

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

August 02, 2023  
10:00 AM



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



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## **MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: September 6, 2023**

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****23-0472 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**23-0473 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "International League of Muslim Women Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
July 14-16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Resilient Roots Mural Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
July 15, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Mary Taylor Remembrance Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
July 15, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Christine King Farris Remembrance Day."  
**(Hall/BOC)**  
July 16, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "ATL Airport Community Improvement District Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**  
July 18, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Soror Markita Jean Grant Remembrance Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
July 21, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Nancy Mae Green Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**  
July 22, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Showability Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
July 26, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Outstanding Atlanta Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**  
July 27, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Marvin S. Arrington, Sr. Remembrance Day."  
**(Hall/BOC)**  
July 27, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
July 27, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Sherman M. Lofton, Sr. Remembrance Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
July 28, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Black Girls Pilates Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
July 29, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Holman Edmond, Jr. Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
July 30, 2023

### **Open & Responsible Government**

#### **23-0474 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to close out a contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 19ITB121190C-GS, Medical and Clinical General Cleaning Services in an amount not to exceed \$19,526.65 with Olde Maid Services (Columbia, SC) for final payment for services rendered in May 2023 for medical and clinical general cleaning services for selected Fulton County Health facilities: Adamsville Regional Health Center; Center for Rehabilitation; Fulton County Public Health at 10 Park Place; Oakhill Child, Adolescent and Family Center; and College Park Regional Health Center. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

### **Arts and Libraries**

#### **23-0475 Library**

Request approval of an MOU with City of Roswell on behalf of the Fulton County Library System for the County's purchase and implementation of Foundation Information Network (FIN) programming from Candid to be utilized in partnership with the City and to be reimbursed by the City in an amount not to exceed \$2,995.00. This agreement effective upon signature and for a term of one year of programming. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**Health and Human Services****23-0476 Public Works**

Request approval of a Resolution finding that adopting more stringent local water efficiency requirements is justified by local factors; that the Board of Commissioners is considering codifying those requirements in the local code as an amendment to the Georgia Plumbing Code, which is referenced by and fully incorporated into the Fulton County Code; directing that the amendment be submitted by staff to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review prior to formal adoption pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 8-2-25(c)(1); and for other purposes.

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

**23-0477 Public Works**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Public Works Department, 21RFP129860K-JAJ (E), 2021 Standby Engineering Services in an amount not to exceed \$29,141.00 with Jacobs Engineering Group (Atlanta, GA) to provide standby engineering services. This action is for less than 10% of the total contract amount. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0478 Community Development**

Request approval to enter into an Emergency Solutions CARES Act Grant (ESG CV) contract to deliver Emergency Shelter (ES) and Homeless Prevention (HP) activities with: (The Salvation Army \$10,000.00 for (ES) and \$37,350.00 for (HP), Partnership Against Domestic Violence (\$10,000.00 for ES) and \$25,000.00 for HP), Community Assistance Center (\$37,350.77 for HP), HOSEA Feed the Hungry and Homeless (\$37,350.00 for HP), The Drake House (\$10,000.00 for ES), On The Rise Financial Center (\$37,350.00 for HP), North Fulton Community Charities (\$37,350.00 for HP), Poverty 2 Prosperity (\$10,000.00 for ES and \$37,350.00 for HP), and Solomon's Temple Foundation (\$10,000.00 for ES and \$15,000.00 for HP). The total award amount is \$314,100.77. Authorize the Chairman to disburse funds, execute and administer ESG CV contracts and related documents consistent with the federal program regulations and this Board action. Effective upon BOC approval. 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0479 Community Development**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between Fulton County, Georgia, as the GA-502 Fulton County Continuum of Care ("CoC") Collaborative Applicant, and 24/7 Gateway, LLC ("Gateway") in the amount of \$389,584.70 for Gateway to serve as the coordinated entry lead agency and manage coordinated entry at the County-wide North and South Homeless Assessment Center offices. The term of the MOU is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024. This item is funded with \$308,583.96 from the CIAS grant and \$81,000.74 in General Fund match. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0480 Community Development**

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

**Infrastructure and Economic Development****23-0481 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Vault Relocation Easement Dedication of 168 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Realty Income Magellan, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Caliber Car Wash Project at 5570 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0482 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 48 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Ebenezer Community Support Association, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Ebenezer Activity Center Project at 12900 Arnold Mill Road, Milton, Georgia 30075. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0483 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 537 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Bawston Creek BTS Property, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Boston Scientific at Johns Creek Project a/k/a Project Lemon Lime at 11350 Johns Creek Pkwy, Johns Creek, Georgia 30098. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0484 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 192 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Toll Southeast LP Company, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Lakeview Townhomes Project at 0 Lakeview Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0485 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 19,359 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Sandtown Crossing, Inc., for the purpose of completing the Sandtown Crossing Project at 0 Campbellton Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30331. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0486 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 8,541 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Sandtown Crossing Professional Office Park Condominium Association, Inc., for the purpose of completing the Sandtown Crossing Project at 5835 Campbellton Road and 5835 Riverside Drive, South Fulton, Georgia 30331. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0487 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 2,624 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Sandtown Crossing, Inc., for the purpose of completing the Sandtown Crossing Project at 5849 Campbellton Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30331. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0488 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 782 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Sandtown Crossing, Inc., for the purpose of completing the Sandtown Crossing Project at 5837 Campbellton Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30331. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0489 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 1,082 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from SS South Fulton, LLC, for the purpose of completing the Sandtown Crossing Project at 5847 Campbellton Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30331. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0490 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 3,725 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Sandtown Crossing Shops, LLC, for the purpose of completing the Sandtown Crossing Project at 5819 Campbellton Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30331. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0491 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 36,134 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Sandtown Crossing North Shops, LLC, for the purpose of completing the Sandtown Crossing Project at 5829 Campbellton Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30331. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Justice and Safety****23-0492 Medical Examiner**

Request approval of a contract - Fulton County on behalf of the Fulton County Office of the Medical Examiner and Morehouse School of Medicine. The purpose of this Agreement is to guide and direct the parties respecting their affiliation to provide clinical education experiences ("Education Experience") at the Facility for students who are enrolled in the M.D. Degree program. The County Attorney is authorized approve the Agreement as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution. The County is not required to pay any compensation. Effective upon approval through July 30, 2024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0493 Medical Examiner**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County on behalf of Fulton County Office of the Medical Examiner and the Emory University School of Medicine to provide clinical education experiences for students enrolled in, or visiting students participating in, a rotation with the Medical School's M.D. Degree. The County Attorney is authorized approve the Agreement as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution. The County is not required to pay any compensation. Effective upon approval for five (5) years. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0494 Emergency Services**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Fulton County and Morehouse College for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. The MOU is from July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with five (5) automatic renewals commencing on January 1 of each successive year, ending December 31, 2028. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0495 Emergency Services**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fulton County and Morehouse College for the provision of 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Services. The MOU is effective from July 1, 2023, with five (5) automatic renewals commencing on January 1 of each successive year and ending December 31, 2028. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****23-0496 Board of Commissioners**

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

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Regular Agenda as amended by removing items #23-0507, #23-0466 as requested by the County Manager; and move up item #23-0467 as requested by Commissioner Thorne. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

b. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to reconsider the Regular Meeting Agenda to move up item #23-0511. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Hall

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

**23-0497 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Recess Meeting Minutes, June 21, 2023

Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, July 12, 2023

Special Called Post Agenda Minutes, July 12, 2023

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**23-0498 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Family Food Fest Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**



**PUBLIC HEARINGS****23-0499 Board of Commissioners**

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

**7 Speakers: Maria Gaudio (Tax Increase); Pamela Eckhardt (Tax Increase); Mike Russell (Tax Increase); Karen Dade (Tax Increase); Julie Allen (Tax Increase); Brother Anthony Muhammad (Citizens for Human Rights) and Victoria Salvia (Tax Increase)**

**2 Zoom Speakers: Ben Howard (Zoom Comments) and Shamika Crouch (Tax Increase)**

**2 Emailed Comments: Kevin Muldowney (Tax Increase) and Lee Wilder (Tax Increase)**

**23-0500****Finance**

Fiscal year 2023 General Fund Millage Rate Public Hearing. **(CONDUCTED)**

**PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED**

**3 Speakers: Brother Anthony Muhammad (Citizens for Human Rights); Julie Allen (Millage Rate Increase) and Mike Russell (Millage Rate Increase)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ACTION ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****23-0501****Finance**

Request approval of August 2, 2023 Budget Soundings. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**23-0502****Finance**

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners establishing a reserve account designated for the Jail Bridging Plan and replacement Jail construction costs using overruns above the \$636.4 million expected to be generated from a 96% collection rate of current year property taxes; and for other purposes. **(HELD)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve with a friendly amendment by Commissioner Barrett to also include programs or expenses approved by the Board for the purpose of reducing the jail population. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

Commissioner Abdur-Rahman did not accept the friendly amendment.

Commissioner Barrett made an additional friendly amendment to remove the \$40 Million cap.

Commissioner Abdur-Rahman did not accept the friendly amendment.

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**23-0503 Registration & Elections**

Request approval to increase the spending authority, Registration & Elections requests approval of a SWC 99999-001-SPD0000136, Temporary Staffing - Clerical & Light Industrial in an amount not to exceed \$232,758.44 with Dover Staffing, Inc. (Smyrna, GA), for the temporary staffing services and reimbursement for the rental of box trucks for the Special Election House District 68 Runoff Election. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**23-0504 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Registrations & Elections - SWC99999-001-SPD0000136, Temporary Staffing - Clerical & Light Industrial in a total amount not to exceed \$4,067,760.01 with (A) Abacus Staffing (Morrow, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$2,685,944.23; and (B) Dover Staffing (Smyrna, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,381,815.78, to provide temporary staffing services for the November 2023 Municipal and December 2023 Runoff Elections. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts, and Thorne

**23-0505 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Registration and Elections requests SWC99999-SPD-ES40199376IS-02, In-State Car Rental, in the amount of \$324,211.59, with Enterprise Leasing of Georgia, LLC (Atlanta, GA) for the rental of box trucks, passenger vehicles and cargo vans to be used in the November 2023 Municipal Election and December 2023 Municipal Runoff Elections. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**23-0506 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Registration & Elections - SWC99999-SPD-T20270514-0001, Mailing Equipment, Supplies & Maintenance Services in an amount not to exceed \$658,907.21 with Quadient, Inc. (Milford, CT) to provide VBM Inbound & Outbound Mailing System. **(APPROVED)**

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

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman  
**Absent:** Hall  
**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**Justice and Safety****23-0507 County Manager**

Request approval of a contract on behalf of the Office of the County Manager and Fulton County Sheriff's Office for Strategic Communication Services with Burson & Cohn Wolfe in an amount not to exceed \$385,000.00 to provide communications and engagement services to ensure that key stakeholders have access to timely and factual information about the Fulton County Jail in light of matters of high interest from constituents, media and policy makers. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2023. **(REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER**

**Health and Human Services****23-0508 Community Development**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and Fulton County Schools in the amount of \$250,000.00 to support the Community School Initiative - Student and Family Engagement (S.A.F.E.) Centers in response to the growing need to address barriers to student learning; and to authorize the Chairman to disburse funds and execute and administer contracts, and other related documents consistent with any necessary agreement in support of this funding allotment. The term of this Contract shall be upon approval through December 31, 2023. **(HELD)**

