicated during the two-year period and as a result, they're considered part of the case backlog that we're attempting to address. Next page, please. There are a number of key measures that we are focused on, key performance indicators. One of the biggest ones is hiring the 300 plus people that we have identified individuals that we have identified as part of the setting up what I called shadow court system for lack of a better term. This gives you a sense of the percentage of completion to the hiring goals for each one of those particular areas. As you'll see, we've made considerable progress across every single area. We had, we had been lagging specifically in the area of sworn officers for the Marshall and for the Sheriff. The good news is that over the last week or so, we've actually made some progress in bringing individuals on board. So, as we sit here today, if you take out the sworn officers, we're at 88 percent of our target and if you include the sworn officers, we're at 67 percent. But moving in the right direction in terms of hires. The

next page, please. All right. This gives you a sense for how the cases have moved in the last, in the last six weeks. As you know we started our official count on December 6<sup>th</sup>, a little over 148,000 cases. Over the last six weeks, we have adjudicated or moved 14,000 of those cases as we sit here today our current case load is 134,000 cases. And I think what I'd like to point out is that progress was done, even though we in fact, staffed jury trials in the month of January to address the omicron virus. So, we expect the actual pace to increase pretty significantly as we get back to full capacity and as we start to resume jury trials. Next page, please. As you know one of the things that we have been talking about for some time is how do we in fact measure the progress on a court-by-court in this case on a judge-by-judge basis? I want to thank the strategy group for the work that they've done in pulling all this information together. It is not a trivial task, but this is the culmination of a lot of work in terms of looking at the data and trying to display it in a way that it's easy to understand. So, this particular page displays a number of cases that had been closed by Superior Court Judge for the last -- since we "started the count on December 6<sup>th</sup>". The next page represents the outstanding cases by judge yet to be adjudicated. And so, to get a full picture you need to kind of look at both of these. But it gives you a sense for what progress we're making, and then how much more work we have to do on a judge-by-judge basis as we move forward. We have the same measure if you can turn to the next page, please -- the same measure for state court. And here again, this gives you a sense for how many cases have been adjudicated over the last -- over the last six weeks by judge and then the next page gives you a sense for the remaining cases for the individuals -- for the judges I'm sorry and state court. Let me stop there and see if there are any questions about the actual data itself on the graphs."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Commissioner Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Well, one comment, one question. One is that we're going to see a lot better about the judges as time goes on because as we've said before if a judge has a three-week trial -- I mean, you know the numbers of disposed cases is going to be small during that time period for that judge. So, we need to -- we need to look at them with some understanding about -- about individual situations. The other - I guess this question Alton, and that is: one of the things, and I think I've asked this before, the question of non-ORCA cases where the judges are focusing on the ORCA cases, are the new ones piling up? Could you comment a little bit on that?"

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "All right, yes, Commissioner Morris. The - we are going to be tracking the cases of the non-ORCA cases as well. And so, that's captured in a separate – in a separate set of graphs or slides. The reason that we established a standalone group of Superior Court Judges, retired judges and we have

added to the Staff of the Public Defender and the Solicitor and the like. It specifically addressed what you are raising which is we wanted the individuals who are focused on kind of business as usual in the court to not necessarily have to divert their time and attention to the ORCA cases. And so, we are going to be tracking it. The hope and expectation is that the resources devoted to ORCA will allow us to continue to make progress and that, in fact, we will in fact have the courts continue to focus on the cases as they come in today. That having been said, I think you mentioned this, we are not at full capacity yet in the court system. In fact, I don't know of any court system that's back to pre-COVID capacity. It is going to take us a while to ramp up. We have specific limitations around how many people we can gather in a jury pool, selection room we have limitations about how many individuals we can bring over from the jail to the courthouse so there are a number of things that are going to be – that are going to open up and we're going to be able to expand. At this point in time, are we still in fact restricted in terms of the overall capacity for the system."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner Morris. Thank you, Alton."

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "Let me, if I can, I have two - one more slide.

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Absolutely."

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "Okay. Actually two more; but this gives you a sense – and we use this – I don't want to belabor this but behind the numbers and the overall numbers, there is a lot of work that goes on in terms of coordinating all of the different parties, the different agencies associated with moving cases and ORCA. This is just gives you an example of one particular calendar and it shows the coordination required across all of the agencies. It talks to the fact that we're using a combination of virtual capabilities, in-court capabilities to address the different needs of the system. And then finally, just to conclude, next slide, please -- just in summary, we continue to feel like we're making progress on the hiring. We're going to have some small setbacks because we have people who have left for higher salaries, two weeks after they joined us. I think we feel good about the progress. We've got a number of the court rooms that were refurbished that are now being calendared. I think one of the things that we continue to focus on is what else can we do in addition to adding capacity and so for example we are starting a pilot on May 7<sup>th</sup> to do night court, for the first time in a long time with our Superior Court. And then, we're going to follow that up with state court. That's going to allow us to address the needs of citizens, quite frankly who may in fact want to have an evening session because they may be working, and so on. So, it's going to give us flexibility. It's also going to give us some additional capacity and surely

a big step for us in terms of trying to find ways to be innovative as we address the backlog. So thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. That's awesome, because we have so many people who work and they're not able to make it during the day. That's great work. And what do we have next?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, Ma'am, if we could turn to page 51--"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--I'm sorry, Commissioner Ellis--"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "--oh, I'm sorry--"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--he's in the queue and Commissioner Arrington will follow."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Just a couple quick remarks. I always liked that show, Night Court, by the way, it was pretty good. Hopefully I won't have my Gilder Rattner moment here, but maybe you said this and I missed it. But the - on the judge – on the stuff of the judges notation – was this just – was it meant to be illustrated -- or why do we not have all the judges listed on here? Maybe you said that and I missed that."

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "All the judges -- I'm sorry - the only judges in superior court that I believe are missing, would be the Family Court judges."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, so the family court judges--"

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "--yeah, they're not there and while their numbers aren't here, in fact we're not really allocating much in the way of ORCA funds for Family Court. They've been working and they have a set of specific things they've had to address to and keep track of – through the - over the last couple years. We're going to add them in the future; but for all practical purposes is they're not material to what we're doing."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And then, serious question follow-up on the night court stuff, is that going to be specific to both courts or is that a state court thing? What are, what is going to be going on with – I mean are we going to do jury trials at night, or --"

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "--no, it's not going to be jury trials--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--okay--"

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “--these will be bench trials. The sponsor of it on the superior court side which is where the trial is beginning on May 7<sup>th</sup>, is Judge McBurney--”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--okay--”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “--and so, we’re going to start with – we’re going to start with Superior Court. However, we’ve already had discussions with Solicitor Gammage and his desire to, to want to do that for state court as well. So, he wants to do night court. He wants to do Saturday morning court. So, we’re going to be doing that at some point for state court.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah, I mean, it just seems like it might have more applicability, I don’t know, you might have some thoughts on this on the state court side than it would on the Superior Court side. Anyway. All right. keep, when is that slated to start?”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “March 7<sup>th</sup>”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “March 7th. Okay, thanks.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you, Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Arrington.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Thank you. I guess my question is, Alton, is in reference to, I guess, just following-up on what I asked about at the last meeting as far as getting the courts to work with foreclosures, home foreclosures and this 350 million Georgia mortgages system, that is available. I wanted to know if there was any update on that.”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “Commissioner, my apologies. I don’t have an update on that, but I will follow-up and I’ll get you an update by the end of the week.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Thank you.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah, I had one other thing. Not, and it’s not really specific to project ORCA, but I think it does relate to the time it ran and we do have some continuous sort of higher profile incidents that was sort of reported around this, but at some point in time, could and maybe this is something that, you know, the Team has looked at from a technology standpoint, is, can somebody answer the question for us or get us some data around this, is Fulton County up-to-date at entering in what is the, what’s the system Commissioner--”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “--the disposition [Inaudible.]--“

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--GICI--“

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “--GICI--“

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--GCIC, and, you know, I know there's been, you know, a lot of stuff reported around stuff that judges are making decisions, and if they had other data in there, and just -- where are we at in terms of doing our part to you know, kind of fulfil our requirements why we're getting data into the GCIC?”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “Good question, very timely. I had a meeting with the Chamber which is actually sponsoring this in terms of -- they have committed funds to help us get after this the disposition what I call backlog. It's in the hundreds of thousands and we're not the only County, but we are the biggest in the state. And so, a combination of Accenture and who's doing some work pro bono part of this effort as well as the Chamber. We have a plan in place and hope to launch the first phase of that sometime next month. So, it is, it is, it is a priority. It's, it's unclear, you know, how many of those are old cases that will have already expired; and how many of them are “current”; so, the starting point is going to be doing some triage around that. But it's definitely something that we are working on.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Could you all provide us at some point, whether it's part of project ORCA or some, or not. Start to begin to provide us some data on what, you know, what that sort of universe looks like and then once we start some action on what kind of progress we're making?”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “Absolutely.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay, thanks.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Other comments or questions? All right. Anything else, Mr. Manager?”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Yes, Sir. We wanted to provide you a brief overview of as we talked about the economic recovery initiatives in Select Fulton and we asked Samir Abdullahi to highlight those for you. I think you'll find these to be very exciting and again right on point. So, Samir.”

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** “Thank you, Mr. County Manager. If we could go to the slides. Thank you. Samir Abdullahi, Deputy Director for Select Fulton. We are the economic and workforce development agency here for Fulton County. And I am pleased to present our updated economic recovery programs. As you know

previously, we deployed a small business loan and digital literacy program leveraging federal funds previously issued. These are our updated programs to really deal with somewhat of a post COVID economy. So, the two programs that we are deploying, both in the small business and workforce development space. As it relates to small business, we are investing \$4.9 million to support 350 small businesses really recover, adapt, and grow in a post COVID economy. And the way we're deploying those funds is in two different types of programs: one, a revolving loan program that I'll go into more detail about; and then an exciting new program through a grant that we received through the SBA community navigator pilot program. Second, I'll talk about our workforce recovery programs – we're investing \$2.1 million to support over 800 residents. Again, really preparing for a post COVID economy. We were very successful with Goodwill and our career reboot digital literacy program. And they're excited to bring that back, what we're calling career reboot 2.0. Next slide, please. So, to go into detail on our revolving loan program, this is really an enhancement on our previous loan program. Those two enhancements is one. This is a revolving loan program so we wanted to build some sustainability into this program so we can have it continued down the, down the track. So, as loan repayments come back into the fund, those funds are then reissued, and reloaned out. Once again, we're building sustainability in the program. A second element to that is the technical assistance piece. As I talked about our SBA program, you'll see the Feds really shifted in the similar direction that we have. While funding is still very important for small businesses, providing counseling and technical assistance will really help them get to that next level. In terms of eligibility of our revolving loan program, this will be just like our last program, focused on Fulton County businesses outside of the city of Atlanta. An element that we are adding to this is a prioritization around minority businesses and what we're calling high-COVID impacted industries and those industries. So, those industries that really saw the greatest drop in terms of revenues, employees, and the like. I mean, you can see those highlighted there. We are going with our previous provider that we used before. Access to capital for entrepreneurs, they're a great community development financial institution, they're female owned, and again what's great about working with them is there, they focus on the same disparate groups we do - female, minority owned businesses. The loan program will range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. We feel like there's a material funds to really help a business. They will be focused around declines in revenue due to the pandemic, as I mentioned before, having a technical assistance piece is a part of the program. Next slide, please. Just focusing in on the technical assistance again, this is kind of a new element to our programs. So, any loan recipient would have to go through courses. The technical assistance is like marketing strategies, again post-COVID planning, things like credit building, management techniques to really build in that extra business capacity for the company to succeed.

