

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

July 14, 2021  
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: August 18, 2021**

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

**10:04 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

**PRESENT**

Liz Hausmann, Commissioner (District 1)

**PRESENT**

Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)

**PRESENT**

Lee Morris, Commissioner (District 3)

**PRESENT**

Natalie Hall, Vice Chair (District 4)

**PRESENT**

Marvin Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)

**PRESENT**

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

**PRESENT**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

**CONSENT AGENDA****21-0480 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by moving item #21-21-0504 to a future meeting as requested by the County Manager; removing items #21-0483 for separate consideration as requested by Commissioner Ellis, #21-0491 as requested by Commissioner Hausmann and #21-0506 as requested by Vice Chair Hall. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**21-0481 Board of Commissioners**

Proclamations for Spreading on the Minutes

Proclamation recognizing "Ensign Briana Alexis Willis Appreciation Day."

**(Abdur-Rahman)**

June 14, 2021

Proclamation recognizing "Mack Wilbourn Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**

June 15, 2021

Proclamation recognizing "Dr. Malika Adams Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**

July 4, 2021

Proclamation recognizing "Cassius F. Butts Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**

July 10, 2021

**Commissioners' District Board Appointments****21-0482 Board of Commissioners**

FULTON COUNTY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 2 Years

**Commissioner Abdur-Rahman nominated Khalid Kamau for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2023.**

**21-0483 Board of Commissioners**  
**FULTON-DEKALB HOSPITAL AUTHORITY D/B/A GRADY HEALTH SYSTEM**  
**(APPROVED)**

Term = 4 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2020

Vacant (**Abdur-Rahman**)

**Commissioner Abdur-Rahman nominated Thomas W. Dortch, III for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2024.**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ELLIS**

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

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

**Absent:** Morris

**21-0484 Board of Commissioners**  
**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 2 Years

Term below expires: 12/31/2023

Vacant (**Hall**)

**Vice-Chair Hall nominated Maliha J. Haider-Bardill for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2023.**

**21-0485 Board of Commissioners**  
**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 5 Years

Term below expires: 7/13/2021

Jerry T. Brown (**Hall**)

**Vice Chair Hall nominated Dr. Lamar J. White for a District appointment to a term ending July 13, 2026.**

**21-0486 Board of Commissioners**  
**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION**  
**OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 5 Years

Term below expired: 7/13/2020  
Pastor Earl Calloway (**Arrington**)

**Commissioner Arrington nominated Pastor Earl Calloway for a District reappointment to a term ending July 13, 2025.**

**21-0487 Board of Commissioners**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD (APPROVED**  
**UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 5 Years

Term below expired: 6/30/2021  
Joshua M. Noblitt (**Arrington**)

**Commissioner Arrington nominated Rev. Dr. Joshua M. Noblitt for a District reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2026.**

**21-0488 Board of Commissioners**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD (APPROVED**  
**UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 5 Years

Term below expired: 6/30/2021  
Dr. Marvin Polk (**Pitts**)

**Chairman Pitts nominated Dr. Marvin C. Polk for a District reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2026.**

**21-0489 Board of Commissioners**  
**FULTON COUNTY VETERANS EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.**  
**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 3 Years

**Commissioner Arrington nominated Eldson McGhee for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2024.**

**21-0490 Board of Commissioners**  
FULTON COUNTY VETERANS EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.  
**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 3 Years

**Chairman Pitts nominated Earnest Allen and Jim Garcia for District appointments to terms ending December 31, 2024.**

**21-0491 Board of Commissioners**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY **(APPROVED)**

Term = 4 Years

Term below expired: 5/31/2021  
Steve Broadbent **(Hausmann)**

**Commissioner Hausmann nominated Mike Bodker for a District appointment to a term ending May 31, 2025.**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN**

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

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

**Absent:** Morris

**21-0492 Board of Commissioners**  
FULTON COUNTY CITIZENS COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
**(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 4 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2020  
Ron Camacho **(Morris)**