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

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman  
**Absent:** Hall  
**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**23-0509 Community Development**

Request approval to rescind prior 2023 Community Services Program (CSP) award to the non-profit Helping Empower Youth, Inc., (identified in Attachment "A") in the amount of \$25,000.00. Request approval to reallocate the rescinded funding in the amount of \$25,000.00 to the non-profit Generation Infocus Foundation, Inc., (identified in Attachment "B"). **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****23-0383 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article 2 (County Governing Authority), Division 2 (Rules of Order and Procedure), Section 101-66 (b)(1) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances in order to impose a distribution requirement before a member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners may place a proposed Resolution or Ordinance on the Agenda for consideration or final vote; to require that the proposed Resolution or Ordinance appear as a discussion item at the first meeting in which it is introduced and voted on at the second meeting; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (HELD ON 6/7/23, 6/21/23 AND 7/12/23) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON****23-0384 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article 2 (County Governing Authority), Division I (Generally), to create a new section 101-75 of the Fulton County Code of Laws to provide a fair, open and transparent procedure for the Board of Commissioners to make Full Board Appointments to various Boards, Commissions, Taskforces, Committees, Councils and Authorities affiliated with, or operating on behalf of Fulton County, Georgia; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (HELD ON 6/7/23, 6/21/23 AND 7/12/23) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON**

**23-0510 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to rescind a motion previously passed by the Board of Commissioners to refrain from taking any action regarding the composition of the Board of Ethics until certain matters are no longer pending before the Board of Ethics; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD)**

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

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Arrington to remove all members from the Board of Ethics.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**23-0511 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to approve the Board of Commissioners ~~consensus decision at the July 12, 2023 Special Called Meeting~~ to direct the Fulton County Manager and County staff to proceed with planning and seeking financing for the design, construction, and ongoing maintenance of a replacement Fulton County Jail Facility for the approximate project cost of ~~\$1,698,045,207.00~~ **\$1.685 Billion**, subject to increase or decrease as conditions may warrant; and for other related purposes. **(Pitts) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve as amended with a revised amount of \$1.68 Billion; with a friendly amendment by Commissioner Arrington to remove the language "consensus decision at the July 12, 2023 Special Called Meeting" and a friendly amendment by Vice-Chairman Ellis to amend the revised dollar amount of \$1.68 Billion to \$1.685 Billion. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Pitts

**Absent:** Hall

**23-0512 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution requiring contracts and other written agreements to accompany agenda items appearing on the meeting agenda of the Board of Commissioners to uphold transparency in governance; providing exceptions for those contracts or agreements excluded under the Georgia Open Meetings Act for emergency situations; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER THORNE****Commissioners' Full Board Appointments****23-0513 Board of Commissioners**

**FULTON-ATLANTA LAND BANK AUTHORITY (HELD)**

The Authority is governed by a board of directors comprised of an odd number of individual representatives- with no fewer than five (5) or more than eleven (11), hereinafter the "Board". Initially, the Board shall consist of seven (7) representatives comprised of: (A) four (4) appointed by the Mayor of the City of Atlanta and (B) three (3) appointed by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

Term = 4 years

Terms below expire: 8/7/2023

Jane Bradshaw Burnett **(BOC/Morris)**

Calvin Brock **(BOC/Abdur-Rahman)**

Kyle Lamont **(BOC/Hall)**

**Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has nominated Calvin Brock for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending August 7, 2027.**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN**

**23-0514 Board of Commissioners**

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL **(APPROVED)**

Members of the Advisory Council shall be appointed for a period of three (3) years. A member may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms on the board.

Fulton County having a population of more than 50,000 according to the United States decennial census of 1990 or any future such census shall appoint one member for each population increment of 50,000 or any portion thereof.

Term = 3 years (No more than two consecutive terms)

Terms below expired: 8/1/2023

Dave Ake **(Member 1)**

Elizabeth K. Bolton-Harris **(Member 2)**

**Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Dave Ake for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending August 1, 2026.**

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**23-0515 Board of Commissioners**

REGION III EMS COUNCIL **(APPROVED)**

The Bylaws of the Region III Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council requires that its members be appointed by County Commissioners and must constitute a minimum of two-thirds of the voting membership. Council members serve terms of appointment of three (3) years.

Term = 3 Years

Terms below expired: June 30, 2023

Chris Coons **(BOC/Position 5)**

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

**Commissioner Thorne nominated Chris Coons for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2026.**

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

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

**Absent:** Hall



**COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**23-0466 Human Resources Management**

Presentation of Fulton County's new Mental Health Resiliency Program. **(HELD ON 7/12/23) (REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER**

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**23-0467 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Open and Transparent Government **(Thorne) (HELD ON 7/12/23) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER THORNE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****23-0516 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Barrett

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

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

**Absent:** Hall

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve a settlement in item #2 in the matter of LaShawn Thompson in the amount of \$4 Million as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Hall

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to suspend the Vehicle Use Policy as it pertains to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and their staff for a period of not less than 30 days during which time the Vehicle Use Policy will be updated and considered, effective immediately. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Hall

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 2, 2023  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC



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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, good morning, everyone, and welcome to the August 2nd, Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. It is exactly 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

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

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **23-0472**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, I wanted to hold item 23-0513."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What page, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "That is page -- I'm sorry."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's on the Regular Agenda?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Oh, I sorry. I apologize; it's on the Regular Agenda. We're doing the Consent Agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. So the -- anything else on the Consent Agenda?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hearing none. The motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote to approve the Consent Agenda."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, Regular Meeting Agenda, **23-0496**, Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have amendments to today's Regular Meeting Agenda. Items to be removed: First item on page 9, 23-0507, County Manager: Request approval of a contract to provide communications and engagement services to ensure access to timely and factual information about the Fulton County Jail. On page 12, 23-0466, Human Resources Management: Presentation of the Fulton County's New Mental Health Resiliency Program. These items have been requested to be removed and heard at a later meeting. On page 12, item to be moved up as requested by Commissioner Thorne, 23-0467, Discussion - Open and Transparent Government. This item is to be heard before Commissioner Thorne's Action Item on page 10, 23-0512."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. On page 11, item 23-0513. I'd like to put that item on hold."

**CLERK GRIER:** "So noted."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Regular Agenda as amended. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "23-0497, Ratification of Minutes. Recess Meeting Minutes, June 21st. Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, July 12th. And Special Call Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, July 12th, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Any questions or comments? If not, let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0498**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. Proclamation recognizing 'Family Food Fest Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just one?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Just one, yes."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Good morning. It is wonderful to be able to present this proclamation in honor of the 9th Annual Family Food Fest. The proclamation reads as follows: WHEREAS, the 9th Annual Family Food Fest event is a Father's Day celebration presented by Atlanta Culinary charities that has occurred for more than 20 years in Atlanta; honoring dads and men who serve as father figures, and who give back to their communities and their families; and WHEREAS, Atlanta Culinary Charities is a 501C3 nonprofit organization and produces Family Food Fest Atlanta annually. The community partner for this year is the Frank Ski Kids Foundation, the same community partner more than 20 years ago; and WHEREAS, the Atlanta Culinary Charities has a mission of training at-risk youth in culinary and life skills and introducing young people to careers in culinary art, in the art of caricature drawing, balloon design, and face painting; and WHEREAS, samples of various foods and dishes are offered to guests from well-known chefs, cooks, caterers, and restaurants with one all-you-can-eat admission ticket. In addition to the cuisine, family activities, live entertainment, chef demonstration, and a health zone are all included in the schedule of events; and



WHEREAS, the Fulton County Commission in support of this Father's Day celebration for many years and among the honorary chairs and celebrate the celebration for many years, now, therefore, be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Family Food Fest for celebrating fathers in the Atlanta community; and does hereby proclaim Sunday, June 18th, 2023, as 'Family Food Fest Appreciation Day' in Fulton County. Thank you all so much. You got to tell us where Diane is."

**KEVIN ASH, RECIPIENT:** "Unfortunately, Diane cannot be with us today, but she is so appreciative of all things that we've done and for the support of Fulton County, especially in receiving this proclamation today. We at Family Food Fest Atlanta are very proud of what we do in terms of recognizing men, fathers in the community, and the impact they make on their families and their communities. We cannot do it without the support of Fulton County and the Commissioners here; especially those who serve as honorary chair such as Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr. and Natalie Hall who's been with us for years. Our team is here today. We have Andre Gates, we have Carla Belcher, we have Jimmy Littles, and we have Larry Fagan along with myself, Kevin Ash. I'm the spokesperson here on behalf of Diane Larshay. And as a team, we are truly grateful for all the support that the public comes out and provides for us, because without you, we could not make this possible or support the missions that we do for our charitable organizations. I will say this: in addition to the public, we have sponsors who make this possible, and I want to acknowledge them. We have WSB Family 2 Family Project, Georgia Natural Gas, Amazon, The Black Greek Letter Consortium, Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, ARP, to name so many that have come out and supported us. And, again, thank you very much for everything you've done and we receive this proudly and we look forward to you coming out and supporting us in future years. Thank you very much."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 7, Public Hearings **23-0499**, Public Comment - Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom conferencing or by submitting their comments in writing by registering on the county's website, [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes. In the event the 30-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comments 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. Would the seven speakers, please come

forward: Maria Gaudio, Pamela Eckhardt, Mike Russell, Karen Dade, Brother Anthony Muhammad, Julie Allen, and Victoria Salvia."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, speakers, when you have 15 seconds, I'll simply say 15 seconds and that'll be your clue to begin to terminate your -- not terminate, conclude your remarks."

**MARA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Maria Gaudio, Fulton County. I'd like to speak about the proposed property tax increase. And, you know, things have been very hard for a lot of people especially in Districts 5 and 6, although they did have some reprieve by very generous donation from Tyler Perry, who paid over 800 citizens' property taxes, very generously. But I don't think we can count on that year after year. And I think that the people who lived down there -- no matter where they live in Fulton County, the way food prices have been and gas prices, and now for property taxes to go up, it's pretty well the final insult. Look at all the money that you're going to save with paper ballots. Those millions of dollars can be used in lieu of increasing property taxes. Thank you very much."