So, not just to fund them, but make them sustainable. We will have a targeted outreach -- we do have a target outreach strategy to some of those disparate groups that we mentioned before: minority business Association groups that we are reaching out to industry trade groups and partnering with local Chambers of Commerce and obviously our cities to get the word out. We will start promoting the application period in about a week and change here, February 28th with that expectation to open up applications March 11th. Next, next slide, please. To compliment our revolving loan program, I'm very excited to announce our million-dollar SBA community navigator pilot program. We are one of 51 communities nationally to receive this grant and if I understand the finance system right, this is our first SBA grant that we've ever received here at Fulton County. It was a great partnership between the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce. Most of this will be focused towards South Fulton and very similar with our revolving loan program where this is focused around providing technical assistance. These will be 101 courses. We're supporting over 300 small businesses. Again, different types of classes like accounting, business services, and grant writing. While the one-on-one counseling is the focus and the thrust of the grant, well we're also able to leverage the grant funds for as developing the website, or a research hub that we're calling 'navigateFultonCounty.com'. So, this won't be exclusive to South Fulton. It'll be open to all businesses. It'll have recordings of the webinar sessions, of the technical training that we're providing; it will also have free tools and resources like our 'Size Up' small business intelligence tool. And then lastly, the huge benefit of this is helping to create eco- systems. Again, getting people out of their businesses to meet and greet one another. It could be a huge shot in the arm for Fulton County Chamber and for the South Fulton businesses there, so. We will have rolling classes. Expect our first cohort towards the end of this month, and those will run quarterly until the grant expires September 2023. Next slide, please. And then lastly to talk about our workforce development economic recovery program. Again, career reboot 2.0, if you remember 1.0, it was a successful digital literacy program. We graduated over 1700 residents. Goodwill highlighted it in their annual report last year as their mission spotlight. It was a program they were very pleased both partnered with and promote as a great unique partnership. What we're really taking this program to the next level with is with rapid industry credentialing. So, before we did digital literacy skills, so that we could take you from kind of that low-wage position to a middle-skilled position. What we're trying to empower people now is not with just digital literacy skills, but actually get into employment pretty quickly here. I mean with these focus industries on IT, health care, and logistics, so. You'll see both in our revolving loan program, our enhancing that through technical assistance, our additional funds through the SBA grant, and now what we're doing with career reboot 2.0 really just elevating what our economic recovery

programs are offered from Fulton County. I'm happy to answer any questions from the Board."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Very excited to see this. Just have a few questions. The loan that we're doing, is this -- is this money to train the businesses or to keep them up and running? And is that loan forgivable?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "So, the loans are not currently forgivable. As a requirement to receive the loan you are required to go through the technical training classes. And so again, there thinking there is not just give them the money and let them be on their own; but make sure they're provided with a business support so that the business can be successful."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "The reason I asked this, is because I was fortunate enough to go NACCHO and in meeting with Senator Ossoff, one of the things that he, him and I talked about extensively in communities of color is the technical assistance. And so, I'm glad to see that we're doing technical assistance because that's where we are largely missing the ball. I'm concerned that we don't have grants because that's also another area that I believe that was identified, but bigger than that and I would like for you to just expound on this: So many women were removed from the workforce. So, what are we doing -- or is there - we may be doing it and I don't know -- but what can we do or what are we doing to try to get the women back into the workforce--"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "--sure--"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--because so many were displaced, a astronomical number, I can't think of it from yesterday with the meeting that I had with him, but I know he wanted to do some workshops to try to see how can we get women back into the workforce because they took -- seems to me they took the hardest hit. And so, if you can just kind of expand on that if you're able to, I'd appreciate it."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "And actually, I'd love to go back and pull some of the data of, especially on the workforce development side with Goodwill, of the number of male versus females that we've trained, can we focus on minority populations and not really segmenting it that way, but if you look at industries where we saw the largest fallout in terms of employment around retail trade and hospitality, I think almost indirectly we're supporting females in the sense that those industries skew towards more females. So, that's why I'd like to go back and look at the Goodwill data. We may already actually be achieving that with that being a direct goal if that makes

sense. So, I'd love to go back and pull some data from Goodwill, just to see if we're already hitting that target demographic. And again, I think maybe inform some of those programs if we're seeing a large population; if we need to curtail our programs for that."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yeah, I would -- I would think especially the hospitality industry, but I notice in areas that suffered a lot was childcare as well. And so, some of the conversation yesterday was kind of around how do we either get them back in to that industry, or get them interested in going into another industry. And so, I would -- and I know you'll have that information for me, but I'll be real excited to know at the County level what we may be doing to try to get those efforts -- to get those numbers back up in that industry. Thank you."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Samir. This is an awesome presentation. And I'm especially glad to see that there is a prioritization for minority or female ownership especially at the high-COVID impacted industries of performing arts, food service, film, music, recording, education, an accommodation. I'm very pleased to see that already on your presentation as prioritized areas. Also, these SBA grants, this is awesome that you're focusing on the navigator pilot program with 1 million in SBA grants to support 300 plus small businesses. That is awesome. And how would you communicate some of this out to the community that actually needs to access it?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Yeah, and that's why kind of the South Fulton Chamber is a strategic partnership. Having them co-brand, I do think, adds some legitimacy to the program that it's not a formally government program; but that it's got business interest aligned with it. They're really serving as our main referral organization cause they've got a built-in network of entrepreneurs and small businesses in the South Fulton arena that they can reach out to as well as partner organizations. So, they'll be our main conduit in terms of promotion tool to small business. And again, we will have that resource hub as kind of the homepage for everybody trying to participate. Either the one-on-one sessions or they're just trying to gather free resources or tools that we'll have available."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any other questions or comments? Thank you so much."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else, Mr. Manager?"

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**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No, Sir. That concludes our report."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Sir. I'm sorry Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** OFF MIC "Yeah, not [Inaudible.]"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I did, I did want to bring forth as a motion that we end our Vax-or-Test test policy effective today and that we end our mask requirements in our buildings and shift to masks guidelines effective today. That's my motion on the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, as a point of order."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I mean, I don't know necessarily know how I feel about that motion, but I think we would have to amend the Agenda in order to address it here today at this point, and that will require a supermajority."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm not sure I agree with that, Commissioner, I think--"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--well, we just - the Agenda item that we're on just now, was Select Fulton. This motion is in reference to COVID-19, so I don't understand how we get there – how else do we get there without amending the agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go ahead, let me hear it from you now."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Commissioner Arrington, I mean, this is, this is in response to the COVID operational response update. This is part of the whole package. I mean, they--"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--the Agenda item was over--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--This is one agenda item 22 0119, presentation COVID-19 operational response update, that's the item we're still on at the present point in time. So, I think the motion is in order and then also I would just remind everyone that when we have agreed or implemented these types of things in the past, they have been done within the context of these operational response updates throughout the period of time of COVID. This has been the mechanism--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--yes--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--by which we have brought these things forward and you know, either approved or disapproved or asked the manager to change course.

Because that is, what kind of what they've done; they've asked for direction during the course of these, and we've provided direction; so, I do think you know the motion is in order.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Excuse me, I'm going to rule that the motion is in order. It's been moved and properly seconded, but I do have a question. So, the motion is before us to -- repeat the motion--”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “--please--”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--to suspend--”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--yeah, the motion is that we would end our Vax-or-Test policy effective today, and that we'd end our mask requirements; but, instead move to a position of mask guidelines as respects our facilities--”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--okay--”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- and that will be effective today, too.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--I do have a question on the motion. The motion is before -- properly before us, but let me - what did Dr. Paxton recommend?”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “So, if we could go back to page 31. Can we do that? Which will summarize Dr. Paxton's input and the Team's recommendation.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “So, the recommendation from Dr. Paxton and the Team would be to continue to monitor masking and testing, and vaccination trends--”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “--yes, Sir. While she's pulling that up, if you can just refer to page 31, it's to continue to monitor these trends over the next two weeks, develop a policy consistent with the trends with masking being recommended versus required, so that will be very consistent with this motion; examine options that encourage vaccination for employees over routine testing; again consistent, I think, with the spirit of this recommendation. So, within the next two weeks, bring that plan back for the next Board meeting for action.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “So, the difference is, sounds to me, the recommendation is you want two weeks to come up with a plan. The motion before us is to do it immediately. Is that what you're saying?”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yes, Sir. I mean, I don't have a problem with further recommendations coming back before us at different points in times, but in that interim I think it's appropriate that you know the motion I've got before us, you know, be put in place."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chair. Commissioner Ellis, I would support this -- I just think we may be a tad bit--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--premature--"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--premature. I would ask that may be if you would give it at least two weeks -- I would be -- 'cause I'm almost there, not quite, because we are in such high transmission right now and I don't want us to be premature, but I do understand and do have some feelings -- mixed feelings as to we need to start looking and going into that direction. So, unfortunately, I wouldn't be able to support it today; but, I will look to maybe revisit that in two weeks once we get a new report in."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else? Alright, motion before us is to -- well, the Ellis motion would be to repeat it again Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "It would be to end the VAX-or-Test policy as it's in place today -- effective today--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--effective today--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--and that we move from a position of mask requirements in our buildings, and we move to a position of implementing mask guidelines. It would be consistent with, you know, kind of what CDC guidelines says, and that will be effective today as well."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Commissioner Arrington, you want to be heard again?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. I guess Commissioner Ellis wants to go forward today, but I too would like to at least wait the two weeks in order to develop the plan. I would hate to cut something off and have a gap and not be ready to implement the second plan--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--okay--"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--and so I think that taking this action today would do that. Further, I would rather have Dr. Paxton and those guys on and I guess

that's what I was referencing earlier, Bob, is, you know, they weren't there; I'd love to hear their opinion and what they have to say on that. But seeing those recommendations from page 31, you know I guess I would do a substitute motion to adopt the recommendations from page 31."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, that one would be, again we've gone through this before that motion would be actually the opposite of the motion that's on the floor. So, I'm going to rule that one out of order, your substitute motion; but, let's deal with this one. I think it will get to where you want to go. So let's dispose of this motion. The motion before us is to approve. Please, cast your vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. It fails. And so, the recommendation then would be on page 31. If they will have – you'll have something for us in two weeks; is that correct, Mr. Manager--"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "--yes, Sir--"

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 5, **22-0120**, request approval of a Resolution to extend emergency purchasing authority of the Chairman and County Manager for COVID-19 related purchases; and for other purposes.

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

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Quick question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, Sir."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "This is until April 13<sup>th</sup>; why April 13<sup>th</sup>?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I've got to go do a quick interview."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I think that ties into the just the next time the Board is meeting, that we would typically bring this item to the Board for approval."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "In effect two months?"

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**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, actually we should bring it to the Board for approval at the second meeting in."