**Commissioner Morris nominated Ron Camacho for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2024.**

**21-0493 Board of Commissioners**  
**FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Term = 2 Years

Terms below expired: 12/31/2020

Catherine Fox (**Morris**)

Sadie Talmadge (**Morris**)

**Commissioner Morris nominated Catherine Fox and Sadie Talmadge for District reappointments to terms ending December 31, 2022.**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**21-0494 Finance**  
**Ratification of June 2021 Grants Activity Report (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0495 Real Estate and Asset Management**  
Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 4,560 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Investment Partners X, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the River Valley Subdivision Project at 342 Johnson Ferry Road, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0496 Real Estate and Asset Management**  
Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 20 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Bur Rog, Inc. for the purpose of constructing the Taco Bell -106 South Main Street Alpharetta Ga Project at 102 State Highway 9, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0497 Real Estate and Asset Management**  
Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 236.5 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Bur Rog, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Taco Bell -106 South Main Street Alpharetta Ga Project at 102 State Highway 9, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0498 Real Estate and Asset Management**  
Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 458 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Lennar Georgia, Inc., for the purpose of constructing the Whispering Woods Village Project at 7603 McGinnis Ferry Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0499 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Line Easement Dedication of 49,173 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Lennar Georgia, Inc. for the purpose of constructing the Whispering Woods Village Project at 7675 McGinnis Ferry Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30024. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0500 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Relocation Easement Dedication of 22,107 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from TSO PDP, LP for the purpose of constructing the Peachtree Dunwoody Pavilion Project at 5775 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30342. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0501 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 18,077 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Jen Georgia 4, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Aria North III Project at 0 Glenridge Drive, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0502 Human Resources Management**

Request approval to make routine modifications to the classification section of the Classification and Compensation Plan, by adding the following new titles (1) Voter Education and Outreach Manager (2) Absentee Manager (3) Absentee Supervisor and (4) Absentee Officer. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

### **Health and Human Services**

**21-0503 Senior Services**

Request approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fulton County, Georgia, on behalf of its Department of Senior Services, and Grady Health Systems. The MOU establishes a partnership to expend funds from the Federal Transportation Administration Grant that was awarded to the Department of Senior Services to provide Uber/Lyft services to seniors challenged with disabilities. Effective upon execution through January 31, 2022. Supported through grant funding. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0504 Department for HIV Elimination**

The Department for HIV Elimination requests approval of "*Ending the HIV Epidemic*" grant funding to Southside Medical Center, Inc. for services to be provided in Fiscal Year 2021 through FY2024 in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.00 per year. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with selected subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and substance and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chair. Effective 6/1/2021. **(REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER****21-0505 Community Development**

Request approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between Fulton County, as the GA 502 Fulton County Continuum of Care ("CoC") Collaborative Applicant, and the Housing Authority of Fulton County, Georgia (the "Authority") regarding the implementation of twenty eight (28) Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) and additional EHV's as they become available. The Initial term of the MOU is effective August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022, unless extended. The County Attorney is authorized to make modifications to the MOU and related document as to form prior to by the Chairman. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**21-0506 Community Development**

Request approval to amend the Coordinated Intake Assessment System (CIAS 2019), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG 2019), and Emergency Solutions Grant COVID (ESG CV 2019) grant awards with Subrecipients: (a) 24/7 Gateway (Gateway Center), by reducing funding from \$249,079.00 to \$176,779.00, (b) Community Assistance Center (CAC), to increase funding by \$12,500.00 and change the contract date to August 31, 2021, (c) Youth Empowerment Success Services (YESS) ), to increase funding by \$12,500.00 and change the contract date to August 31, 2021, and (d) Hope thru Soap, to increase funding by \$11,210.00 and change the contract date to August 31, 2021, to allow these organizations to continue carrying out their functions with CIAS funding. The County Attorney is authorized to approve the amended contracts as to form and make necessary changes thereto prior to execution by the Chairman. **(APPROVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED BY VICE CHAIR HALL**