**PAMELA ECKHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I'm here. I'm Pamela Eckhardt. I live in Roswell, Georgia. I'm here to speak about every decision that you make; every single one. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there were any that did seek God. They are all together become filthy. There is none that doeth good; no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? Who eat up my people like bread and call not upon the Lord? There were they in great fear for God is in the generation of the righteous. God sees everything -- everything. He sees every decision and He hears every word spoken; and He keeps records. One day each person will stand before Almighty God and give an account. He knows every intent and thought of every heart. Every day we and you have a chance to make right and good decisions for all people; even the weak and destitute. You have a chance a decision to make. We're watching; but more important, God is watching and your decisions will be recorded for a later time --"

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

**PAMELA ECKHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- make the decision you'll be proud of on that day."

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Mike Russell. I'm a resident of Atlanta, Grove Park neighborhood. I come today to speak out in opposition to the proposed increase in the millage rate. I find it incredible that now, in this economy, when we've just received news that we've had record evictions in this area -- in this county, in the city, that you would even consider raising property taxes. I work with people every day who could just barely stay in their homes, and this will only increase the eviction rate in our city, in our county. Now, a lot of you like to get up and pontificate and give out proclamations, and that's a good thing. But that doesn't keep

the lights on. That doesn't pay the water bill. That doesn't pay the rent or the mortgage, and it doggone sure does not pay Fulton County property tax. Those proclamations are nice to have, but having shelter and a home is a must-have. And if you raise property taxes, it will 100 percent increase everyone's rent and mortgage. And that to me is unconscionable. We cannot afford a millage rate. Now, I've been all over the west side where I live, including last night we had two communities meet together, and I've talked to people young and old, and nobody thinks this is a good idea. Not one person. But they gave me a message to bring to you today; a very clear message in plain English. If you vote to increase our taxes, we're going to vote you out of office. If you vote to increase our taxes, we're going to vote you out of office. Now, I know some of you here don't believe that manure stinks. And I can show you a lot better than I can tell you. The folks in this county --"

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

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- cannot afford an increase in their taxes and you need to table this and come up with a different solution like taxing commercial properties at the actual rate."

**KAREN DADE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Karen Dade and I'm a resident of Center Hill. And I'm also here to oppose the property tax increase. I resonate with the gentleman that came before me. We just cannot, and I'm especially thinking of our seniors for which I am one, that to increase in that way would put us in such a terrible situation. I'm asking that you come up with another plan. Please do not raise our property taxes, and that's all I have to say today. Thank you."

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Julie Allen, and I'm very thankful for each one of you, particularly Commissioner Barrett, that you serve our constituents here in District 3 so faithfully. Again, for briefness, I do like to read what I write. So I was here for the July 12th meeting where Commissioners Ellis and Arrington volleyed back and forth on the issue of raising the millage rate from the current 8.87 rate to as high as 10 percent that Commissioner Arrington suggested he would support. In that meeting, you approved advertising millage rate increase up to 9.2724 while approving a no-bid contract for \$210,000 for a reparations study while not having sufficient funding to maintain the current millage rate. I want to thank Commissioners Hall; she's not here today, and Commissioner Pitts -- Commissioner Thorne and Ellis for the restraint that you showed in your votes going back and forth on those issues. I saw the compassion that you have for the people of the county in your measured votes. As we proceed today, I want to bring to your attention economic issues of concern to Fulton County constituents. The average price from the AJC -- the average price of a gallon in Metro Atlanta midday, Friday, was 3.56, a stunning 34 percent climb -- 34 cent climb in a month that included 20 cents per gallon rise in just the past week. And that is not the end of the escalation. Forty percent of US adults have less than a thousand dollars in savings. Three years ago, the average 30-year mortgage rate was 2.98 percent, per Charlie Modelo. The median existing home price

in the US was \$294,000. Listen to this, this was three years ago. It was 294,000. Currently, the 30-year mortgage rate is 6.78 percent and the median home price is \$410,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Fifteen seconds."

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "So keep in mind what's going to happen with this millage rate. You'll already going to have an increase in revenue because you -- we're having increasing home prices and valuation. I'll come back in a few minutes and speak in the millage rate section to give you some more details to think about. Thank you for your consideration."

**BROTHER ANTHONY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I am that I am (Indiscernible.). King of Kings (inaudible) sober, spiritual, (indiscernible.) energy and I'm here today to say my condolences again, Mr. Marvin. I loved your father. And to you, Members of this Commission, we really need to recognize the mistreatment of the dark matter, anti-matter, brothers and sisters in the Fulton County jail. It's unfair. It's unfair for Atlanta to have allotted us to have an opportunity to take that facility and use it to try to have a community work program; Ms. Keisha Bottoms said. But now we're using it to house some of your persons that you have in control of in Fulton County jail. But you the management, you need to find the allocation of resources. Ms. DA Willis is concerned about Mr. Trump; you have taken my tax money over 350 percent since I bought the house in APUP. But whiles I'm speaking about the majority of the people in this city, as you know Mr. Pitts, Mr. Marvin, and you, Ms. Khadijah, and all the other Members of this Commission, only dark matter people that are suffering on the street. You see them by the hundreds all over Metropolitan Atlanta area. Why is that we can't love them like we say you love the God you say you represent. I'm no longer subject to religion, in your scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, not one person, not one human being was born from a woman womb to now in those all allegories. But you are spiritual. We are soulful and spiritual. So we're connecting back to the ancestors, the woman feminine energy is what this bowtie represents --"

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

**BROTHER ANTHONY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and I want you to know we got to come back and recognize the woman, but she got to return to her duties as mama of the cosmos and say I got your back; and the daughter's supposed to represent the emotion, energy in motion. And we men supposed to do what? Support her. Thank you. (Indiscernible.) As-salamu alaykum."

**VICTORIA SALVIA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, my name is Victoria Salvia. I'm a citizen journalist, a blogger, a media content creator, and I'm the executive committee of the Libertarian Party of Georgia. I'm here to speak to oppose the proposed property tax increase. I see that on item number -- let's see, 23-0502, it looks like you're looking to request an approval of a Resolution of Fulton County Board of Commissioners

establishing a reserve account designated for the Jail Bridging Plan and Replacement Jail construction costs using overruns above the 636.4 million expected to be generated from the 96 percent collection rate of current year property taxes. So what -- okay, first of all \$636 million to go -- I'm just wondering why do you need even more money than that? So the implications and clarifications we need to know where exactly is this property tax money going? Is it going to go for a building of another prison? Why do we need another prison? Are you expecting a bunch of criminals coming? This kind of goes -- coincides along with Cop City being built for \$60 million. Are we going to have a surge of crime or is this being built for the infrastructure of perhaps domestic "terrorists" who go against the narrative going down the road. In addition to that, if you're going -- if this were to be unavoidable that you're going to raise our property tax which, of course, is avoidable, you're going to be voting on it, with an estimated 10,000 homeless per year being buried; including infants being abandoned two per year. I think that there's better uses --"

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

**VICTORIA SALVIA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I think that there's better uses of our raised property taxes than to go towards another jail, another prison. Thank you."

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

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

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings one and all. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. As far back as February at the Housing Authority of Fulton County the assault on public comment began. The record on how he took over as chair is subject to scrutiny. Nonetheless, making full use of his power, he barked the order, shut down the chat; and not long later he again barked, I thought I told you to shut down the chat? The Zoom chat was terminated. The next step in shuttering that authority from the public view, was to eliminate Zoom altogether. Residents and concerned citizens wishing to make public comment at meetings of the Housing Authority of Fulton County must now hit the highways and travel to 4273 Wendell Drive, Southwest, ZIP code 30336. Oh, freedom of expression wherefore art thou? Not at the Housing Authority of Fulton County, that's for sure. Stay tuned."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Carmika Wade. Carmika Wade. The next person to speak is Colleen Freemon. Colleen Freemon. The next person to speak is George Freemon, George Freemon. And the last person is Shamika Crouch. No one is --"

**SHAMIKA CROUCH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- hi there. Hi, I apologize. Shamika Crouch. Thanks, Commissioners, but we have different questions that we recognize that this isn't the forum for the questions that we have. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And that concludes the Zoom public comments."

**REGINA WALLER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The first e-mail comment is from Kevin Muldowney. Kevin Muldowney, District 2 resident. I'm sure you all agree that most of your constituents are facing tough economic times. Inflation is at a forty-year high. Housing for many has become unaffordable. Gasoline prices are again on the rise. This is hardly the time to raise the millage rate. Due to this inflation, the value of the tax digest value has increased handsomely. To put a millage increase on top of all of this would be an undue hardship for many Fulton residents. A glass of today's agenda reveals many requests that read request for approval to increase spending authority. In these tough times, Fulton needs to become more efficient in delivering essential services. Commissioner Arrington, you said it yourself quite well in January of this year, we have more than enough money. That was the case then and is probably the case of reality now. Fulton needs to do what most of Americans do in tough economic times, cut back spending and become more efficient with what is coming in. The next comment is from Lee Wilder. I am wondering if the Fulton County Commissioners have a final say in tax breaks. The AJC reports that the Development Authority has given tentative approval to 11-million-dollars tax break for (Indiscernible.). This is a community of rich folks developed by rich folks. The planned hotel and aging I placed residents will only benefit rich folks. Please do not award tax breaks unless a broad range of citizens will benefit. This concludes the e-mail comments."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, **23-0500**, Finance. Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund Millage Rate Public Hearing. And we have received two speaker cards here."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Two speakers?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I will open the Public Hearing on the 2023 General Fund Millage Rate at this time."

**CLERK GRIER:** "We have Brother Anthony Muhammad and Julie Allen. Please come down."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let the record reflect there are two speakers."

**BROTHER ANTHONY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Yes, my name is Anthony, Reverend Anthony Muhammad. (Indiscernible.) my mama would appreciate that. I want to make this perfectly clear. Like I said a moment ago, we have – the majority of citizens in this city, Members of the Commission -- and I noticed that the majority number of y'all know that there are good Caucasians can support, not to increase the millage rage. But now I want to say that again because I watched the City of Atlanta and the City of Atlanta had over 500 people who spoke for Cop City not to be built. And most of them were young Caucasians. And I want to thank their parents and thank them because I was met yesterday to make sure that I sign up to get it on the vote. But I want to let you to know, we, the majority of the people of this city Mr. Pitts, you members of the darker hue. Why is it that we have to come down here and beg you in the 21st century? When you see your peoples on the street? You got this – Carter G. Woodson during the '20s – 1920. W.E.B. Du Bois -- they both were under the Rockefeller foundation. Rockefeller said, I'll pay you money as long as you don't tell them the truth; the Mis-Education of the Negro. And here in the 21st century, we're going through that again. We got social; we got Ms. DA, Ms. Fani Willis. Brother from New York, the DA, going at Mr. Trump. What does Mr. Trump got to do with us not having access to resources? Before he was the president, we didn't get nothing from the Democratic Party, but a show. That's why Martin Luther King did, what in 1968? Said I may not get there with you, but I'll see you on the mountaintop; that's what he said in 1968 --"

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

**BROTHER ANTHONY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- he said in '67, you go on and get the check because I found out they done did us wrong. I may have been taking y'all in a burning house. So I said today, are we going to be in a burning house, Mr. Pitts? Are you going to do right by your people? I'll greet you again. As-salamu alaykum."