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Which would carry that one through a time period that would cover – be covered by the second meeting in April."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "April 1."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It's the 30<sup>th</sup>."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** "The current one goes through March 1<sup>st</sup>. And usually it's about 30 days. But because the Board meeting moved to April 13<sup>th</sup>."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The Board meeting moved to the first meeting in April--"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "--I don't have a problem with April 13<sup>th</sup>, I was just wondering."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yeah, I think it's timed to when the Board meetings happened and the first, the meeting in April is not the 1st week of April, it's the second, the first meeting of the Board is the second week of April."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Right, so, probably in the first meeting in April, we'd extend it again if necessary--"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, Sir."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you Commissioner Morris. Any other questions? All right. The motion on the floor is made by Bob Ellis, seconded by me. And please open the vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "22-0121, Human Resource Management. Request approval to modify the classifications section of the classification and compensation plan."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Move approval by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please open the vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "22-0122, Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval of spending authority to provide gasoline and diesel fuel for Fulton County."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Motion to made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please open the vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 5, 22-0124. Request approval of a recommended proposal to provide bus and shuttle services for Fulton County employees and jurors."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Motion to approve made by Commissioner Ellis, and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Quick question."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Commissioner Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Yes, I noticed that the spending in 2021 was about the same as the prior two years. We didn't have that many jurors. Is this basically our shuttling employees in those last couple of years? I just thought the spending was – I would have expected it would dropped significantly."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** "I don't see Joe Davis."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Davis is on his way into Assembly Hall. But Commissioner Morris, it's for both employees and for jurors. This amount, though based on the documentation, is for a partial year. It's for April through the end-of-the-year."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Okay. That may be part of the answer. Okay. That's fine."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We can get the ridership statistics to you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Commissioner Morris. The motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please open the vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** On page 6, **22-0125**. Request approval of a recommended proposal to provide complete design and construction services for the retrofit of the counter flow ceramic cooling tower."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Move approval by Commissioner Ellis, and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please open the vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Infrastructure and Economic Development, **22-0126**, Select Fulton. Request approval to award a contract without competition to provide small business technical assistance and counseling services."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Move approval by Commissioner Morris, and seconded by me. And I do have a question since no one else is in the queue. I have a couple of questions. Who's going to speak on this? Is Samir still here? Okay. Well, who is going to speak – I'm sorry, so--"

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "--I may be able to address it, some of it, depending upon your question, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Just a couple of questions. First there is a word on page 2 of 4 of this item. It is in the first paragraph under summary and background. It says, amount – well, let me start here. This is so long. The South Fulton Chamber agrees from the award amount that no more than \$63,750 of the award amount may go towards personal services and I just wanted to know was personal -- what is personal services? What are they or is that possibly a typo?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That question, I don't know Commissioner. I can find out for you. I think that the overall restriction though is consistent with grants which is they restrict the expenditures other than what's actually going to the beneficiary to a

certain level, but I'll have to find out for you what the definition of personal services is in this context."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. Oh, Samir is right here. He's coming down. So, hopefully we can get an answer on that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Where is he?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Right there."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Where, do you see him?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, because this doesn't look like the grant money. This looks like the money to train. Not the grants that'll actually come from this."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah. Yes, please come up. Thank you for rushing back like that."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Thanks for that."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. I had a question on page 2 of 4 in this item. It is the first paragraph under the summary and background. It says the South Fulton Chamber agrees from the award amount that no more than \$63,750 of the award amount may go towards personal services and I just wanted to know what exactly are personal services."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Personnel."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, so it's a typo."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, so, let's correct that and make it personnel services. All right. And then my other question is: What do these technical assistance services look like."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Sure. So, it is the funding of the individuals that actually providing the training; so, it's an accounting class. The accountant that's providing that training; that's where a majority of the funds will go towards. There's some for marketing and setup, but a majority of the funds will go to the funding the trainers to provide the classes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. And do we have anything like this in other parts of the County."

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Not currently. Again, I think we're standing up a similar complementary program with our revolving loan program in the technical assistance provided there."

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

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Thank you for your questions."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So, I'm a little confused. Samir, thank you. I thought this was money going to the 300 firms, not to the trainers. How much money -- is there grant money going to these 300 firms; and if so, how much?"

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "So, this is not a loan program. It's not designed for funds to go directly to the individuals. It's to fund the technical assistance programming that they would be beneficiaries of. That's how the SBA designed the program."

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

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Other comments or questions? All right. The motion is to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

**SAMIR ABDULLAHI, SELECT FULTON:** "Thank you."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "22-0127, Public Works. Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners authorizing the imposition of a 0.40% transportation special purchase local option sales and use tax on behalf of the city of Atlanta for transportation purposes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Any questions or comments? All right, let's vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Justice and Safety, **22-0128**, Police. Request approval of an alcohol beverage license application submitted by Shoe Crazy Wine LLC."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris. Is there a second? All right, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, Commissioners' Action Items, **22-0096**, Discussion. Request approval of a Resolution approving updates of the Fulton County's sustainability plan and goals for the purpose of accelerating the path towards increased sustainability by 2030 in Fulton County and for other purposes, sponsored by Chairman Pitts, Commissioners Morris and Hall."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** All right. Commissioner Morris – where, where is Ms. Morrow, representing the group? Because one of the questions that came up at the last meeting was whether or not our in-house group had reviewed this; and the answer is yes. But I'll let you hear it from them. Commissioner Morris. Come on down please."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Yeah, a couple of -- a couple of things. First of all, at the last meeting, we agreed to delete one word 'municipal' from schedule A. I don't see that deleted in the package before us, but I trust that that amendment was made last time; and if it hasn't been--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--it should be, [Inaudible.] correct--"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "--yeah, we agreed to that. Secondly, I'm going to give this letter to the County Manager or to Mr. Davis from an organization called Roots Down that I met with which trains and educates landscaping and facility operators and governments and institutions. They've done a lot of work in DeKalb County libraries and the clerks in public libraries with what they call productive urban landscapes and I'd love for you all to maybe meet with these folks and see if that's something that might be something we might want to do around some of our public buildings. I was just blown away by it, and it fits in with this sustainability plan in a great way. So, I'll give that to you in just a moment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you Commissioner. Ms. Morrow."

**BELINDA MORROW, TWO DESIGN CONSULTANTS:** "Good afternoon. Thank you. Good afternoon. I am Belinda Morrow. President of Two Design Consultants, and it's a pleasure to stand before this honorable Board. I am also appointed to the Fulton County Citizens Commission on the Environment by Chairman Rob Pitts. And also have a fellow member with me."

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** "My name is Richard Johnson, appointee of Chairman Pitts, and I'm here to acknowledge the fact that the commission on environment has unanimously endorsed this is it's being presented to the Commission, at the moment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Any questions? All right. Commissioner Hall, sorry."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And I'm happy to report that John Seidel, the director of sustainability for the mayor's office of resilience is very pleased to see this, come before us today as well as a Laura Turner Seydel in the Turner-Seydel family who have Captain planet. They are very much advocates of sustainability and greens, so it's good."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. All right. Motion before us is to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item. Thank y'all very much."

**BELINDA MORROW, TWO DESIGN CONSULTANTS:** "Thank you."

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** "Thank you very much."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0097**, request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to provide initial fiscal resources to fund the Fulton Technology and Energy Enhancement Authority; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes, Chairman, I want to hold that. We've got some additional information they're working on to present to the Board and there was some questions. And so, everybody has not reached out to them, so I would request that that be held."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No objections. Next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** **"22-0129.** Request resolution to approve salary supplements for the state paid Staff in the office of the District Attorney and state paid Staff employed by the chief Superior Court Judge sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. This started with many conversations and e-mails between the District Attorney's Office, Chief judge office, the County Attorney, and others. The County Attorney's office has worked tirelessly also with our Chief Human Resources Officer to ensure that we cover everything. This is something that these two offices do on a regular basis, and this would just make it easier for them to just get this done in a seamless manner."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I'm going to need a little more information. Commissioner Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Yeah, I might need a little more information as well, but -- and I don't think this deals with the question of the Superior Court judges salary that, and I'm not sure where we are with that; maybe the County Attorney can help me with that one off-line or in a memo or whatever. One or more of the judges have asked me about it -- about a potential increase that we were going to do and authorize, but anyway if you could let me know Madam County Attorney where we are with that and what the issues are with it, that would be terrific."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "A memo will be forthcoming very shortly."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "A memo? Great. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So, there's a motion before us to approve – oh, Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, so Madam County Attorney, can you please explain to everyone how you came about creating this Resolution in this manner and why these are the only two elected officials who have the authority to even do this process and if we need some input from the Chief Human Resources Officer, Kenneth Hermon, I would like you to speak as well because this is something that you've been dealing with for quite some time."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Commissioner Hall. This Resolution simply allows the DAs office to do the same thing that was previously approved for the ADA's by this Board which is to allow the District Attorney the discretion to provide the statutory County supplement for investigators and other staff other than the ADA's who are previously approved, without having to come back to the Board for each individual so long as the money is in their budget. So, it provides them the discretion to do something that is already provided by statute which is provide the County supplement for non-ADA Staff in their offices. And the, as to the Superior Court, this does not deal with any of the elected officials. Instead, it deals with either the law -- there is one employee within the Superior Court who can receive a County supplement in addition to their state provided salary, and in this instance that would allow the Superior Court chief judge to determine the salary supplement from the County at their discretion without having to come back individually for that as well; but it's already provided for in state statute."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And so, can you let everyone know what that state statute says about what is the maximum amount that they can go up to in the supplement."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So in the case of the DAs office that will be \$50,000 is the statutory cap. With the Superior Court there is no designated maximum cap."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. And this also clears up a situation that was happening in this process where some of the wrong employees were actually getting supplements when they weren't supposed to and this clears up that situation. So, we actually have a policy that specifically states which positions are allowed that supplement or else we could continue to have that same issue of the wrong one's getting a supplement who weren't supposed to."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--[Inaudible.] memo right--"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "--pardon--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--you [Inaudible.] a memo--"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "--yeah, but that's under the judges--"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--yeah, that's not on this--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any other questions or comments? All right. The motion before us is to approve. Cast your votes."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, it'll come back at the next meeting. Next item."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** OFF MIC/INAUDIBLE

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay, under County Manager's Presentation and Discussion Items, **22-0130**, External Affairs. Presentation of the 2022 Legislative Agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Hold on one second. So, it's 1:00; y'all want to recess now? It would take - you mind, Ms. Corbitt? All right, I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and executive session issues of litigation, personnel, and real estate. Let's vote, please."

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

(Executive Session began at 1:04 p.m.)

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection we will resume the regular order of business. Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, Mr. Chairman. Are we going to do Executive Session, first?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, Madam County Attorney; you ready?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes. Is there a motion to authorize representation as presented in item number 1 of the executive session Agenda."

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you; nothing further."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Nothing further from me."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, under Open and Responsible Government, **22-0130**, External Affairs. Presentation of the 2022 Legislative Agenda."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Madam Clerk. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. We're just here to give you our typical legislative update for the session, and I'm just going to go through these -- I have, I want to mention that there are a couple of slides that were added to clarify some of the action that has taken in the last couple of days. The Board is familiar they are just the maps that we discussed. Next slide, please. Again, for the public who is watching, these are the legislative priorities that were adopted by the Board of Commissioners for 2022 state legislative agenda. Next slide please. Last week, the Supreme Court Chief Justice provided an update to the joint session about the state of judiciary. He highlighted -- we just wanted to call your attention to a highlight for the COVID-19 case backlog that is happening in courts around the state. He talked about the state -- the Supreme Court's support for mental health, which we have also talked about with our justice partners here at Fulton County. And talked about accountability courts which have also been an important program here. And he also applauded Fulton County for the investment of our ARPA dollars to support our case backlog. So, we wanted to let you know that your leadership has been highlighted at the capital in this important initiative. Next slide, please. The House Bill 910 was the Amended FY 2022 Budget passed the House on Friday. This again talks about the need for mental health services. FY23 budget is also under development. One project is the - that we wanted to call your attention to is some technology upgrades to the Georgia Crisis Access Line. Later this year, there will be a national SCC rollout of 988 instead of the Suicide National Helpline; so, this is one investment the state is making in preparation for that. We've already been in touch with our Department of Behavioral Health how we can educate Fulton County residents about that rollout. There are also some changes in state salaries that would have an impact on some local constitutional officers. So, we will work with the finance department and circle back with those updates and then the investment on postage expenses for precinct cards; we have a lot of mailing to do this year. I've been personally working with the Election Department on some of their mailings, and so, this is an important small, but meaningful investment in that and offsetting the cost of precinct cards for local governments. Next slide, please. Want to spend probably a bit of time on these three specific Bills that have been discussed. And this is where I've added a couple of slides as I mentioned earlier. House Bill 1119 was introduced by Representative Mainor. It had a subcommittee hearing for Governmental Affairs last week. It was also heard in Governmental Affairs. No vote was taken on that specific Bill; however, the map associated with House Bill 1199 was later attached on Monday of this week to Senate Bill 437 which is at the bottom of the Bill. Senate Bill 437 introduced by Senator Albers passed unanimously out of the Senate last week with

a different map attached and then this week, again, a new map was introduced by substitute in Governmental Affairs and it received a favorable approval by substitute. And then today, that Bill passed out of House rules. And then House Bill 1244 which was introduced originally as – and I'll talk about this is in a minute - as the caption actually for both House - Senate Bill 437 and House Bill 1244 talked about nonpartisan elections; and I'll talk about that in a subsequent slide. House Bill 1244 on Monday in Governmental Affairs received a favorable approval. It is in Rules today. Rules does - House did not get a vote this morning, and House Rules is not scheduled to meet again until next week. Next slide, please. I'm just going to go over this a little bit more detailed. There's been some discussion about nonpartisan elections because there are three different pieces of legislation that talk about nonpartisan elections. Senate Bill 350 talks about statewide nonpartisan elections for Counties, is a piece of general legislation. Senate Bill 437 was originally a nonpartisan election bill specifically to this Board. And then that on February 8th was substituted out for what is now the redistricting Bill that is moving forward. And then House Bill 1244 was also introduced with a caption related to nonpartisan elections; however, the delegation members who sponsored that piece of legislation, issued a statement and they refuted claims that this was their intent. They said this was a procedural error and they have been very vocal about that. So, I wanted to make this Board, which I've already discussed this with you all as well as the public whose watching aware that there are -- as of today no active Bills calling for nonpartisan elections in Fulton County. So, I just wanted to provide that clarification. Next slide, please. So again, for the public, these are the slides that I just added based on some questions we received from the community. Senate Bill 437, again, this is currently the map that is attached to that piece of legislation. This was introduced by substitute on Monday and the Bill -- with this map passed out of House Rules today and is expected to have a floor vote tomorrow in the House. In this map, the difference between Senate Bill 437 and House Bill 1244, affects Commission Districts Four, Five, and Six. And I'll show you in just a second how that differs. Again, I just want the public to be aware when we're talking about these maps; what they look like. Next slide, please. So, this is a comparison just so you can see of the current commission district map that is in place today on the right, and the map that is attached to Senate Bill 437 on the left. So, District Four, which is in purple on the map on the right, will be in the green in the map on the left. District Six, which is in blue on the right, will be in, I guess peach, in the map on the left. And District Five, which is in green on the right, will be in purple in the map on the left. Again, just for the community; wanted them to be able to see these changes as they are today. And we will have this updated slide on the website as well. I also wanted to mention that within the last probably 30, 45 minutes, we received the shape file forcing the Bill 437 current map and we will create – I'm working with the Strategy Office - to create an interactive map. So, you all

can see that. Next slide, please. Just wanted to let you all know this is the map, the 12 - House Bill 1244 map that we've talked about that is currently in House Rules, could not have a vote, couldn't possibly have a vote in House Rules before next week, which means it is, you know, relatively unlikely to move forward as it is today. But, again, Districts - District Four is in green. District Five is in purple. District Six is in peach. So, that shows you the difference between -- that is the difference between the two maps that we're talking about. Next slide, please. And this shows the comparison of the map we have today and the map that is attached to House Bill 1244. Next slide. So, I think I just wanted to again provide some clarity around those two. The next Bills we'll talk about very quickly are House Bill 894 and House Bill 1149. These are both related to eviction relief. Representative Boddie, who's a member of our delegation has - is taking leadership on both of these issues. And I will ask Ms. Calhoun, who has been very involved in these, to perhaps give us a quick update about them."

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Fran Calhoun, from External Affairs. Both of these Bills are on second read in the House Judiciary Committee. And so, we expect more activity within the next week or so on those as the House Committees begin to meet more regularly. One of the things that we are running into, we're having conversations with the apartment Association, primarily the Atlanta Apartment Association about concerns that they have. And so, we are working with the authors to just see exactly where we can find some common ground with those."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Ms. Calhoun. Next slide, please. Quick update on annexation and cityhood. House Bill 836 crossed over in the 2021 session. Because of that, it will probably be brought up in the Senate a little later. It has been assigned to SLGO, and will have a committee; again, they're trying to get this Bills -- this years' Bills crossed over first. And so, we'll expect to hear that a little bit later."

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "And Senator Halperin is carrying that Bill."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Fran. Buckhead cityhood, I think you've all read in the news that that is effectually dead. So, we will continue to monitor that. Senate Resolution 298 - will address the annexation process; although Fulton County -- after House Bill 836 really will not be subject to annexation in the future. We have certainly had a lot of learnings about the annexation process and may be used as somewhat of a case study. Next slide, please. Election Bills: we have talked with House Bill 886 with the Elections' Board and with Staff. There, there is some cost to the County associated with this legislation. There

are – what the Election Staff have described is they would in essence have to create, almost like an evidence, a room for paper -- for the paper that is used for balance because each time a person touches the paper it has to be signed in and out and tracked very carefully. So that is a very important piece of legislation. I believe you know the cost is one factor; and we are tracking that very carefully. House Bill 933 would allow for inspection of ballots and some documents. As you probably know those become the property of the Clerk of Superior Court at a certain point after an election, and this has become a frequent issue for Fulton County with some of the litigation that we have faced after the 2020 election. House Bill 1085 would allow for range choice voting in the municipal elections. Some cities have a version of this today, but this would allow that to be a little bit -- a little bit more widespread and easier which could in some cases eliminate though -- the need for a runoff election. Senate Bill 230, excuse me, 325 would completely eliminate the use of absentee ballot drop boxes. Next slide, please. I will - House Bill 923, we know the Development Authority per diems were discussed quite a bit here at Fulton County. So, there's some legislation that addresses that, along with Regional Development Authorities. And then House Bill 1181 talks about the kind of leadership within Development Authorities, and this would certainly apply to the Fulton County Development Authorities. And I'll ask Ms. Calhoun if she has anything she'd like to add—"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "--yeah, thank you, Jessica. I did speak with the author of this Bill, and it is being revised so that it actually will apply only to the city of South Fulton going forward. And so, we expect to get that new language, shortly."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Next slide, please. House Bill 1134 is related to -- has already passed the House. This is related to gang prosecution and you know kind of the process for Prosecuting Attorneys to address that. Senate Bill 277 related to – authorizes solicitors to carry handguns in a courthouse. And then Senate Bill 319 is the so-called Constitutional Carry Act which would eliminate the need for concealed carry permits in public if the person is allowed to have a law -- to have a gun under the law--"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "--may I add something—"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "--yeah, please--"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "--I would like to just add a statement about Senate Bill 277, the firearms carry for solicitors. Our Sheriff

has voiced his strong opposition and is asking that the Commission, that the Board of Commissioners, also oppose this legislation."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Ms. Calhoun. I would like to – I think we skipped a slide--"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "--yeah, about mental health--"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "--about health and human services; please, go back. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, excuse me one second; so, on 277, you're going to be asking us to take a position in opposition today; is that the plan?"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "We would certainly like to do that; if that is the will of the Body, Sir. That is what the request is from the Sheriff's Office."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Mr. Chairman, would you prefer to do that at the end or consider any actions, or would you prefer--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--that's the first one, so far, right--"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "--okay, yes, Sir. House Bill 853 is related to mental health of inmates in certain – or defendants in certain cases. It allows defendants who are eligible for public mental health services to petition the court for treatment as part of their sentence. House Bill 1013 called the Mental Health Parity Act has its first hearing probably about an hour ago. And so, it's something that we are continuing to monitor very carefully. It deals a lot with both insurance coverage for behavioral health services, as well as the workforce providing mental health services and other matters. House Bill 1192 related to HIV services and Medicare and Medicaid waivers, and I want to go in detail on all of these, but and then Senate Bill 338 related to -- it would extend postpartum care for after a childbirth. Fran, anything you want to add on any of those?"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "Not necessarily other than to say that the waiver for Medicaid is really for a pilot as we understand, for HIV treatment and so that's often done. When there is no expansion either like an emergency or if there is a pilot. So, we have heard vocal support for that measure."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Senate Bill - House Bill 907 would cause currently our T-SPLOSTs elections have been on general

election dates this will cause that to be on the third Tuesday. This is already been - has been adopted by both Chambers--"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "--right, and it will sunset in 2024. It's my understanding this was brought on behalf of I believe Harrelson County. And so, there are some other counties that may also take advantage of it if they didn't get a chance to get on the ballot prior in the previous November session."

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And then again, the – this would - it is unlikely to have an impact House Bill 934 currently as you may be aware when we have a single County T-SPLOST, we have a revenue projection. And if by some miracle we were to receive that allocation prior to the end date of that T-SPLOST, the T-SPLOST would end. This will allow taxation to continue for that time period; because we just had a T-SPLOST that was adopted in 2021, we would not have - this would not apply to us until 2025. Next slide, please. House Bill, excuse me, Senate Bill 438 has already received a do-pass out of the Senate committee and I believe this one is definitely moving forward. We have been in discussion with Public Works, and with Purchasing. Next slide. Wanted to make you all aware, you know, in some years, we've had a lot of Homestead exemption legislation. This year, we had three bills that were all related to the city of Milton and so, we are tracking these. They are - have been recommitted after kind of a procedural issue early on. Next slide, please. Again, this one House Bill 843 is really related to city of Atlanta primarily. We do not have a municipal option sales tax, but it is a matter that would related - provide some potential property tax relief for those governments. And then House Bill 887 is related to - is the senior home state exemption, essentially, for – would be for school taxes across the state. Next slide, please. I don't think I'm going to go over these specifically, unless there are any questions. There is -- next slide, please. Again, these are really about more regulatory matters, but more for informational purposes; and if you have any questions, we'll just kind of go through these a little more quickly in case you have any questions. Next slide. Next slide. So, again upcoming, some, some special events at the capital including ACCG's Legislative Breakfast. At this time, Mr. Chairman, we can take any questions that the Board may have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, the one, excuse me, the one that you wanted action on today--"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "--Ms. Calhoun--"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "--yes, Sir, that is 277. Let's see. Forgive me here. It should be House Bill 220, 277."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Page 11 -- our page 11, I think."