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Julie Allen. Thank you again for listening to these concerns. I'll try to be quick here reading these statistics. A recent report from the National Association of Realtors highlights the alarming state of US housing market where more than 75 percent of homes available are beyond the reach of middle-class buyers. Elevated mortgage rates have exasperated the problem resulting in a shortage of around 320,000 homes priced at below \$256,000. The maximum affordable price for a middle-income buyer earning up to \$75,000. In April, out of the 1.1 million listings on the market, middle income buyers could only afford approximately 23 percent of them. This is a substantial decline compared to five years ago when around 50 percent of all listings were considered affordable for this group. This inventory shortage is projected to persist for several years leading to a continuous rise in home prices and exasperating the problem of unaffordability. According to data from Mortgage Bankers Association,

housing has never been so unaffordable for Americans. Thirty percent of workers making less than \$50,000 are worried that AI will take their jobs compared to 16 percent of those making over a hundred and fifty thousand, per CNBC. The average American credit card balance is at a record \$7,300. Meanwhile, the median household has just \$5,300 in savings. Delinquency rates are up six straight quarters on track for the longest streak since 2008. We're fighting inflation with credit cards. For the first time in history, total credit card debt is about to cross one trillion. Since 4/4/2020, total credit card debt is up over 200 billion. Americans currently hold a record 986 billion in credit card debt. In many states average credit card debt balances are nearing \$10,000, which is by far a new record. Borrowing has become the new the normal. According to a survey conducted in late 2022 --"

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

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- more Americans are carrying a balance than not. So I'll just summarize here and say as prices of basic necessities rise, Americans are borrowing to offset the cost. I beg you, as you consider raising the millage rate, to recognize that rising home prices will yield additional revenues. I appeal to your conscience. Thank you."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anyone else in Assembly Hall here to speak on the 2023 General Fund Millage Rate? Anyone else? Anyone else? Come on down."

**MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I just want to emphasize again how impactful this is on the people in the neighborhood where I live. When I go home today, I'm going to work with a lady to try to keep her in her apartment. Last week, I worked with a lady - her Social Security income is \$1,100 a month. Her rent is 605. No more -- no margin for error. And if you raise the millage rate, her rent's going to go up and thousands like her, and she's potentially going to be on the street. We have record, record evictions, and you want to raise the millage rate. But you won't consider assessing commercial properties that are worth hundreds of millions of dollars and tax them the way you tax us. Why is that not on your agenda? This makes no sense. Absolutely does not. So I ask you again, go back, look at our budget, prioritize, and look at a different way to raise revenue, because people are going to be on the street. They are already on the street, and we cannot do this in Fulton County. You know, our legacy is also at stake. We're the home, the cradle of the Nonviolent Civil Rights Movement. Are we doing justice by the least among us by raising the property tax? I say not. But I am not here to threaten you that we're going to vote you out of office. I'm here to tell you that's going to be the reality, because we cannot afford this. We need good governance and we expect for you to deliver it. So again, this is not a political issue, this is a people issue, and we need you to do better and come up with different solutions rather than those who will result in people, families, children being on the street. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back the balance of my time."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anyone else? Anyone else? All right, that will conclude the public hearing. Continue, Madam Clerk. Let record reflect there were three speakers for the public hearing."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 8, County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **23-0501**, Finance: Request approval of August 2, 2023 Budget Soundings."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam CFO."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, we have one item on soundings. It's an addition to the annual hardware software maintenance and support list for the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management. No funding is required. It's to increase the total authorized spending limit by \$57,660. This is to allow for repairs of some jail doors."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any questions or comments?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Great. All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0502**: Request approval of a Resolution establishing a reserve account designated for the Jail Bridging Plan and Replacement Jail construction costs using overruns above the \$636.4 million expected to be generated by -- generated from a 96 percent collection rate for current year property taxes; and for other purposes."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Chair, I'm in the queue not to necessarily speak about this particular item just yet; but we have another item on our agenda which I think probably bears discussion before we get into this, and that is your item that you have on the agenda, 23-0511: Which is approval of a Resolution to approve the consensus decision to add our Special Called Meeting on July 12th. And so, my request would be that we reconsider the Agenda to take that item before this."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any objections? Properly moved and seconded. Any objections?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I have a question."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm just curious why you feel this one needs to come first?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So we're clear about what we want to do and, you know, have a meaningful discussion; and the second one is our -- is this what we're looking to do? And the second item, the follow-on item, which is the one that was previously sounded, gets a, you know, a potential means to finance it. So if we don't know what we're going to do. I don't know why we're talking about how we going to finance it. So we don't have an agreement on that, then I don't know why we're talking about how we're going to finance it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, let's vote on it. We have a motion by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman to take the other matter up before this one. Let's vote on that one, please, then move up the other item."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Sound that item, please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10, **23-0511**: Request approval of Resolution to approve the Board of Commissioners consensus decision at the July 12th Special Called Meeting to direct the Fulton County Manager and County staff to proceed with planning and seeking funding for the design, construction, and ongoing maintenance of a replacement Fulton County Jail."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let me explain why this is before us: They're seem to have been in some quarters some confusion as to what was approved and not approve at that special meeting that we had. I was presiding, which I think I do very well. There was no confusion on my part about what the vote was. There were five of us present. There were four who indicated that they were in favor of it. I was not in favor of it and still not in favor of it. So it was a 4 to 1 vote. Commissioner Barrett asked that we -- that it wasn't clear to her. Ms. Corbitt spoke up; it wasn't clear to her. The Manager felt that there was some uncertainty. Mr. Adams felt that there was uncertainty -- I don't know where that came from. I was presiding then as I am now. I knew exactly what was meant, what was done. The Clerk came to me and all of that, then some of you

bombarding her about what was done and what was not done. I was crystal clear about what happened. However, in order to put that matter to rest, I agreed to put it on the Agenda today to take another vote. And I can tell you who was there at the time: Commissioner Thorne was present, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman was present, Commissioner Barrett was present, I was present, and Commissioner Ellis was present. Commissioner Arrington was not present and Commissioner Hall was not present at that time. The vote was four yeas and one nay. That's why this is before us today. All right, Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "There was no confusion on my part, Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You brought it up several times."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Mr. Chairman, I did not bring it up several times. In one conversation I asked Jessica, in External Affairs, to make sure that her wording was clear when she was expressing comments to the press, that we had not approved, air quotes, a \$1.68 billion jail. And the reason I asked her to be careful in her word choice is that the implication of saying we approved a 1.68 billion-dollar jail is that we have had design plans that we, you know, have seen those, that we know exactly what's going to be built, you know, what programs and services are going to be in the building and that we had signed off on it and we're ready to break ground. That was my concern then, and that concern was borne out less than 12 hours ago when two news reports came out and one of them basically said exactly that. So, what I was a part of in that room was us -- the five of us who were there giving direction to the executive team to proceed with a further investigation on funding -- a potential 1.68 billion-dollar jail; and to look at the options for sale tax, a the options for property tax, and what other options we might have. But we did not actually approve a 1.68 billion-dollar jail. I also have no confusion about whether or not there was a vote. There was not a vote. We gave direction. If there was a vote, it would have been -- there would have been a motion and a second and would have asked for all in favor say, aye, and not of that happened. So we did not have a vote. We gave direction. And this Resolution to me is unnecessary as it does not materially change what the executive team is doing. They took our direction and they are moving down the path of doing that investigation on where funding may come from. So, I'm very clear on what happened, and I've said at the time when you and I had this discussion in the strategy office, that I did not think it was necessary to bring this to the floor for a vote today and I stand by that. I don't believe it's necessary. I want to be really clear. We have given direction for our team to investigate where funding might come from and how we might put that together to build a replacement jail which is needed because the current facility is over 30 years old and it's falling apart. That's where we are in this process. This does nothing but stir the pot. So the pot's been stirred."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I stepped out to get some coffee. Was there a vote? How did this -- how did we get to this item? As I was walking out, we were on item 0502."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ellis made a motion to amend the Agenda to move this item up before."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And there was a vote?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Well, I'm going to object, I guess, number one, to the wording of this language. The wording of the Agenda item says the consensus decision at the July 12, 2023."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's not my wording."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I don't know whose wording it is. All I know is I wasn't there. We just heard someone state that I wasn't there, Commissioner Hall wasn't there, and I just heard Commissioner Barrett objecting. So I don't necessarily know how we get to some type of consensus decision at a meeting on July 12th or how we get to this language. So, I'm in support of a replacement jail, absolutely. But I object to this wording as this is written."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I just want to correct, for the record that is Commissioner Barrett's recollection of what happened because my recollection is different. There was a vote taken. There was no discussion after the vote was taken. And while we're sitting up here playing politics, folks are dying in the jail. And so, I take issue with my time. Now, everybody was not able to be there, and I understand that; but for those that were there, a conversation was made. The County Manager and the executive team answered plenty of questions, okay. So I take issue with sitting in a meeting that was called that I was there as well as my colleagues, and having a discussion and having a vote and, all of a sudden, somebody is telling me I didn't vote when I know I did. Let's stop playing politics. Folks are dying in that jail for whatever reason; we can debate that at another day. But when are we going to do what we need to do for our situation with the jail? Let's stop playing politics while folks are dying. Now, Chairman, I don't mean to go off, but this is ridiculous that people want to be on the news and they want to ping-pong back-and-forth when they know good and well a vote was taken. We had an executive team there that answered plenty of questions. Questions were asked, money was shown, we could do this, we could do that, and I was crystal clear on the purpose of me and others being at that meeting. Now, all of a sudden it didn't happen? It didn't go that way? Let's stop playing politics. I ask that we move on -- we vote it up or vote it down. But meanwhile, while we're sitting

up playing politics, by the way, with taxpayers' money, people are dying. So I would just humbly ask that we stop doing that. We stop playing politics with folk's lives. We got an executive team, we got a County Manager that I have full faith in that when he sits in a meeting after the Board of Commissioners meeting, and your executive staff sits in that meeting after a Board of Commissioners meeting, that we do not waste their time. That is a slap in the face for us to have a meeting, vote, get all the information to all the questions and now oh, we didn't take a vote. Let's stop playing politics."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I was under the assumption that we did take a vote. I guess it wasn't very formal. But I'm kind of confused because we were going back and forth between a 1.5 billion and 2 billion expenditure. Personally, I lean -- I know we need a new jail, but I think the burden on the taxpayers is going to be horrific if we had gone with the 2 billion jail. And we were presented with a 1.68 billion at that meeting, which I'm hoping we can find ways to finance it without placing the burden solely on the property tax owners. So it appears that the number, you know, done rounding before, now it's a 1.698 which is 1.7 billion as presented here. I don't know the difference from -- I know it's not as -- it's a significant amount of money that's changed going from 1.68 to 1.7 billion. So I don't have the exact numbers --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I don't think the numbers changed, it may have been rounded up. The number is 1.68 billion, that's the number we've been using for the last eight months, and so that's the number that we discussed at the session that we had. So it's 1.68. It may have been a --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- but it says 1.698."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I didn't write the Agenda. I could just tell you what we talked about at the last meeting and what we have consistently presented as that particular scenario."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "You know, I think it's real interesting when people who live in glass houses choose to throw stones. I'm recalling what happened in the meeting accurately. I will ask the question to the parliamentarian. Was a vote taken? Does not a vote require a motion, a second, and a call for votes?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It is my recollection in the minutes of the proceedings that were taken by the Clerk are also consistent with that that there was an informal -- I don't think it was a formal vote in the way that you do in these open meetings, but there was an informal discussion and polling, if you will; and therefore