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "--Senate Bill, yes--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--277--"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "--Senate Bill 277."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Senator Mullis, then, you had a question--"

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** "--yes, Senator Mullis rules."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Solicitors, I'm sorry. Just a minute--"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "--and I would, I'm sorry, yes--"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--followed by Commissioner Morris—"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "—oh, my goodness, I'm sorry; I didn't even press the button—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—on 277—"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--no, I had a question about something earlier. Ms. Corbitt—"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "yes, Ma'am—"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "--are you familiar with Senate Bill 350?"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, I am."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. In reference to Senate Bill 437 and House Bill 1244, their description states to redistricting in both of them?"

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "There - no, Ma'am. I'm sorry if I wasn't clear."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “The header – I’m trying to figure out for our listening audience—”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “--yes, Ma’am; so, thank you for bringing that up again. So, in both – the difference between Senate Bill 350 and Senate Bill 437, is that Senate Bill 350 applies to any County—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “—exactly—”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “--Senate Bill 437 as you just indicated -- the caption is specific to Fulton County redistricting also House Bill 1244 and the caption reads that it is related to Fulton County Board of Commissioners redistricting in both of those Bills, but in both cases, they were replaced by redistricting legislation by substitute.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Exactly, and I wanted it to be crystal clear because people are listening—”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “—yes—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--because just like here with our Clerk's office, stuff cannot just be put in arbitrarily. Somebody - if it's a mistake, it's a mistake. But no one can just walk in there. You or I can't walk into the state Capitol and just put something in. It has to be put in, and there's a process—”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “—yes—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--if there's a error, it has to be a substitute—”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “—that's correct—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--so, I just wanted to clear that up for our listening audience that that didn't just come out of the air, somebody put it in. It was a mistake—”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “—yes—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--as I was told, and it was fixed by substitute—”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “—yes, Ma'am—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--and I wanted to make sure the listening audience heard that. Thank you.”

**JESSICA CORBITT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “--thank you, Ma'am.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Morris.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “So, I'm a little confused about the redistricting map situation—”

**JESSICA CORBITT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “—sure—”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “--did I understand that basically the map proposed by representative Mainor is the one that's proceeding now—”

**JESSICA CORBITT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “—that's correct—”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “—and, wasn't there a February 18<sup>th</sup> or so deadline to get all of this wrapped up so folks could do what they needed to do with precincts? I mean, election departments and things?”

**JESSICA CORBITT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “There was, Commissioner Morris. There was a request I reviewed last night some of the correspondence both from the Secretary of state and from the – and from ACCG which has been providing updates to counties in this matter. And so, there was absolutely a request that those - that all redistricting be entered by a February 18th deadline. It does not appear that that will be the case based on -- based on what has occurred because the Bill tomorrow, House Bill – excuse me, Senate Bill 437 is now scheduled to have a House vote tomorrow, but that means it cannot be passed by the Senate until next week; is that correct Fran? So, that is not, at this – time is not going to happen. So, we have been in touch with the Elections Department. They are aware of it. We now have the shape files; so, we can take a closer look at the precincts -- the precinct impact for that map. We also have the other shape file for the other map if it does happen to move forward as originally it appeared. So, we have both of those. We can begin preliminary work and analysis, but we can't make the changes until the Bill is signed by the Governor.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Okay. And, what would be that date of signing at this point as a guess. And I understand that will be a guess.”

**JESSICA CORBITT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “It could be as early perhaps as Wednesday of next week, I believe—”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “—exactly—”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “--that is the most likely earliest date.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “That’s like the 23<sup>rd</sup>—”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “--I believe that’s correct—”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “—it is, it is—”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “--okay. Thank you.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Yes, Sir.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Arrington.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** OFF MIC “I was just going to speak on 277; but I don’t – I’m, I’m happy to not support it because - what about the District Attorney? It would seem that they would include all prosecutors and not one branch versus the other. MIC ON So, I don’t know where we need to move to not support the Senate Bill 277; I think that’s what you were asking; so, I’ll make that my motion.”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “Yes, to oppose it. Thank you, Sir.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Yes, to oppose.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right, the motion on the floor is to oppose Senate Bill 277, and is there a second?”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Are we pressing the buttons--”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—just a- seconded by Commissioner Hall. And you had a question about—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “--I was going to ask – I just wanted to ask are these - is this for all the solicitor generals?”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “As we understand and then the language uses solicitor. So, it doesn’t just say the Solicitor General—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—okay—”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “—the Sheriff has expressed his concern with his ability to be able to govern and control the security of the courthouse if there are additional law enforcement officers with their own, you know, strategy and implementation plan.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Okay. All right. Thank you.”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “Yes, Ma’am.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. The motion on the floor is to, excuse me, is to oppose Senate Bill 277. Please vote.”

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

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “Thank you, Commissioners.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Anything else Ms. Corbitt?”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Oh, no, Sir. Thank you very much.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—Ms. Calhoun? Nothing?”

**FRAN CALHOUN, MANAGER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:** “No, Sir. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Arrington, did you have something else?”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “No.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Madam Clerk.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “22-0—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “--just a minute. Hold it—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** OFF MIC “--can I just say something—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—sure—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—I just—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “—Ms. Corbitt--

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—yeah, you don't need to come up, Ms. Corbitt; that's fine. I just, I just wanted to say, thank you for your representation of us at the Capital during the meetings last week. I know there were some remarks that were directed towards you that I thought were out of line and inappropriate, and very unfortunate and I thought that you handled yourself with class in your remarks and questions that you faced from the panel; and I just wanted to thank you for, for your work.”

**JESSICA CORBIT-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** OFF MIC  
“Thank you so much.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Madam Clerk.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Continuing on page 7, **22-0131**, Discussion. Atlanta Beltline, February 9th, 2022 CEO report sponsored by Commissioner Morris.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Yeah, this is the regular CEO report. In this case it was to the executive committee. I don't sit on the executive committee. But if there's anything in that report you'd like more information about, I'd be certainly get it to you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Continue.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**22-0132**, update of activities of the city of Atlanta and Fulton County recreational authority sponsored by Commissioner Arrington.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “You should see the minutes from the last meeting in there and preceding with the gulch deal and some of the land that we own down there. We as Fulton County have to sign off on that. So, if you have any questions, certainly feel free to ask me or Commissioner Ellis, or Chairman Pitts.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, continue.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Bottom of page 7, **22-0134**, Information Technology roadmap update sponsored by Commissioner Hall.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner.”

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**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “OFF MIC[Inaudible.] back there to present; I don’t know if it’s a quick presentation. Thank you, gentlemen. I just want to say it was a great meeting and you addressed many of my concerns and I think that is going to show in your presentation. Thank you.”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “Great. Thank you, Commissioner, for your time yesterday, and for your, for your support. Before our CIO, Glenn Melendez, gets started, I wanted to set a bit of context for what you’re going to hear from him. What you’re going to hear in summary is really a lot of the progress on activities that have been made over the last few years. We have a very detailed roadmap in terms of what we want to do moving forward, but I think more importantly we’re at a tipping point right now in the IT function in the County. Specifically, because of resources or the lack thereof, we’ve lost a number of people. Glenn’s Team is down almost 50 people, as you’ll hear, almost a third of his Staff. And our ability to deliver on the roadmap, and to provide the level of support that we need moving forward is strained. And so, we have a very specific set of recommendations we want to bring forward. We need your support to do that, but I can’t, I can’t overstate where we are in terms of needing to make some decisions and take some actions. So, with that, I’ll turn that over to Glenn.”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CHIEF, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “Thank you, Alton. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board. Thank you. I will be quick. If you can turn to the next slide, please. Next, slide. All right. Just in terms of our roadmap and our strategic direction, there are five areas that we are more focused on in IT for our strategic roadmap. The first one is engaging and enhancing citizen engagement, bringing services to our citizens digitally. The second area is application modernization, modernizing our applications – we have a fairly old application footprint and making sure that our applications have the latest features and functionality. The third one of course is maturing our cyber security posture, and that includes physical security as well for the County and our citizens and making sure that we have video surveillance around the County. The fourth one is infrastructure upgrades. We do have a fairly old legacy infrastructure footprint. And we are in the process of upgrading many parts of that infrastructure for better supportability and frankly just better performance of the infrastructure itself. And then finally the last vertical of our strategic roadmap is around judicial system enhancements. Our justice partners have a number of enhancements to better serve our community, and would provide better operational efficiencies. And we’ll go through some of the examples on the next slide. Next slide, please. Over the last I guess two-years, we’ve had a number of accomplishments. I just wanted to highlight a couple of them for the Board in the citizen engagement vertical on one of the accomplishments that I want to highlight is the audiovisual and the renovation of Assembly Hall itself. The technology we put in here allows citizens to engage with us in

a more remote manner. I was sharing with Commissioner Hall that, I think, on our third meeting, we had a citizen call-in and I was home with my three-year old, and you're allowing me to engage in the meetings and that resonated well with me because that was exactly what we want to do; right - like bring our citizens in and allow them to engage. It's this technology, that we've experienced today and we've had over the last couple of months, that has allowed us to do that. The second thing that I'm very proud of is our tax appraiser area now performs tax appraisals in the field with tablets. They used to have to go out to the field, come back to the main office, enter the data, go back to the field. They have the ability to automate that now and with the tablets, they are doing their job in the field providing greater performance efficiencies. For cybersecurity, I mentioned for our citizens, there are over 2000 cameras that we have throughout the County; and we plan on growing that about another 300 cameras today for our video surveillance. There's a number of infrastructure needs that go into that – to provide that kind of video storage and support for video surveillance. E-911 is an area also, we came to the Board, I guess, about a year and a half ago, looking for better support on E-911. We've got an incredible amount of stability that we have on that system. We have better monitoring, better support, and we're able to provide that support for our citizens as well. So, very proud of that- that accomplishment. And then finally on the justice system enhancements, there are a number of initiatives in that area; but one of the key areas is we're now pursuing an initiative where we are exchanging evidence digitally. We had many years where we are and we still do have our exchanging evidence with arresting agencies on thumb drives and boxes, and moving them across town. And we are now in a project – on a project that we are exchanging evidence digitally. So, a lot of good accomplishments there. Last thing I'll just say is our courtrooms are virtualized now. We are doing DUI court virtually. We're doing arraignments virtually. We're doing hearings virtually. So, we've really transformed the way we do our judicial system as well. Next slide, please. Real quick I just want to kind of highlight these two initiatives; and I want to first acknowledge Jessica Corbitt's Team from External Affairs. I want to acknowledge Dr. Pamela Roshell's Team as well, and Judge Kenya Johnson. These business partners have been very instrumental in advancing technology for the County. On the left side of the screen, you will see on my left side of the screen, you will see that we are getting ready to launch a Health and Human Services app under the leadership of Dr. Pamela Roshell and Jessica Corbitt, where we will be delivering an app that has health and human services for our citizens. That app is now in testing, and should be coming out in Q2 for our citizens. We're really excited about that. And then on the right side of the screen, we are now working with Judge Kenya Johnson around scheduling appointments for probate court. We all know that there were long lines in probate court system. We are now piloting the ability to go on-line, and schedule your appointment. And I'm happy to say that Judge Johnson had performed a number of Valentines' day