there was a clear consensus established that that was the direction the County Manager's office was to take in pursuing and further researching the options that were discussed."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right and I don't disagree with that, thank you, Madam County Attorney. I agree, we had a discussion, we came to a consensus, and we gave direction to the executive team. I stand by that consensus; I stand by the direction that was given. We don't -- there was not a vote because we don't need a vote to give direction to the executive team. We often sit in this room and give direction to the executive team without taking a vote. So I stand by what I said. I stand by the wording that is in this very Resolution that there was a consensus and direction given. So to tell me that I'm not recollecting what happened in the room is just patently false. I recollect exactly what happened in the room. I don't think this is necessary because it is not necessary for us to have a Resolution to give direction. My concern about this Resolution was that it was going to send the wrong message to the public, which it has already done. I am fine with moving on and having a vote, yes, or no, but that's the way this came out. I am one million percent not playing politics. What I am trying to do is to make sure that we are clearly messaging the public on what is happening."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Where to start? Just that whether the number is 1.698 or 1.685 or 1.5 or 2 billion doesn't necessarily matter. It's such a big number, it's such a huge expenditure, we have got to get to a point of clarity about what it is that we intend to do. We've had feasibility studies, we talked around this issue. Are we going to build this thing or not? I mean, I think we've had consensus about the need for it, we've had people come and talk to us about it, we understand the ramifications. The fact that we've got 3600 people sitting in prison right now; we don't have adequate facilities to house them, right? Why does the taxpayer want to fund a jail, not really? But are we as a county obligated to have facilities? We're required by the state to do this. We've got to figure out a way to do it? Yes. That's the oath that we took. Tough decision. We got to figure out a way to make a decision around it. You know, are we going to build the facility or not? And if so, what's going to be the maximum price tag on it, and then b) how is it going to be funded? I will tell you right now from this Commissioner's perspective; I am not going to support any type of situation where the funding is going to come from via the form of an increased millage rate. I've talked about this before and I've raised some of these issues in the past when we were talking about these things or brought up the fact that we need to really seriously aggressively look at, you know, some form of sales tax to either provide for, you know, or offset of the funding that we're doing for healthcare right now to enable facilitation of payment for this. Do we need to go look at redirecting property taxes that are already being paid into TADs that are Fulton County taxpayer money for the funding of this? We need to look at spending reductions, or we need to talk to the state about funding, get an additional funding in for other things that they're underfunding us for that we're doing right now. That's what I'm interested in doing. I think we need a new facility. I think it needs to be done, but I think

we need to find a way to do it in a way that's going to hold our millage rate steady when we go through it and those are going to involve significantly tough decisions. We got to stop this sort of talking around, dancing around, and just make hard decisions around it. And if we're not prepared to make those hard decisions, and there are four of you that want to vote to increase the millage rate, then that's how you're going to fund it, then go ahead. Let's go ahead and make that statement and do it and then, you know, let the public respond to it. You know, so, hey, I mean this is not fun stuff. It's not necessarily, hey, when you were dreaming, hey, we going to come down here and this is what I want to do when I ran for office was decide about how we was going to fund, you know, a facility that really nobody's all that excited about. Then, you know, I get that, but that's our job. So, you know, I sat during the meeting, you know, I think in terms of a maximum size facility, this is probably about where it gets for me, 1.685. I was running away from raise it to 1.5 sometime ago. But apparently not enough people really kind to like that as a concept. But again I'll go on the record, again, in terms of the funding for this. I'm not going to be supporting, you know, increased millage rate to be the source of funding for this. It needs to take place. It needs to be funded by us aggressively looking at some combination of factors that I just outlined. In addition to that, I'll say this: We've got to have accountability from our court system. It's ridiculous the amount of money that we have added in to funding the court system, and to funding the justice system as a whole. Some of that has clearly been necessary. But the results aren't there. We got -- and while we've added this additional funding in for what we thought were going to be a reduction in the jail population, a reduction in our court backlog, which we started to see last year, but we've seen diminish significantly diminish results issue. And instead we see things like this grand spectacle of a RICO trial where we've spent seven months picking a jury, while the court system has been sat down and just slowed while we've got something like 472 murderers sitting in jail. And no telling how many others that are sitting out not in jail. While we've got additional funding that's provided to the Sheriff. He's gone out and established other law enforcement units that aren't required, motorcycle units. I got a document the other day in the mail that was a 30-page glossy four-color document sent to me by another elected official in the court system, probably funded with Fulton County money. Dammit, I mean I'm tired of funding additional funds into this justice system and seeing the results that we get. We got to walk and chew gum at the same time. We have to have a facility that has to be adequate, and we have to have results from our court system. And we've got to do the other stuff that we've got to do, and we've got to do it cost-effective. I'm prepared to make all of the tough decisions around it and we need to have more aggressive decisions around other sources of revenue to do these things. And I'll remind you that, you know, sales tax repositioning, TAD repositioning, these are all taxpayer -- these are all taxpayer money. Nobody holds total control of those things or should have total control or has ownership of those things, or that they're barred for every discussion about just because that they're in place right now. So I'm prepared to kind of move forward with this, under the conditions of it, you know, that is I'm voting for it. This is what I'm intending to do to figure out a way to finance it. But we've got to make a call and move on. And then to start to really get serious about how we're planning this stuff out."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess I'm a little curious based on this discussion as to who actually did draft this Agenda item? How did we get from 1.68 to 1.698? Who determined that there was a consensus decision? Maybe it's just better if I make a friendly amendment to delete the language regarding the consensus decision at the Special Called Meeting. I have no problem supporting this jail or replacing the jail. The jail is literally falling apart. Pieces of the building are being used as weapons. Commissioner Ellis is right, we need to look at sales tax for funding this and any -- and all other potential revenue sources. I don't want to just limit it to sales tax, but certainly we should use sales tax and try to limit as much as possible. I don't know that -- that I tie the decision on the millage rate to this specific request. I look at those two items completely separately. But certainly, we should attempt to fund this and our efforts to provide equity in healthcare throughout the county through other alternative sources of financing. And so, despite the fact that no one has seconded this motion, so for it to get my vote, I would need the language regarding the consensus decision at the Special Called Meeting to be removed."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, anyone else? Anyone else? Commissioner Thorne? No one else? All right, there is a motion to approve on the floor. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Yes, Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'll second the motion with the modification that discussion was around a 1.685 that we clarify that that was the number that we were discussing. Can you repeat the number that we discussed during the meeting?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS/TECHNOLOGY:** "I believe it's 1.685. I don't have the slide that we used at the time, Commissioner. I'll have to go back and verify that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Do you have a record of that number? That 1.68. That was the number that was being discussed when we had request to reach a consensus decision."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS/TECHNOLOGY:** "1.68, that's correct. It's been 1.68, that's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** Okay. So, request that modification to the Resolution."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. No objections to that? All right, Mr. Manager and Mr. Adams, you all need to weigh in. I mean, it's."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS/TECHNOLOGY:** "I don't think this is a specific question, I want to point out, however, that this decision has been a bit more exacerbated by the Department of Justice. And it's my humble opinion that, in looking



at where they have arrived at other investigations, that to the extent that we do not move forward with the jail, it's highly likely they will come forward with that recommendation when they finish their analysis. At which point in time, it may be a few or a year and a half down the road potentially to a \$300 million more expensive. So, in addition to the compelling need with the structure, and as Commissioner Arrington pointed out the threat that it provides to our, not only our deputies, but the individuals who are in the jail. I do think there's a certain inevitability of this that we need to consider in light of the investigation and the note that we received two weeks ago."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I guess the only thing I would add is, I think you're more inline in agreement than not. The whole process is meant to present options, keep narrowing the options, but keep moving forward. So if you think about where you have been, we've had a range of options from 1.5 to when we did the refurbishment costs of that out of 2.45. So there's almost a billion dollars worth of difference between those in that range. And I think we offered in the meeting a consensus around the 1.68. So we are proceeding along those lines. This can be helpful or not necessary depending upon how you perceive it today to do or not do. I think getting the direction from you, which is what those sessions are meant to do, and give you ample time to really discuss, hear the underlying assumptions, and really, again, try to find the consensus, I believe that we did that. In the interim, we have met with both folks that have some insight on sales taxes from another consulting firm or lobbying firm where it's being done over in Augusta; some encouraging information coming out of that. We've also met with ACCG and got some, I think, good information from them. But again, that's a, again, very challenging path to go down but certainly one that's very worthwhile. We probably will come back with some -- we're going to meet with our lobbyist team and I think come back with some recommendations on do they feel like that they are the, you know, the team to try to lead for all alternative revenue sources. I don't think that they will, so we may need some additional expertise in that and, of course, all of the work to begin the design and get it more finalized -- into a more final format that continues on. But I do believe it's helpful to continue to narrow these options, which is what you have done. So independent of whether you take this vote, don't take this vote, approve it or not, we believe that you've given us enough direction -- helpful direction to continue along this path."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'll just say this, I mean, if this is what you believe, put your vote behind it. I mean we have all these discussions, we have people up here and they want to advocate for, you know, a bunch of increased spending on one hand and frivolous stuff and put it on the Agenda see if you get it passed; and then on the other hand, they don't want to deal with what that entails in terms of the meaningful for it for financing. So -- and we've had too many discussions where we've heard -- you've heard the management team said, oh, we've heard consensus around stuff. Then you go down the path and people come back who were clearly, you know, providing that consensus and then feigning like ignorance about the subject. Here we are; do we want

to do it? If so, what's the max amount, give a direction, vote it up or down. I mean, enough of this sort of you think you got consensus. We need to tell you what more to do and put a vote behind it."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. County Manager and leadership team, from my understanding what you're saying is the 1.685 is the one that we had the consensus around? That's the one that you all have been presenting. It is my understanding that, at this point, the direction from this Board based a consensus vote informal that was taken at the retreat that you all would go in that direction also that you all will go look for alternative funding, that you all would look and advocate for what was the best option. I just want to make sure that I, as a sitting Commissioner, who will make some mistakes, have made some mistakes, but they are my mistakes to make. Because when you sit in this chair, you're not going to be all the way right, and you're not going to be all the way wrong. But if you're transparent and you're doing what's in the best interest of the taxpaying citizens, then you can sleep at night. So I want to make sure what I understood at the retreat of what I just said is the direction that you all are going in."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. I don't disagree with what Vice Chair Ellis said. I think it's -- it would be helpful if all of you took a --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- oh, I agree with Vice Chair Ellis."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And that's -- we've left with the direction that I explained."