wedding ceremonies this past Monday. That was all scheduled on our appointee app where people can make appointments to schedule a variety of services through probate court. So, I'm really excited about that. Next slide, please. All right. So, you talked about, you know, some accomplishments and here's what we're going to talk a little bit about some of the challenges that we are having. And we'd like to get some feedback and guidance from the Board. As Alton had mentioned, we have a 33 percent vacancy rate in IT. The great recession is real. I used to get 80 to 90 applicants to a job posting. I am lucky if I get six to eight applicants on a job posting today. So, it is very real and if you look at all the literature, they say healthcare and IT is very much hit by the great recession – by the great resignation and I am here to vouch for that, in person. We also are competing against a very large company. We have Apple in our backyard; Microsoft has established a center-right in Midtown; Air B&B is looking to relocate some of their technology operations here; and Cisco as well, is also looking to move 700 employees to the Atlanta area. So, we are competing with some of the biggest companies on the planet. And we're just not getting the response rate on our postings. In terms of compensation structure, I do want to highlight some challenges we have with our compensation structure that probably are contributing to the lack of interest; and this is not obviously all-inclusive, but I want to give you some examples. An Endpoint engineer, we are recruiting for now, I have one Endpoint Engineer that is supporting 40,000 plus Endpoints or devices on our network. That one person is now being recruited for. I have two openings for \$44,000 a year. We do not get Endpoint Engineers, in this decade for \$44,000 a year. It just doesn't happen. And, if you just go down the list, you know, network architect, which is a very seasoned and experienced role to be able to design networks; our starting salary is \$66,000 a year; you know, in the marketplace, you're looking at twice that. So, I don't want to go through all of these positions, but you can see we have some significant challenges in our salaries versus what the market is commanding, certainly contributing to our inability to recruit effectively. I want to just turn to the next slide, and then this is the last slide. We have some recommendations that we'd like to get some guidance from the Board. The first recommendation is, we would like to pursue professional services to help – it has a stop gap – to some of the talent that we don't have right now on staff and being able to leverage professional services. The second one is we'd like to also consider a temp-to-hire approach, right, where we kind of bring on professional services, and then, if they are good, they can compete like everyone else for a position within IT. And I think what that does, it extends our recruiting arm, right? It allows us to have professional services extend our reach which we currently don't have. Also, I'll just say, you know, working remotely is big; right? These companies are working remotely across the country, and quite frankly, across the globe. And we are recruiting for people physically within the remote confines of Georgia, right. We can do a hybrid work environment, but we're not

recruiting for folks in California, right? So, we need to have extend our reach for recruitment, and we think a temp-to-hire approach will allow us to attract talent and then let that talent compete for a position within IT. Aligning salaries to be competitive with that marketplace, we do need to take a hard look at our salary structure. I just gave you some examples. We want to get some guidance on that as well. We've done some analysis on that and then finally we are looking at potentially on having an Executive Search Firm, help us with some of the senior positions. We have a CTO position that it remains open. I had on the other slide that CTO position is funded at half rate what the market compared – commands. And then, we have a Deputy CIO position as well open; so, we'd like to be able to engage a Executive Search Firm to help us with the search of our senior level positions. And with that said, I'll close by—yeah, I'll close by taking any questions you may have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Ellis, followed by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'll start, I really didn't know we were having this sort of related discussion today, so there's some stuff I've been thinking about and I want to raise it. And probably, I might have a few more questions that might be directed towards human resources as opposed to you all, so, if you can, bear with me. So one thing that struck me and I had somebody I was speaking with on Sunday, they were referencing a job a son looking for a job in the IT space or whatever, and so I just happened to pull up my phone and was you know 'cause I'd heard it noted that we had some 30 something openings. And I go to our job openings thing and you know I don't know how many were listed there, maybe a hundred or so jobs, and one IT job. So, and not only, you know what I'm hearing about all of these openings we have, not many openings relative to you know what I'm hearing. So, you know what, what gives with that and why is that? I mean—"

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CHIEF, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** "—I can address your question. A lot of the positions have been posted three and four times at this point. We actually took a step back to make different recommendations. There a number of positions queued up once again to be posted; but, we really wanted to have a chance to get your reaction to this presentation. But these positions are posted three and four times at this point."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Well, I mean, it's still – it's incongruent if we're here and we've got all these openings and you've got all these jobs and you go to our jobsite and nobody can apply. I mean, I don't care whether we're looking at them or not; I mean, we're looking for people all the time, they ought to be up there. So, whether it's IT, whether it's other spaces. So, and then IT, I don't think was the only one. I'm not,

necessarily picking on you, because there were other places where I hear we've got all these openings and I see no openings. You know, so, you know, I don't know what's going on there, but I mean I can't sit up here and listen to one thing and I go on there and was going to try to refer somebody into something, there's nothing – nobody there. And no jobs were listed there. So that's, that's one. The second thing, and I spoke about this last year. Maybe I was a little too subtle about it; but now I'm going to be very direct about it. We have got to look at all of our job requirements for all these jobs. I mean, this is sort of one of the current trends they talk about right now, within HR, within any organization, is because of where we are, we're at – we're certainly at relatively full employment within the state of Georgia. If you are – have rigid job requirements, you are not going to get employees. If you've got rigid job requirements that haven't been revisited, and you're basing your search funnel on this very strict set of job requirements, and somebody doesn't meet one or two, and they're screened out, you're not going to attract the workforce that you need in today's environment. And from what I've seen from looking at these, our job requirements, they're dated; and we're missing out on people coming in because of that. Another thing I'll say, we live in an area that is rich from an educational standpoint. I don't mean rich in terms of wealth. I mean in terms of people that are going to school here in many of the fields that we're seeking people to come to work for, right; IT related stuff, engineering, et cetera. I don't get a sense that we are hiring or have any sort of intentional program around hiring people out of these colleges and universities to come engage and work in government. I mean are we – if you hired many people—”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CHIEF, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “—so, I do have forty interns mostly out of Georgia State University, that currently work in our Department. They are instrumental, but they're not, they're not seasoned individuals, and we've hired a couple of them. But, some of these positions like a network architect; [Inaudible.] are really seasoned positions—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—right--“

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CHIEF, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “-we have hired them and we have forty right now—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—interns—”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CHIEF, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “—interns, yes—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “--and I realize that they may not be seasoned or meet kind of the experience requirements that we may desire; whether it's in IT or whether it's in Public Works, or whether it's in other areas; but guess what, those people don't exist.

You know everybody's chasing those same people and they don't exist. So, we've got an opportunity to me to set-up in many of these areas, you know, maybe it's a different job class for hiring entry-level trainees, we pay them in a different – you know with a different job band; we're intentionally bringing them in; we're training them, you know and maybe they step in after a certain period of time; they would step up into an additional band and, have some sort of compensation incentive to do that; but we've got to get these people in and working. I mean, and because, I mean I hear all the time from whether it's in government's not alone in this, other, other sectors have this as well. Kids that are coming out of school, they're looking for stuff and they're looking at oh, it says I have to have two years of experience. Well, where are they going to go get it? Right, and to me, I mean, we've got a perfect opportunity in Fulton County government in several different spaces given our proximity, place where people want to live, rich environment for college graduates and highly educated people to come in here to build some depth and some experience. Yes, some of them are going to turnover, but that's the nature of any, anybody that hires college graduates that they're gonna turn over. But I just think we're missing out on this and I know we need to look at salaries and I'm not ignorant, you know, to that and naïve to that. But we've also got to do something on the front end or we're going to consistently be chasing our tail. And the two areas to me, one is the job thing, I don't know, I don't get that. I don't understand it. Whatever our job openings, that ought to be up-to-date. People ought to be able to go see it; and we need to do a – we need to rapidly do a resweep of our job requirements to make sure we're not accidentally screening people out that otherwise would be qualified. And then, and then thirdly, we go to come up with a program to me that's where we are intentionally bringing in training new employees entry-level employees college grads may be even high school grads in some certain fields to eventually be you know future long-term employees of Fulton County government, so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good comments Commissioner. Commissioner Arrington followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It might be time for a new compensation study. We're having the same recurring issues department to department: legal, finance, purchasing, IT, it's the same recurring issues. We don't pay enough money. We don't pay enough money. We need to pay more money, and I don't know if that means we need a compensation study to do it or not, but if you want to get good people, you've got to pay them good money. And you have to have comparable salaries -- can you go back to that slide that shows the differential. A hundred and twenty-four percent differential - good Lord have mercy. Twice as much money—"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "—and don't let the network go down—"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “--Glenn, that's a good way to ask for a raise, too. I - don't think I wasn't—”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CHIEF, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “—see I didn't put myself on there—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-- don't think I didn't get your point, but the bigger point is for all of our Staff, right, they're all underpaid. They all need to be paid more—”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “—yeah—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “—and it's department to department, Sheriff's office can't get anybody because they're not paid enough. So, we just need to really reevaluate what we are paying people, Mr. Hermon. And the reason – when was that last compensation study? That was within eight years, but it's a, you know, it's a whole new world. We're post COVID world now.”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** “And, good afternoon, Commissioners. You're absolutely correct, and I just want to remind the Commissioners that in November, you approved -- when you approved the elected official compensation, you also approved the key classification study as well which has a lion's share of Glenns' positions in there. So, through that process, we've now zeroed out those 120, 125 differences in salary, but the implementation date in March. So, we're talking about it tomorrow about how could we expedite especially where we're bleeding in the IT Department, the Purchasing Department in the County Attorney's Office; expedite the implementation of the key classifications and make sure it fits within our budget parameters that we had set for 2022. And in just for another update, the salary survey is coming for the entire net - I heard for the entire network, okay Glenn got me talking IT, the entire population later on in April or June to bring that back to the Board to say well, this is how it looks for the entire organization and then trying to fit that in, potentially either in this year. We're setting a plan forward for 2023 for that group as well. For everything else that doesn't fall within the key classifications.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “So, yeah, okay, thank you for that information. That is good information. The key classifications obviously makes sense, but it is also good to know that the entire universe is being considered. We probably need to expedite both of those. We probably need to expedite both of those processes, so I guess that's all I have for now. But, yes, we need to – we got to pay people. We want competent people, we're going to have to pay them, and we're going to have to pay them competitive salaries and you know I'll leave it there.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you, Sir. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

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**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Thank you, Chairman. I don't really want to beat a dead horse, but I'm just going to have to shoot it in the leg because when I was at Bell South/AT&T, the lion share of the money that they were looking to payout was in two different places: sales and IT, sales and IT, sales and IT. And so, they were ahead of the curve because they knew that would be an area that you cannot replace quickly. So, we really are archaic in the way we were thinking. And it's not our fault because a lot of government sector is. And so, we don't offer the type composition – we don't – the whole package, the signing bonus, the ability to move here -- we have got to understand – and I know my colleagues up here; some of you all do understand it. But for the listening audience, this is 2022 and our package has to be where people would want to come. We're already bleeding and so now we're bleeding and we're trying to go backwards and just become current when we're still backwards. I mean if we had a time machine we could jump in and go two years - ten years back, we probably wouldn't be at this point, but what I want to say is this: We have to become competitive all the way around if we're going to fix this. Because we're not the only government. When I was in NACCHO, it's across-the-board. And so, what it is happening. But some of the takeaways that I came back with is they're looking at everything. They're looking at housing, they're looking at sign-on bonuses, they're looking at providing what the schools look like in the area, they have a whole entire package that they are marketing to get people in. Now, I don't know if we could do that, but to what Commissioner Arrington says, we have to look at this different, if we're going to stop the bleeding. You and I have been talking about this for about a year, and at some point, we just gotta make the hard decisions. Especially when it comes to IT, cause you let everything – you let the system go down, and guess what, it's, it's, it's crazy. So, whatever suggestions you have, because you're the expert in my eyes, I'm going to support because I came from an environment that if IT didn't work, nobody worked. And so, here again, we're in government. So, we have to, we have to be realistic about that. Other companies that are not government, are outpacing us. But that doesn't mean that we can't catch up and be competitive. And so, we may need to think outside the box. We may need to hire an outside firm that has had good track record. And so, I just wanted to just support you in that.”