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

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. I believe that I heard two requests for friendly amendments. I do not remember either request for friendly amendment being accepted. Commissioner Ellis' second was contingent upon 1.68. And Commissioner from District 6 just asked was the number 1.685, and staff said, yes. So I don't believe that there currently is a second, unless until there's been an amendment -- the friendly amendment was accepted. And prior to that friendly amendment, was my friendly amendment."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just so we can get on with this, I'll make a -- I'll make a friendly amendment that hopefully the maker of the motion will, you know -- will accept and that being the number be -- and so, 1.698 would be replaced by 1.685 billion."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's the third friendly amendment that has been proposed."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And except for the first one has been accepted."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I accepted it."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I don't know how you get to accept a third one until there's an acceptance or a denial of the first and the second."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. With respect to your amendment, Commissioner Arrington, I'll let you speak to that, but mine was made with withdrawal of --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- I understand that, but again, my point was a point of order. There's an order and a chronology. And so, before we can proceed to a third amendment, we have to know if the first and the second friendly amendments were accepted and were denied."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Parliamentarian? Commissioner Arrington, while they're discussing, would you repeat what yours was?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "My friendly amendment was to remove the language regarding the consensus decision at the July 12th so that it would just read that we are approving the funding at the funding level. I don't have any idea why it would be necessary to state that there was a consensus decision at a previous meeting. I don't know how that affects anything. I don't think it's necessary."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "My recollection is that, Commissioner Arrington is correct in that his motion was made first, so if the Board could take up that motion before considering the amendment that is currently on the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Friendly amendment to the motion, yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Do you accept that change?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "What change? I'm sorry; we got so much going on."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "My request for a friendly amendment was to remove the language regarding the consensus decision at the July 12th, 2023, meeting"

so that the item would read: Request approval of a Resolution to approve the county staff to proceed with planning and seeking financing for the design, construction and ongoing maintenance of the replacement Fulton County jail. I don't know that there -- I don't understand or have any reason why it would be necessary to say that there was a consensus decision at the July 23rd -- or July 12th meeting. I don't think it's necessary to vote on the amount of money, to talk about something that was done. I wasn't present at that Special Called Meeting."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Arrington, out of fairness and so we can move along, I was at the meeting, it was a consensus. But we need to move along. And so, I will accept that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It was a vote; it was a consensus, so that's been accepted. So it was a -- this will clarify all of that. It was a vote then and this will clarify that once and for all that the number is 1.6 -- 1.68 y'all, 1.685. That's what we're traveling with. Everybody's clear on this now?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anybody not clear? I don't want you coming to me and say I thought this, I thought that. Running to the Clerk; running to Ms. Corbitt. I'm presiding. Everybody's clear?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Crystal clear. Let's vote on the motion as amended."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the motion as amended. And the motion passes; five yeas, one nay."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 8, **23-0502**, Finance: Request approval of Resolution establishing a reserve account designated for the Jail Bridging Plan and Replacement Jail construction cost."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, what's your pleasure? You have a motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I did go ahead and second this because I am essentially aligned with the spirit of it, but I do have a friendly amendment to make. And what I would like to do is add language. Everywhere this Resolution says that we are

establishing a reserve account designated for the Jail Bridging Plan and Replacement Jail construction costs to also add and programs or expenses approved by the Board for the purpose of reducing the jail population. I made a comment -- I think I've made it several times, but I absolutely made it in the session that we were just referring to, the Special Call session, that I was comfortable moving forward on a \$1.685 billion jail if we made some continued efforts to address the reduction in jail population by looking at all the things that we've talked about many times from programs that reduce recidivism to, you know, putting more towards diversion. And so, I've been talking to some folks about the various ways we might do that. I've talked to the county management team about this. I'm not specifying a particular dollar amount or anything like that here, but I want to leave some space open where by if the right program comes our way, that we agree as a Board is going to help reduce the jail population that we're able to use this reserve to pay for that. So I like to add that language and I guess -- do I address that to the friendly amendment request to you -- is that to you, Commissioner?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It would be to Commissioner Abdur-Rahman who made the motion to approve."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** I would just ask from the County Manager, because we have been dealing with this a while, does that make any difference at all? Because at the end of the day, I want you all to be able to do what you all need to do in lieu of, I don't want to do your job unless I'm going to get your check. So County, if that's not a problem, I'm willing to accept it."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No, ma'am, I don't think that's a problem."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'll accept it."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Commissioner."

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

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "With that amendment, I'm not in favor of this. Yeah, look, we just voted to approve building facilities, and it's going to cost a significant amount of money. We've got to start putting money aside to be able to fund it; the sooner we do it the better. So I'm not in favor of the millage rate, the increase that's going to start this fund. I want to be clear on that, but I'm perfectly fine and I think we do need to start a reserve account that will be used explicitly for funding of the facility. As for these other programs and all that sort of stuff, all that stuff sounds nice and well, that's a separate issue, it should be dealt with separately. And in addition to that, we, as a Board, prior to some of you coming on this Board, have spent a lot of money, invested a lot of time in similar programs. Had justice reinvestment counsels, et cetera, with programs that have been brought through -- through by the courts, and the results we have gotten have been less than stealth, all right? So if somebody wants to do that and put forth separately those individual programs and vote on them separately, then fine. But establishing a reserve

account is potentially going to serve as a slush fund for somebody's idea of the week. I ain't in support of it. So if we want to reposition this to just be a facility reserve, then I'm going to listen to it. Anything else is going to be that some stuff is going to be sort of slushed up, forget about it."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order, what was the amendment?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I asked for a friendly amendment to add that this fund could be used for the Jail Bridging Plan, the reconstruction of -- I'm sorry, the construction of a replacement jail and programs that would specifically reduce jail population. You know, as approved by us. I'm not saying a slush fund. I'm not saying any particular dollar amount. What I'm saying is -- and Vice Chair Ellis, this is really directed also -- sorry, I'm going to answer two questions at the same time, but this is really directed at, you know, things you've brought up many times about the idea that we need -- we should not need a jail this size. So if we, you know, ignore some things we could be doing to help reduce the jail population. I just want to leave the window open for some of those things to be done. And we are going to have to run a very tight ship, especially if you're not willing to raise the millage rate at all. And so, you know, we need to be able to address some of these things, and that's why I'm asking for this, so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Recently, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman accepted your friendly amendment. Now she's advised me that based upon what Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair Ellis has said, she does not accept it."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Can I speak to that, Chairman?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "You know, one thing about sitting in this position, you do have to make the hard decisions when it comes to taxpayers' money. And being in year three and I have seen this happen. If I had not seen it happen, then I could sit and except, you know, the friendly amendment. So, Vice Chair, because I have seen this happen, I'm going to have to withdraw my acceptance of that friendly amendment because I think we're at the point where the rubber has to hit the road, and we need to be specific about that money and how it's going to be spent. And if there's any changes then the County Manager and his team, if they deem that there's a change, then they will bring it back forth to us for a vote. But I think it's too broad, that's what I'm getting, from you, Vice Chair, in that what could happen, money could be spent and diverted to other -- other things. And I don't want to see that happen. I'm just going to be crystal, candid and clear. We have an issue with the jail. We need to be specific about what are we going to do with the issue with the jail. We are under DOJ right now, and so everything we do we have to do it with the intentionality of making sure that we move in a spirit of doing what's right, but also protecting the Fulton County taxpayers coffers. So here again, Commissioner Barrett, I want you to understand crystal clear

where I'm coming from on this. I support in theory what you're trying to do, but I don't think it belongs right here in this part."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Vice Chair Ellis and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I agree with both of your stances. I believe programming -- if there was programming that was effective that we knew and we would find money somewhere for that. But it doesn't need to be taken out of this. We have to start saving money for a huge capital expenditure that's going to burden the entire county in a very tough economic times. So, I my -- I might want to offer an amendment like why are we capping it at 40 million? If we find other money, can we put additional funds in there? Is there a way of not capping it?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Thorne, the intent was to capture specifically the estimated amount of property taxes that we would potentially receive over the amount that we have in the budget. So that amount was estimated to be 40 million, but it was targeting just the property tax."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Just the tax from the tax digest. But if we -- we could have further Resolutions if we have extra money to go ahead and put it in that fund to make additions."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "And Commissioner, if I may just add something to what the CFO was just mentioned. I want you all to know that this would be within the 96 percent collection rate, because that's what we used to prepare the budget and anything above that is going to be better what we used to balance out the budget the following year."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So if we collect 99 percent?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "96, percent, yes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We're projecting 96 percent, but if we do an additional 99 percent, can we -- can we add that money into this reserve fund?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "No, we can't because we use that as the prior year taxes to balance the budget to the following year."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I've already spoken, Chairman."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Commissioner Thorne, I had the same comment you did on the up to 40 million. It seems to me that language could just be removed. So I would request a friendly amendment again to take that out and just have any dollar amount above the balanced budget amount of 636 million in change or whatever it is would go to this reserve fund. It does seem odd to have a cap or if it ends up being 40 million and you know \$100,000 or whatever, like why wouldn't we just put it all in there? So."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Here again, from my perspective, I think we have to be careful. I think with this, as sitting Commissioners, if we want to come back and give a direction to the County Manager and the executive staff, I think at this point and juncture for me, I would be very deliberate in what this says. And so, I would have a concern with that being like that, considering what we're dealing with. And so, here again, with all due respect, Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Thorne, I would prefer to leave it like it is and to move forward. And if we deem that it needs to be changed or additional Resolution among meeting with the County Manager and the executive team, that we can come back and do that. But I think now, based on what I feel is appropriate with what we're dealing with, I don't want -- and I'm not saying it is -- let me be crystal clear, I'm not saying it is a slush fund. I'm not saying any of those things. But what I'm saying is considering what we're dealing with, I want it to be pinpoint to what it should be used for and the needs of it."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay, so thank you for responding to my requests. With all due respect, the point of this Resolution is to make sure this money is used specifically to address this issue that we're having in our justice system with the need to address the issues we have at the jail currently until we are able to have a replacement jail up and running and in place. And the cap on the dollar amount just allows for some other -- some additional overage. The other intention is, if we raise the millage rate such that there is an overage, that that overage go to this reserve. So it seems to me that the entire overage should go to this reserve. You've already rejected my request to include programs that might help reduce jail population; the request to remove the 40 million-dollar cap is just saying whatever money comes in over the balanced budget amount -- the balance -- the expected -- or the balance budget revenue amount I guess goes into this reserve fund. I'm not asking for money to be spent on anything other than what this I've already asked and was denied, that the money be spent on anything else than the facilities, things that are listed here. So I don't see how that's anything other than common sense."

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



**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I think we clearly need a facility reserve. I think there's potential confusion about what the triggers are going to be for the revenues -- where the revenues are going to be generated, how they relate to millage rates budget, et cetera, and flow-through as well as how other future designated amounts could be placed into this facility reserve. I guess as I narrowly read the intent of this almost appeared that it was very narrowly constructed, to be that in the event of approval of any sort of millage rate increase, any -- any funds between the differential of the existing millage rate in the future would go purely to this facility reserve. Is that as narrowly as that -- is this more the way this is narrowly written right now?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, it was constructed to ensure that any -- that the funds over the amount of property tax revenue in the budget would go into the reserve based on the --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- it could be, I guess, the millage rate or -- or a change in collection rate."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We premised it all off of the typical collection rate which is about 96 percent. So yes, it could fluctuate, depending on what the actual millage rate is and what the actual collection rate is. It could be more or less than the current amount that's projected which is \$40 million."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well we're not voting on the millage rate today. Clearly, as I've stated, I'm not in favor of an increased millage rate. Regardless, but I think we do need to have a facility reserve that we need to begin funding, whether that's through clear explicitness within our budgets through offset funding, whatever it is, I think we need to have it established. I might recommend that we hold this now and that you tailor this to address sort of the multiple concerns that we've all sort of brought forth and really have a true fund that can be established and we can start replace funds through a direct budgetary allocation and/or other measures. I'm a little bit confused. I'm little bit concerned right now about unintended, you know, consequences of this or just, you know, interpretation of this, you know, at our level not with us being on the same page. So."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is that a substitute motion to hold?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, is there a second?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, substitute motion to hold by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Any discussion on the motion to hold? Substitute motion to hold? If not, let's vote on the motion to hold. Madam Clerk."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0503**, Registration and Elections: Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$232,758.44 for temporary staffing services and reimbursement for the rental of box trucks."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, point of order, can we hear these next four items together? Election items?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Preside just for a second. Is there any objection to hearing these next four: one, two, three, four items together?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I would object".