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CHIEF, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** “Thank you, Commissioner.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Commissioner Hall.”

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** “Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question for our Chief Human Resources Officer, Mr. Hermon. Do you have a shortage in your department? Do you actually have enough people to carry out the task that you need to do because this is a

lot of work that needs to be done to catch us up. And I just thought about that. Do you have the staff that you need?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** "I think Commissioner Arrington said it a few Board meetings ago, when you open the door, jump right through it. So, the answer is no, Commissioner. We are also in HR experiencing a high level of turnover ourselves. I think we are down about seven employees and the arm that deals with the recruitment and classification of talent, we're putting a plan together and we're trying to get our jobs posted right now to get those individuals in as well as trying to refocus some of those positions because right now our HR consultants, they do everything. They do everything from recruiting, job descriptions, investigations, and the like; so, we are, right now, creating a new job that's dedicated as a recruiter and that's all that individual will do. Some of the things that Commissioner Ellis suggested about going out and meeting with the colleges, that's to be their primary focus leveraging resources like LinkedIn and paying for that, investing in that tool to the tune of \$150,000 which we just got the quote for a few days ago and working that into our budget. So, we have started to shift our approach and funny enough last night I was checking the work of my employees and searching on LinkedIn right now, one of my employees has befriended every pathologist who is a forensic pathologist, she has been friends with them on LinkedIn to try to get them to fill the medical examiner jobs that we have in the ME's office. So, we're -- we have shifted our approach. But as you said, you know, we, we are -- it's like the Titanic, we're trying to turn a slow boat fast; but we're turning it and we're making the changes. But additional resources can always help to help the HR team support the departments where they need support so that we don't have to spend so much money on search firms because each search firm is a \$25,000 pop per search that we could potentially bring that resource within HR accomplish close to the same amount of success."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And I want to go back to something that Commissioner Ellis said about could we be missing the mark on identifying people who are applying for these jobs as being potential candidates for these jobs. And I, I do know how specialized IT positions are, and you really need someone with that expertise and knowledge to be able to know which applications really qualify. And so, do you have those specialized HR generalists that can go through those applications and know what to look for? Because I know from just my years in government that most HR departments in government just look for keywords. And everybody, at this point, pretty much knows that. So, what they do is they look at the job description, they pull out the keywords, they put it in their application, and in their resumes. I see people winking at me and everything, like 'oooo, you telling it'. And that's how they score the applications

and could possibly miss some great applicants, some great candidates. So, do you have those specialty HR people in your organization?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** "Commissioner, specialty for IT, no. As you just said, you know we are HR generalists. We like to start the conversation with the hiring department and that's how we become 'specialists' for that particular recruitment. So, if the hiring department works with their assigned HR consultant and they go through a very specific list of this is exactly what we're looking for, we become specialized with that focus and with that particular focus. But and also, you know some of the, some of the reality of the situation is some time someone is looking for a unicorn and that person doesn't exist like Commissioner Ellis suggested, maybe you have to take a step back and get somebody as close to your skill set—"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "—right—"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** "--and checks nine out of the eight boxes and then train them up to the other two to get what you're ultimately looking for—"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "—that's right—"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** "--and invested in government services; but and again that's a shift in mindset and approach to the hiring process especially in this very tight and competitive market."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "But, speaking of training: The way that you and Commissioner Ellis spoke about it, we have an issue just in that area alone that many of our County employees have not been trained. There has been no training program for them. There is no succession planning, there is no progression, they see no forward path in their careers and that's something that we need to address. And so, training yes, but we have to have the training in place or planned for those specific positions. And we talked about that when we were discussing all of this the other day. And then I want to go back to the salary compensation. We need to ensure that we keep our employees, and we need to make sure that we're not hiring a bunch of new people in at higher salaries than the employees that are already here. We need to ensure that we increase our current employees in their positions before we start bringing people in over them, but then that also goes back to training as well. Because now you're bringing people in who are coming from the outside, who may have had the opportunity to train so they're a little more knowledgeable than our employees. So, I think there needs to be a plan to make sure that our employees also get - have the ability to train-up and have - and can see a pathway forward and that will hopefully show them that we really

care about them and we want them to stay because you don't want that institutional knowledge walking out of the door. We are seeing that happening and that can be critical to our organization. So, I'm looking forward to what you bring back to us. I hope it comes to us quickly."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER:** "Yes, and just for one point of clarification, just to remind the Board and the general public, and the employees that watch the BOC: The rules and regulations that the Board adopted, what you were just talking about, allows for if Glenn, since he's at the podium, is trying to hire a network engineer at \$120,000 which is, you know, \$60,000 above; we require him to bring everybody else up to that 120, if they have the same level of education and experience. Not particularly a certain skill set, but the education experience. We require Glenn or any department head to equalize the salary so that we don't have those types of situations where we're creating equity issues and more lack of engagement as well."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Manager, Ms. Whitmore, you've got your hands full. We need to double all the salaries, everywhere, all across the board. Lee, you're not, you're not going to like it. We need to increase the millage rate in order to be able to pay these people what they deserve to be paid. And Mr. Mendez can you go back to the recommendations. You recommended hiring some outside agencies—"

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CHIEF, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** "—yes, Sir—"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--I recommend Happy Faces—"

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

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Well, could we go back to your slide, Glenn, the last one where you were outlining the, yeah, as I understood, you were looking from some reaction from the Board of Commissioners—

**GLENN MELENDEZ, CHIEF, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** "—yes, Sir—"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "--about these points; and I wanted to give you a little bit. I do think Commissioner Ellis' point was well taken. I think back to my career albeit it's much smaller employers, but there were times when I thought I needed an experienced HR guy to head up HR. But one of the best ones I hired was a guy right out of school with this degree. Trained him a little bit, but he already has some great trading on the

law of HR and all the intricacies of that and one of the best accountants I ever hired was somebody right out of school when initially I thought I needed somebody with some experience. So, I think to make sure that we don't box-in and eliminate folks just by looking at the thing, is a great comment from Commissioner Ellis. On these four points, I wonder about whether the third point solves a lot of the problems, if we were able to do that—

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “-[Inaudible.] it solves-”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “-- solves, yeah, I mean if we bring all the salaries up to be competitive, that doesn't – I'm confident it doesn't solve all the problems, but that seems to me to be a key one. But as far as I'm concerned, I'm happy to support you on all four of those. But if we do the third one, then maybe that -- maybe that solves a lot of your problems. I don't know.”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “I guess, Commissioner, the way I would respond without solving the third one, the other ones won't matter, right; so--”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “—that's correct—”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “—so, we do have to have competitive salaries—”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “—right—”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “—before we recruit, before we think about bringing somebody in on a temp-to-hire; cause if they're – if salaries are not competitive, as I tell people all the time, they're not going to give any institution, whether it be government or private sector, a hometown discount, given the competition for these resources today. So, I do think we start with the salaries are necessary, but not sufficient. And then we have to do these other things to be able to bring people in at the pace that we need to at this point.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “That's a good way to put it, Alton. I think that the third one has to be done, and in the interim, I'm sure the other three do as well.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right.”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** “So, in terms of next steps - I'm sorry, Commissioner—”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “--I was just going to say, I like your point, though, Lee. Because, instead of spending money on these outside agencies, let's

spend it internally on our human capital, right, on our human resources. Let's bring those salaries up instead of you know going and paying Tyler technologies another 16 million, right?"

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "And I think what we're recommending, Commissioners, is both of those. Now, we know we have to, we know we have to do some things to retain our employees and stem that attrition, right? First and foremost, right, otherwise, we're just playing whack-a-mole. So, we've got to fix that in terms of salaries. To Commissioner Hall's point, we've gotta give people a sense for what their next step is. We're at a disadvantage because if you go off and work for Microsoft, you're gonna know, that if you start at network engineer one, two years you're going to be a two, the third year, the fourth year, you're going to be a four. There's a clear path. There's compensation implications. There's stock option implications. There's flexibility implications. So, those are the kinds of things that are soft things that make a difference these days, and we have to make sure we start to address some of those as well. So, your point is very well taken. We gotta find a way to have people who are working with us, feel like they want to stay here while we're trying to bring other people in the door."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, well, we want to be the employer of choice. I'm talking, the County Manager and I talk about that all the time at least for government—"

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "—yes—"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--we may not be able to beat out some of those other companies you had up there, but at least for government, we want to be the employer of choice."

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, FC PSS:** "So, in terms of next steps, we are working with HR to finalize what the salary levels need to be for these categories that we have within IT at the same time we had a call earlier this week about a firm that can help with some of the temporary needs when it comes to talent. And as Glenn mentioned, there are a couple of positions specifically the CTO role and his deputy that have been vacant for more than a couple of years now. And we think that in addition to having a competitive salary, we're going to have to go off and find some, we're going have to go off and get them because they are, you know, those positions are hard to fill. So, we'll come back to you. I think the question that Commissioner Hall asked us yesterday was what's this going to cost? And so, we're working on being able to really nail that down and come back to you with the specifics around the recommendations."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, gentlemen. These are all very salient points; but this is government and not the private sector. And there are advantages to working in government that the private sector does not offer. So, let's be – gotta keep all of this in consideration. All right, what else Madam Clerk. Thank y'all."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an add-on item, **22-0136**, Registration and Elections. Request approval of a statewide contract to provide temporary staffing services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Hall. Any questions? Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Are we not going to have a presentation on this? I mean, I'll ask questions, if we're not going to have a presentation—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—who is that—"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "—okay; what's your pleasure; would you rather have questions, or did you want to talk through anything?"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "Yes sir, I don't have a formal presentation."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Thought y'all were going to present what you were doing, I mean, the important thing I do think is: A. this is an add-on people have not had opportunity necessarily in the public to look at this to understand what is being proposed. Maybe I'll attempt to paraphrase what is being proposed and then you can either correct me or offer some additional comments. So, as I understand this what's before us is a request to enter into a statewide contract with three different firms: Dover Staffing, ARK Temporary Staffing, Corporate Temps and this would be the source of meeting the temporary staffing needs for the election running up through the primary cycle; is that correct."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "That's correct—"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "—okay—"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "--for the general primary as well as the runoff."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "General primary and any subsequent runoffs. So, the amounts, you know, they're not to exceed amounts, correct—"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “—correct—”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—so, you know, in the event you know there wouldn’t be a runoff or something, let’s say for whatever strange chance there wasn’t a runoff, and we didn’t have to do, then obviously these numbers probably wouldn’t be what they are.”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “Absolutely. Yes, Sir.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. The – I have some questions on some of the -- so we’ve gone to three firms. The three firms and these would be the source of these and then the firm we’re doing business with, right now. I guess once that, you know, our spending authority with them ran out, it would just run out.”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “Leading up unto the elections”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—right—”

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** “--yes, Sir.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. So, on the firm with the largest amount associated with it, what - I was curious about the selection of the three firms, number one. Let me ask that question. I know in the past, we’ve had some folks that have noted that we were the only County that used staffing firms which is factually not correct, you know, of our major peers: Gwinnett, Dekalb and Cobb, they all use temporary staffing to different degrees than what we do. We may use them more, but all of them have used temporary staffing. And I note that on some of the research I had done on both Corporate Temps and ARK Temporary Staffing were firms that have been used by Cobb, Dekalb, and Gwinnett. So, there’s some, I guess, familiarity that they’ve been engaged in providing staffing for elections, but I didn’t know about Dover and they’re work in this arena. I’m just curious about if you had any commentary on that from either yourself or from Purchasing.”

#### **FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT**

**COMPLIANCE:** “Yes. Good afternoon, Commissioners. What we did was, we issued a request for a cost proposal from all ten of the contractors’ agencies listed on the statewide contract. We sent them our Excel spreadsheet. We asked them for their billing rates and for the rates they were paying to the employees. We then reviewed all of their costs. We had a meeting with all of them. Six firms responded to our solicitation for our request. Of those firms, we met with them to clarify they understood what our needs were. We wanted to understand what their experience was. When we met with Dover, I believe Dover told us that they provided services for -- I wrote it down, I’m

trying to find it. That was nightline. Dover provided services for -- see that was -- was it Cobb? Help me, Patrick."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, REGISTRATIONS & ELECTIONS:** "So, Dover was in discussion with them after we had a follow-up meeting with each agency. Notified us that they have previously, and currently also, worked with, I think, it's Cobb, DeKalb, and I think it's those, between those two."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So, they had indicated they had, okay."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, the inquiries I had, this was in -- as of July 2021. And Corporate Temps has worked with all three counties. And I noted ARK, Cobb. But I didn't see mentioned, at least in some of the personal calling around research we had done, from my staff that mentioned that Dover. But -- so you're suggesting that they indicated they have worked with those counties?"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "That is correct."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PURCHASING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:** "That is correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "And also to the further point, they specifically worked with them in the area of Advanced Voting, which is what we're proposing too."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. That was my next thing, just so to kind of to share with the public, you know, there are different amounts for these, and the larger share is the 6 million to Dover. And but the lion's share of that, I've added up and if I did my math correct, 5.28 million is basically for running early voting?"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So that's really kind of the -- their focal point."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "Yes, sir. But if I can add--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "—yeah--"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "--the remaining is to cover, again, the way the current agency is with the spending authority that will run through a certain period in time and cut off before we get through the complete election cycle. So, to ensure that we're covered for the remaining, that additional amount is to cover those positions transitioning over."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So, on the -- on the early voting, I know there's been -- in terms of the staffing approach, I know a lot of people have made comments that, you know, we -- our approach to staffing early voting and requiring people to work, whatever it is, four weeks, five weeks kind of thing. That there were -- that that wasn't necessary and there were other means to do it. People could work, you know, a week, you know, et cetera kind of thing, two weeks. So, our response to that is to then, to stick with the approach of people working a four to five week period of time? Or is --"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "At this time, yes, Sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "I believe, historically, we've found it to be a -- I don't want to call it a hazard. But not the best practice to have people transitioning in and out through the shifts. And it's, I believe, it's easier to just, again, get that commitment for the whole entire period."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. In terms of a the ability to apply, you know, a citizen member to be able to apply for any of these roles, whether it's, you know, early voting role or some of the other ones that are within here -- and providing sort of a transparency and ease around that, it's -- is it -- is it -- it's my understanding from what's been communicated, I think, it may be our last Mayors' meeting that either the apparatus already is in place or it will be in place very soon, for not only the Fulton County specific roles, the day of, you know, county election workers. But all these roles, whether they're being sourced through temp agencies or not that they would be able to apply through our Fulton County website?"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "Correct. We've set it up for the interest, for those who express interest to be able to come to one, basically, a one-stop shop. Get the information for those positions that we are seeking through temp agencies, once hopefully, upon those selections, we would then provide that information to those specific agencies. And they can then go through the application process."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Okay. A few other things. In some of the classifications and stuff, you know, one of the -- I mean, one clear statement it's been referenced sort of over and over by different -- different people, but within the -- the

monitor that we had, his report back was that we were overly -- it wasn't -- the statement was -- was not Fulton County shouldn't use any temporary staffing, it was that we were overly reliant on temporary staffing, I believe, is really kind of how that was -- was phrased and should reduce its dependency on temporary staffing. So, I don't know if you -- you all have it right now, in terms of, you know, kind of what, going into this next cycle, we estimate we would utilize temporary staffing for versus within the previous cycle. And sort of where are those places where we brought on or may -- utilizing Fulton County staff versus temporary staff. And so, I'm curious at that question, and then -- so, go ahead -- go ahead if you got any sort of response to that."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "Yes, Sir. So, in reference to the Carter Jones' Report --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "—right--"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** " -- who detailed, or I guess, covered his opinion that we are heavily reliant upon temporary staffing, he also notified -- he also notated that the amount of temporary staffing in contrast or comparison to the full-time temp -- not full time but full-time permanent staffing to manage those was off. And so, what we do -- done in response to that since then, along with the -- working with this Board, we have increased our amount of middle management, which were primarily his concerns, in addressing that. So, excuse me, last year we added, I think, close to 13 positions. The majority of those, I think nine of them, were middle management to address those concerns."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. The -- I guess, you know, regardless of whether we're employing folks via temporary staffing versus whether we're employing them direct, the key to somebody being able to perform well is, you know, good training and good supervision, right--"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "—yes, Sir--"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "--and that was one of the complaints we heard from some folks that whether they come in work, you know -- worked on the elections and they were, you know, kind of engaged through Happy Faces that they just didn't feel like they were getting really great supervision or training on stuff, or they were frustrated with it. Can you speak to, kind of, changes that we are making this year to ensure that you know – as we're bringing these folks, and onboarding folks, that they're getting, you know, kind of the requisite training that they need to really be able to perform the roles adequately and being supervised effectively."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "So, since that time of the report, we've increased -- we worked on our departmental SOPs. We've also revamped our training for poll officials. We've also replaced that entire team to incorporate a new recruitment team; excuse me. Also, we are working with the -- if you -- if I can remind the previous request for a business process review. We are now working with the County Manager team to kind of go through that to bring in third party -- well, outside parties to review our train -- from top to bottom, basically, from our SOPs to our training manuals, our training efforts, are being reviewed by external parties to assist in hopefully improving our overall process."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. On the issue of training, there are some positions that are noted within here. It's not a significant amount of the funding associated with these contracts. But there are, there's places where it's noted that that these temporary workers would be doing training, which seemed -- struck me as kind of odd. And I don't know if that's a mischaracterization. But, you know, under the Dover piece, it's a mention of poll worker training. And it just struck me as odd that we would be utilizing temps to do any form of training. Maybe that's a mischaracterization of what that role is."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "Yes, Sir, absolutely. Because all the training is conducted by full-time permanent staff within the department."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So, what is that, when it says poll worker training? Maybe that's an error in the summary, but that's not the job title. So, you don't think there are any poll worker training that's being done by a temporary --"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "No, Sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- employee, okay."

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "No, Sir, absolutely not."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So maybe that's a mistake in the paperwork. I don't see the roles specifically noted in the annotation of the different jobs. There's a large number of jobs -- and I think this is another kind of -- I asked this question because I'd had some questions about it and maybe some confusion about what the roles did. There's about - - I think about \$700,000 associated with people that are, you know, to be working in the call center. And I think I'd gotten some mistaken inquiries from people that thinking that this call center was just operational on the day of the election. But this is -- this is a different function, right?"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "Absolutely."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Can you describe kind of what folks in the call center do?"

**PATRICK ESKRIDGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BRE:** "Yes, sir. So, excuse me, leading up to the election before we start issuing absentee ballots in preparation of polling place changes and everything, we begin to get high volumes of inquiries from the community. And so, the call center is set up to answer those calls and be able to provide that information."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Okay. I think that is the bulk of the questions that I had. I will say, I still, you know, would be interested in getting a little bit more concrete evidence around the work that Dover specifically has done. I think it's helpful to understand, you know, kind of what, you know, they're hiring for. It's, you know, a little more of a, you know, less specific technical worker within the construct of, you know, elections. It's, you know, somebody that's -- can maybe handle some of this work with a little more, you know, kind of simplified training given that's it's geared to early voting. But I do think I'd be interested in knowing who else they have worked with. So, if you do have that detail and specific references, it would be useful to have. I do have -- we can finish the discussion on this. But I do have some other elections-related stuff I would like to speak to related to the BRE. I could do that now or I can hold on later."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's take -- can you wait until after we do this?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I can wait until after."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "As long as you give me that liberty."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, Sir. Any other comments or questions? Motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote, please. Madam Clerk."

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Ellis, do you have anything else?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. This is not for you. You can stay there if you want. This is really more directed at our County Attorney's Office in that I'd like some more background on it. We had some stuff that was raised in public comment. And I'd also

heard it raised from some other folks as well that the Board of Registrations and Elections had taken upon themselves to disbar public comment in their meetings. And I'd like to understand, kind of, what -- do they have the authority to do that? Whether that's a good idea or not, I mean, good idea or not. I don't think it's a good idea. But do they have the authority to do that?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Commissioner Ellis, I was unaware that that had transpired. I would have to look at their rules and procedures. I would imagine if it was provided for in the rules and procedures, it's not something that I personally would recommend dispensing with. But again, I'd have to look at the rules, and then I can get back with the Board as to what our opinion is on that."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "If indeed, they have the power to do that and they chose to do that, if you could draft me a Resolution and then present at the next meeting, asking this Board to send back to them that they revoke that and they allow for public comment. I would like that to be, you know, slated on the next Commission Meeting, if somehow, they do indeed have that power. If they don't, I hope they will revert their rules and allow that. I think we've seen with sort of our outside boards and authority, where we've lacked transparency, it's come back to really bite us, i.e. Development Authority. The second piece to that equation is this notion of special meetings and notice, and the requirements around that. And we obviously have very specific requirements around notice for our meetings. As I do, I think, you know, boards for authorities and so forth. And I'd like to understand what those are and if these meetings are being quickly scheduled without the ability to our public to know what they are, then I want to understand why that is the case. And, you know, under what circumstances, you know, would they be allowed?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So you'd like for us to advise as to what the requirements are for the BRE --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, yeah."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- to call a special meeting?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Understood."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. And the notification they have to the public, you know, thereof, so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Madam Clerk, any other matters to come before us today?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioners, anything else? If not, we will stand adjourned. Thank you very much."

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.)