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I don't mind hearing three of them, but five of four, I would like to individually then."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "It just sounds like these would move forward fairly, but okay. Just hear them separately, okay. Precede, Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay. So we're on 23-0503?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yes."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$232,758.44 for temporary staffing services and reimbursement for the rental of box trucks."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Can we get a motion and a second on the floor. Commissioner Arrington, you previously indicated -- so Commissioner Thorne, you wish to be heard on this item?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I just had a quick question. We approved temporary staffing, but how was this overlooked in your original presentation that the rental of the box trucks wasn't included? Oh, there you are."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, FC BOE:** "Good morning. It was not overlooked. It's the -- to reimburse the temp agency for covering the box truck on cost. They rented for us to add supplemental liability coverage, so we have to reimburse them for that cost."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So when we approve the contract with that, they didn't include that cost, they just tell us, we'll come back with the cost at a later date?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, FC BOE:** "No, it wasn't originally in the -- the cost for the trucks was in the soundings, but not for the rental companies to cover the cost."

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

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, FC BOE:** "Not for the temp agency to cover the cost. I'm sorry."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Any other questions? All right, hearing none, let's vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0504**: Request approval of a statewide contract in a total amount not to exceed \$4,067,716. 01 to provide temporary staffing services for the November 2023 Municipal and December 2023 Runoff Elections."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes. Ms. Williams, you know, I'm never for temporary staffing in our elections for things like handling ballots, tabulating ballots, accepting, rejecting ballots, like logic and accuracy testing, handling of the voting equipment; all of those, just due to first-hand experience of doing that myself. And also not getting hired from Happy Faces which, thank you for understand that Happy Faces did put forth a bid for this, so thank you for not approving them. It was under the name of Snelling. Snelling is now Happy Faces. It's still run by Michael Hairston."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, FC BOE:** "We did not exclude the company. We went with the lowest bidder, if I can recall."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, yes. I'm glad. I mean, I just look at developing trust in our elections is something that we really need right now. I'm not familiar with Abacus Staffing. They're new. We've never used them in our elections before. How are these people -- how is Abacus? Where are they going to get -- are we going to tell people to apply at Abacus to get hired, or how is that going to work?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, FC BOE:** "Yes. So once the contract is approved -- I mean, this request is approved, we will put postings on the website and it will link it to the temp agency to apply."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So one thing I would like to request: You mentioned that Abacus was going to be doing the logic and accuracy testing. As a poll manager, my experience of working and doing the logic and accuracy testing was so beneficial for me in running my precinct and being able to troubleshoot my equipment, being able to see how my precinct is set up. I can notice when things were delivered what I didn't have so that I could call you guys right away, the day before, instead of realizing it on Election Day I was missing X, Y and Z. So I would encourage -- highly, highly encourage that all people who are hired to do logic and accuracy testing are potentially Election Day workers who aren't doing early voting or early voting workers prior to early voting logic and accuracy testing."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, FC BOE:** "We'll take that into consideration. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "That would be great. Also, I had lunch yesterday with somebody from Gwinnett's Board of Registration and Elections. They don't seem to use a staffing agency. They have temporary staff that they hire directly. They don't seem to use a staffing agency like we do. I don't know how Gwinnett is getting around that. I was hoping we could maybe look into that, seeing as the state auditor's report told us that we relied too heavily on temporary staffing agencies. Also, as a cost-saving benefit, we're paying like 30 to 40 percent above the pay that's going to the company on this contract alone, we could save \$1.33 million if we could figure out that piece, and I think it would drive our elections costs down."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, FC BOE:** "It was a recommendation of this Board that we diversify with staffing so we go with the temp agencies as well as HR to staff positions, but it is more cost-effective for us as a larger county as we are to use the temp agencies for the amount of temp that we have."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So Gwinnett is similar in size. They're 900 and some thousand. They're encroaching on the same size as Fulton County, but we're still the biggest. But they are using a model that's different than our model, and I think it would be worth looking into if we could for future elections."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, FC BOE:** "Okay. I'll reach out to Gwinnett and inquire. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Kill that bug over here? All right. Any other questions or comments on this matter? All right. The vote's open."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0505**: Request approval of a statewide contract in the amount of \$324,211.59 for the rental of box trucks, passenger vehicles, cargo vans to be used for the November 23rd Municipal Election and December 2023 Municipal Runoff Elections."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. It's open to vote. No comments?"

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0506**: Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$658,907.21 to provide inbound and outbound mailing system."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Questions? Comments? Seeing none, let's vote."

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

**NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, FC BOE:** "Thank you."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 9, under Health and Human Services, **23-0508**, Community Development: Request approval of a contract for Fulton County Schools in the amount of \$250,000 to support the community school initiative."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Got in the queue myself and then Commissioner Thorne and then Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. I'm not in support of this. Actually, I want to offer up a substitute motion to file this and deny it. I think, you know, this program is a good one but it's a Fulton County Schools program. I think Fulton County Schools should be funding it. I don't think we should be mixing or comingling our funding with them particularly given sort of just the discussion that we were just having about the specific needs that we have. I guess if we want to offer up participations from other governments for them to contribute to funding for jail facilities and others of the like,

then I think that's a great thing we should all consider, but I think we all have our specific roles. And I think, you know, for funding purposes for school matters, the school should fund theirs and we should fund ours. So I want to offer up a motion to deny. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes. I agree and I'm going to second that motion. I spoke with a school board member, Fulton County schools. They have like over a \$2 billion budget and they have a declining population. And so, they are just going to do some refurbishing of buildings. They're not going to build anymore. I think Atlanta Public Schools also has 250,000 that's going to be coming before us too. They have a \$1.6 billion budget. We have an \$865 million-dollar budget. We should be asking them for money instead of us giving them money. So I'm going to second this motion. I think it's time we're going to have make some hard decisions, but I do have to say this program at Banneker, Tri-Cities, and North Springs is a great program. I visited the ribbon-cutting at North Springs back in February or March. It's an incredible program, so it's nothing against the program. What they're doing to provide services for students in need to help them stay in school. They have everything from washers and dryers to fresh food to frozen food. They have counseling services provided. It's really -- it's the Links program in North Springs. It's a very, very good program. I fully support the program. I just believe the schools need to fund the program with their budget that's more than double our size."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. I need for the County Manager or maybe more or less Dr. Roshell, if we don't do this -- the reason why, I'm very familiar with the S.A.F.E. Centers in South Fulton and having toured it, having talked to the parents, having talked to those individuals over there who, in my opinion, if we don't have it, it can have detrimental effects. And so, I just want to make sure that which one, we're talking about the same program, and if we don't do it because the program that I saw and I toured and I was actually over there when they did the ribbon cutting, it allows students to be able to wash clothes. It allows students to come in and get food to take home. It even allowed, you know, staff, you know, to come in with certain needs. And I'm torn -- Vice Chair, I hear what you're saying, but I'm torn in that if we don't do it, are we exacerbating or taking a problem that is prevalent in our schools and is a barrier to learning. So I just need you to weigh in on it, please."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you for the question, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. The S.A.F.E. Centers are already in existence, and so they were funded through APS or, in this case, Fulton County Schools. And as it currently exists, this additional funding, of course, will allow that program to expand its services, but it is a funded program."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And let me ask you this, from your experience, how has it helped? How has it served in removing the barriers of learning?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So the S.A.F.E. Centers do provide supplemental support. So when we think about what barriers to learning can be, it often is not necessarily connected to the lack of attending school or not having resources for class. It's often related to the home environment and lack of access to other things that just make the quality of life better. And so, recognizing that, the school system has put this center in place to address all of those other non-educational needs that can have a negative impact on education. And so, that is the purpose of the centers. They do definitely provide in the schools and communities listed in our contract that additional support to ensure that the children and families have that extra support that they need so that they can be more effective for themselves in the classroom setting."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yeah, having seen it myself, you know. Having seen it myself, even a couple of the students who had a opportunity to tell me that they received, you know, supplemental support, it would be so hard for me to pull funding from this. I'm thinking about one of the students who told me that they were living with their grandparent, and the grandparent, for whatever reason, hadn't received their Social Security check. But the grandparent really wasn't able to navigate to be able to get food in the house and they brought food home. I mean, this was a tenth grader. So I just -- I really think that we need to have this. Having seen the critical need and seeing how and Commissioner Arrington -- now Commissioner Arrington's district, used to be my district and just seeing how the need is there and it's not enough funding. I would hope we will support it. Thank you, Dr. Roshell."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I've got a few questions. I think the first question that I have was when did we receive this request?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "So, Commissioner Arrington, the funding for this particular program was approved as a part of the January budget process. And so, once that funding was approved, the department then needed to contact the school system to figure out what kind of program would be most impactful to be supported. So there was not a request, it was approved by the Board -- well, yes. There was no proactive request from the school system, it was just approved by the Board and then we reached out to determine how we could be helpful."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So you're stating that this was an item that was specifically or individually added to the budget request?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I was ready to support the denial of this, but that's why I asked when did we approve this? And so, given our current financial constraints, I think everything Commissioner Ellis said is spot on. However, I think it

puts us in a bad light if we voted to add this to the budget, contacted the people, told them that we added this to the budget, and they have now included that in their plans, right? You know, like, if this was a request that came in last week, and they said oh, we need two-fifty, then I would say, hey, we're out of it. But for me to hear that this is something that we initiated and we went to them, that -- I don't like doing business like that. Once you tell someone that you budgeted for them, then I think you got follow through with that. And maybe -- then maybe to Commissioner Ellis' point, you know, maybe we're in such dire straits that maybe we have to recant what we've done, but I think that's just bad dealing. I think if we sent staff out to tell them that we had this money, they planned on us having the money, and have been -- that's just, you know, I don't like doing business like that, and I understand, you know, it may be different, but we've got a lot of moving pieces and a lot of moving parts. But I was ready to support to deny it, but after hearing the source and how this transpired, I have to continue to support it."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** I want to make a motion to hold this. Is it time sensitive?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "It is not."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yeah, I want to make a motion to hold this so I could get additional information. Yeah, I need more information."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion. Is there a second, motion to hold? All right, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Let's vote on the motion to hold."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0509**: Request approval to rescind prior 2023 community service program award to the nonprofit, Helping Empowered Youth in the amount of \$25,000 and request approval to reallocate the rescinded funding to the nonprofit, Generation Infocus Foundation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Arrington?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, can we have someone speak on this for the record, for the public?"



**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes, sir. So the purpose for this request is due to the fact that the organization was funded through the summer youth job training program, so they elected to be funded through that source rather through CSP. So that's how we arrived at this request for the rescission. I will add that we have come to the Board with several of these types of requests this year, and the solution moving forward is that we will have one RFP for 2024 that includes summer youth, CSP, veterans, and the youth homelessness program. This will help alleviate organizations being funded and then resend it in order to accept funding from another Fulton County source. So we will provide some specific details regarding how all of these programs will be coordinated together so that when one RFP goes out to the community organizations, we will then be able to determine which funding source or category best meets their needs, and it will eliminate this process of coming to the Board with rescissions."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. And how was the new organization selected?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "So, the new organization was next in line based on their score. So as you may know, each year, while the funding is generous, we always have organizations that met the criteria, but we exhausted our funding. They were next in line based on their score."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion on the floor is to approve. Any further discussion? If not let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** Commissioner's action items **23-0383**: Request approval of an Ordinance to amend the Fulton County Code of Ordinances in order to impose a distribution requirement for a member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners may place a proposed Resolution or Ordinance on the agenda for consideration for final vote, to require the proposed Resolution or Ordinance appear as a discussion item at the first meeting in which it is introduced and voted on the second meeting; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chairman, I'd like to hold these two items one more time, given the current situation. I was out of office or out of --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No objection. We'll hold both. Continue, Madam Clerk."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10, **23-0510**: Request approval of a Resolution to rescind a motion previously passed by the Board of Commissioners to refrain from taking any action regarding the composition of the Board of Ethics until matters are no longer pending before the Board of Ethics and for other purposes sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, quickly. You recall that several months ago we took an action not to approve any additional nominations to the Board of Ethics until the matter was reserved, but it has come to my attention and the attention of others, that they're having trouble with the quorum, and there's several nominations pending. So this then will undo what we did before and allow us to again vote on nominations by the various organizations to the Board of Ethics. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. There is no way on God's earth that I can support this. They have violated their own rules. They have violated the ethical rules themselves. I have filed a complaint against the members individually. Not only have they violated their own rules, they don't give notice properly. There are just a list or a myriad of items that they have gone. They need to resign. They need to resign. They have a conflict that is incurable. There is no way for them to resolve the conflict. They need to resign. None of the reasons that we voted for -- when we voted for this, to not to take action on them, nothing has changed. Nothing has changed since that time. They still did all of the same things that they did wrong. All of them. In fact, they've done more. They double and triple down on the number of things that they've done wrong since that time. They need to resign."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Just a couple of questions, Mr. Chairman. And this is just because I'm not as read in on all of the issues on this as everybody else, I guess. It's just that I wasn't there for a lot of it. But just for my own understanding, there's how many people sit on the Board of Ethics?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I think it was nine or seven?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I believe it's seven, but we will have to confirm."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And there are -- there is enough active members currently have a quorum, yes?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, it depends upon who you talk to. If I recall correctly, their rules and regulations provide for current members to continue to serve until such time

as a replacement has been approved by this Board. But that's not happening, so that there are several other people who are in place now who are not attending the meetings, because they know that they're not going to be reappointed in their organizations that have made nominations. But because of the legislation we approve, we can't approve them to the Gate City Bar Association has a person. North Fulton Chamber has a person, and we've made a change a couple of meetings ago, our formal personnel board had a representative, but when we did away with the personnel board we substituted that person for a person to be nominated by the South Fulton Chamber of Commerce and that person is waiting to be approved."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I don't remember the details on all of those renominations, but it feels like at least --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- they're being held."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- yeah, that I remember, but I feel like at least one or two of them was a renomination of the same person; was that true?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The president. Yes, ma'am, the president, the chair, the one responsible and they must be held accountable for all of the errors, and up next, I'm going to ask the County Attorney to list all of the errors. That's what I'm going to do after you finish."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Commissioner Arrington, what was the nominating group for that person? Do you recall?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The Gate City Bar Association."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I mean, Mr. Chairman, I don't have a dog in this fight, as you like to often use that term. I really don't have a dog in this fight, but I feel like --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, you do because you have to vote."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, sure. I'm just paraphrasing you, my friend. But I feel like, you know, my logic here is that I'm perfectly, okay, with the new nomination of the group that we put in, in place of the personnel board as an example. But I -- you know I think that maybe a renomination of the same people seems unnecessary. So I don't know -- if they're still sitting there and they're still in there anyway, I don't think they necessarily need to have another term while these things are open, if that makes sense. So if there's someone who's literally not attending and there's -- and if we could maybe get that in writing that this person is no longer, they've given up the seat, they're not there, they're not attending, I would be, okay, with putting someone new in one of those seats and letting these nominating bodies put someone new in. But I think this is a broad Resolution that just says we can just begin to approve those things again. I

guess I could, you know, vote, no on them one by one, but I'm just trying to get some clarity here, because those sort of seem to me like nothing's really changed. So I don't - - we sort of made this decision before when, you know, nothing had changed and, you know, it seems sort of still the same to me, so I'm just -- I'm not quite sure where I sit on this."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, it's complicated. I don't want to get into too much discussion about it, but I'll defer to Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Madam County Attorney, can you please provide a list of all of the different violations that the Ethic Boards has done, for the benefit of the public?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So without getting into all of the details of the pending matters, generally speaking, we have observed procedural irregularities in the actions of the Board of Ethics to include their notice procedures for the proceedings that are before them, hearings that are not -- the notices are not being given to the parties, the copies of the orders that are issued are not making it to the parties timely, in matters that are still pending after a long period of time, initiating suit and actually initiating a lawsuit against a party in a matter pending before the Board, those are just some of the categories that we have observed."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So let me repeat those again for the benefit of the public: failure to provide adequate notice, failure to provide documents and orders to the parties, filing of a lawsuit. Fulton County departments and Fulton County Boards do not have the authority -- imagine that the finance department went out and sued you, Mr. Chair, or you, Vice Chair Ellis. They don't have the authority to file a lawsuit, and they think that they do, and they think they should be reappointed? Not in a million years. Not in a million years. Due process of law. Notice. Notice of a proceeding is a fundamental right. You can't have a proceeding and not provide proper notice. That deprives someone of due process of law. It's a violation of the Constitution. You can't issue an order and not provide a copy of the order to the party. That's a further violation of due process. And to think that you have the authority to file a lawsuit and when you are instructed that you do not have the authority to file a lawsuit, you continue? What are they doing? What are they doing? If they won't resign, they need to be removed. I'm going to make a substitute motion to remove all of their asses today. Today. All their asses need to go."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, substitute motion to remove all the Members of the Board of Ethics. Is there a second? Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "They're violating the Constitution. They're violating their own ethical rules. They are in violation of the Fulton County ethics goal themselves."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion fails for lack of a second. Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'm coming in a little bit late to the party on this one. But a couple of things: Number one, we need a properly functioning Board of Ethics. All right, I think we're probably all in agreement about that. I'm concerned about -- I think this is the last area where we need, you know, dysfunction between the Board of Ethics and the Board of Commissioners. They need to be able to operate independently, but they also need to do it within the context of, you know, what they're structured and designed to do. I think County Attorney has outlined several situations where they're not doing that. Have we've communicated that specifically to them?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I've had conversations with the board's attorneys."

**VICE CHAIR ELLIS:** "Okay. But we've not gotten response? Haven't sort of a positive -- maybe a different approach that maybe we could specifically have a letter that's drafted, go out and then -- directly from the Board of Commissioners, you know, stating, you know, kind of the things that we need a response to about how they intend to rectify and address those situations or violations in which they've -- which have occurred. And once we get that response, then we can figure out a way to move forward with this. This is not -- we've got enough issues going on, this has sort of have been an unnecessary thing for us to be in some sort of a frictional kind of debate about. It should be pretty straightforward. Let's talk about and share with them kind of like what you found, and get a written response from them about how they attend to address it and get back into a proper state. Whatever that means. Whether that's, you know, let's just see what their response is and then we can evaluate how we go forward from that point in time. You know, because it needs to be stood up, they need to be able to hear existing matters. People need to be able to bring it forward. We need -- you know, this should be an essential sort of function that we have in proper -- that's in place and it works. So I want that to occur. I don't know whether the rest of the Board kind of, you know, is in support of that approach, but also I'm trying to understand why exactly -- what exactly this particular motion that is before us is going to allow or not allow? I guess, as I understand it, they have the ability to continue to meet and hear things that have a quorum."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "They do. And I did confirm that with the assigned member."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And so it's nothing, you know -- us doing nothing or not doing anything doesn't prevent them from acting in this present form right now. It would just allow for us to just start putting more members on here, but while we still have not gotten a response to our original concerns which we've expressed when we took this action sometime ago, correct?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So we got a board which members are appointed to, required to do certain things, we've identified things where they have been in violation. You've share that with their attorney about where they're in violation, but we have not gotten any response from them about how they intend to rectify it and address that. So if they want us to rescind this, then get us a response. It's not that hard."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So are you offering a substitute motion to hold that pending County Attorney submitting those concerns to you?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "If you want to put words in my mouth, yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So is there a second for that?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, properly moved and seconded to hold and directing the County Attorney to submit those concerns and we need to have that by our next meeting. Commissioner Arrington, do you want to still to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Absolutely. Madam County Attorney, do the Members of the Board have an irreconcilable conflict of interest based upon me filing an ethics complaint against them for their violations of the ethics code?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "It does appear to be a conflict without Resolution under the current rules."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "A conflict without Resolution. It appears to the County Attorney that there is a conflict without the ability to be reconciled. The only way for them to reconcile it is for them to resign or for us to remove them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to hold. Any other comments on the motion to hold? Commissioner Abdur-Rahman? All right, let's vote then on the motion to hold."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the motion to hold. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays, six with Vice Chair Ellis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "The next item was the item they moved up --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm going to hold both of my items today."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm going to hold both of my items today."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, which -- where are you now here?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So, I'm going to hold 23-0467 along with 23-0512."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, no objections, we'll hold those two sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 11, Full Board Appointments, **23-0514**, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Regional Advisory Council, Vice Chair Ellis has nominated Dave Ake for a Full Board Reappointment to a term ending August 1st, 2026."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "0514, bottom of page 11."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 12, **23-0515**, Region 3, EMS counsel. Commissioner Thorne has voted nominated Chris Coons for a full board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2026."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "I don't have any further items on the Agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What? 0466, what's --".

**CLERK GRIER:** "That one was removed."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It was?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, at the beginning."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Why was that removed?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "They said the vendor was unable to attend the meeting today."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "The vendor was not able to attend."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What does the vendor got to do with it?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, the individual who was going to be making the presentation was not able to attend today, so we remove the item."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Which item was removed?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 12, 23-0466."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, anything else at this time? All right, it's 12:18. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session. What, sorry?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Mr. Chairman, I was just going to remind the Board that we do have the second public hearing for the millage rate scheduled this evening at 6:00 p.m."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I was going to do that after."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "My apology, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. All right, issues of real estate, litigation, and personnel. Let's vote, please."

**CLERK GRIER:** Please make a motion. Thank you. And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays.

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in item 1 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve a settlement in the matter of LaShawn Thompson in the amount of \$4 million, as set forth in item number 2 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And finally, is there a motion to suspend the Vehicle Use Policy, as it pertains to the Commissioners of Fulton County Board of Commissioners and their staff, for a period of not less than 30 days, during which time the Vehicle Use Policy will be updated and considered?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's effective immediately?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Effective immediately. Excuse me."

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

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

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**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "No further motions. Thanks you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No further items from Executive Session. Madam Clerk, anything else?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. No further matters to come before us. At this time, we are adjourned. Just a friendly reminder: At 6:00 o'clock, we will convene; reconvene, rather, for the second of two public hearings today promptly at 6:00 o'clock. Thank you."

**(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.)**