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

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

**Absent:** Morris



**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****21-0507 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by removing items #21-0449 as requested by the County Manager; removing the Proclamation recognizing "Reverend Dr. Herman "Skip" Mason Appreciation Day" as requested by Vice Chair Hall; moving up items #21-0513, as requested by Vice Chair Hall, #21-0529 as requested by Commissioner Arrington; and by a super majority vote adding and moving up item #21-0533 . The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington, and Hausmann

**Abstain:** Abdur-Rahman

**21-0508 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes, June 2, 2021

Recess Meeting Minutes, June 16, 2021

Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, June 16, 2021

Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, June 30, 2021

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

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

**21-0509 Board of Commissioners**

Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates

Proclamation recognizing "Youth Workforce Achievement Day." **(Pitts)**

Proclamation recognizing "Sergeant Melissa Parker Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**

~~\*Proclamation recognizing "Reverend Dr. Herman "Skip" Mason Appreciation Day."~~  
~~**(Hall)**~~

Proclamation recognizing "Erica Michelle Robinson Remembrance Day." **(Hall)**

*\*removed during the meeting*

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### 21-0510 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. At the Regular Meeting, speakers will be heard prior to the zoning portion of the agenda; at the Recess Meeting, prior to the County Manager's Unfinished Business. Before speaking, each participant must fill out a speaker card, located at the entry way, the podium, and the media and court reporter tables. Speaker cards must be submitted to the Clerk's staff, who will accept them on a first-come, first-served basis. Once Public Comment begins, speaker cards will no longer be accepted. **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.** Those who could not speak during Public Comment will be allowed to speak first at a subsequent Board meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED/READ INTO THE RECORD)**

**51 Speakers: Councilman Khalid Kamau (Item# 21-0527/Elections); Catherine M. Robinson (Item# 21-0328); Jim Martin (Development Authority of Fulton County); Amber Connor (Funding for Crime); Daphne Jordan (Funding for Crime); Walter Jordan (Funding for Crime); Malinda Logan (Hammonds House Museum); Joy Barnes (Hammonds House Museum); Pamela Howell (Hammonds House Museum); Donna Watts - Nunn (Hammonds House Museum); Karen Lowe (Hammonds House Museum); Bessie Shavers (Hammonds House Museum); Jack White (Development Authority of Fulton County/Hammonds House Museum); Julian Bene (Development Authority of Fulton County); Bill Bozarth (Development Authority of Fulton County); Devin Barrington-Ward (Item# 21-0328); Tim Franzen (Development Authority of Fulton County); Dr. Janice Johnston (Item# 21-0328); Aimee Uphues (Item# 21-0328); Marcia King (Item# 21-0328); Julie Adams (Item# 21-0328); Former Elected Rosie Jackson Puckett (Item# 21-0527); Ravi Windom (Hammonds House Museum); Maggie Goldman (Item# 21-0491/Item# 21-0328); Jewel Johnson (Item# 21-0527); Bridgette Thorne (Item# 21-0328); Suzanne Mehalick (Item# 21-0328); Mary Baron (Item# 21-0328); Melissa Mulvaney (Item# 21-0527); Susan Ross (Hammonds House Museum); Irmara Canady (Hammonds House Museum); Juliette Cartel (Item# 21-0328); Ben Howard (Senior Services); Rebecca Paradis (Item# 21-0328); Rachel Marie Bartlone (Item# 21-0328); Lori Randall (Item# 21-0328); Davida Denton (Item# 21-0328); Lisa Skyer (Item# 21-0328); Michael Baron (Item# 21-0328); April Shepperson (Development Authority of Fulton County/Item# 21-0328); Andrew Randall (Item# 21-0527); Melody Kelley (Item# 21-0527); Adam Borneman (Supporting Public Comment); Rachel Marie Bartlone (Supporting Public Comment); Leslie Mullis (Supporting Public Comment); Donna Lawson (Library Services); Heidi L. Boykin (Hammonds House Museum); Ayisha Jeffries Cisse**

(Hammonds House Museum); Harvey Goldberg (Item# 21-0491); Carrie Smith (Item# 21-0491); and Sheila Hamilton (Item# 21-0527)

## COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS

### Open & Responsible Government

#### 21-0511 County Manager

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

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Hausmann, to approve expenditure of the American Rescue funds as outlined in the County Manager's presentation with a friendly amendment by Vice Chair Hall to include funding for Nonprofit Organizations, Small Businesses, Arts, Youth and Veterans, bringing back to the Board modifications and adjustments necessary, based on changing needs and reporting the progress monthly to the Board. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Abstain:** Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman to adopt the original American Rescue Plan Resolution. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

#### 21-0512 Purchasing and Contract Compliance

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

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

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

#### 21-0513 Purchasing and Contract Compliance

Request ratification of emergency procurement - County Manager, Countywide Emergency Procurements. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**21-0328 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Registration and Elections, SWC99999-001-SPD0000136-0003, Temporary Staffing - Clerical & Light Industrial in an amount not to exceed \$7,744,880.00 with Happy Faces Personnel Group, Inc. (Tucker, GA) to provide temporary staffing services for the Department of Registration and Elections 2021 Elections. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2021.

**(MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 5/19/21 AND 6/2/21) (REMOVED ON 6/16/21) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Hausmann, Ellis, and Morris

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

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

**21-0449 Registration & Elections**

Request approval to award a contract without competition - Registration and Elections in the amount of \$398,258.75 with KNOWiNK, LLC (St Louis, MO) to provide additional Poll Pads and accessories for the increase in poll locations on Election Day. Effective upon BOC approval. **(MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 6/16/21) (REMOVED)**

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

**21-0514 Finance**

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the advertisement of the proposed 2021 millage rate for the General Fund at the ceiling of the calculated rollback rate of 9.33 mills, advertisement of the 5 year levy history for the General Fund, the required public hearing date; authorizing the Chairman to sign the Pending Appeals For Properties Other than Public Utilities form; and authorizing the County Attorney to petition the Superior Court of Fulton County for immediate and temporary collection of 2021 taxes if it becomes necessary. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**21-0515 Tax Assessor**

Request approval to award a contract without competition - Board of Tax Assessors, 21SS031121C-MH, Audit and Discovery of Unreported Aircraft with Specialized Tax Recovery (Mayfield Heights, OH) to identify unreported aircraft for valuation for ad valorem tax purposes. Effective upon BOC approval for a 12 month period. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**21-0516 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Bid #21ITB129724C-GS, Hazardous Waste Disposal Services in the amount of \$25,000.00 with Brooks Environmental Solutions, LLC. (Brookhaven, GA), to provide hazardous waste disposal services for the County. Effective upon execution of contract through December 31, 2021, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**21-0517 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Emergency Management, RFP#19RFP0992019K-JAJ, Animal Services Facility Feasibility Study in the amount of \$32,000.00 with PGAL, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to amend the existing contract for a required GDOT Traffic Study of the Fulton Industrial Boulevard and the Project's LEED Registration Fee in support of the County's application for a Special Encroachment/ Driveway and Traffic Signal Permits to a second entrance to the new Animal Services Facility. The amendment will be effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**21-0518 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Bid# 19ITB120358C-GS, Fire Sprinkler Protection System Maintenance Services in the total amount of \$190,745.00 with (A) VSC Fire & Security, Inc., Inc. (Norcross, GA) in the amount of \$97,500.00, to cover the cost for installing water based fire suppression system, demolishing existing Halon system and replacement of fire hydrants in Greater and Central Fulton County buildings; and (B) Central Fire Protection, Inc. (Conyers, GA) in the amount of \$93,245.00, to cover the cost for immediate replacement of out of compliance fire pump and obsolete controller at the Fulton County Government Center Tower Building. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**21-0519 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Bid #21ITB128258C-CG, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups C, D & G) in the total amount of \$362,515.35 with (A) 3H Service System, Inc., (Buford, GA) in the amount of \$223,667.85 for Groups C & D (Libraries); and (B) Buckhead Elite Construction Trust, LLC. (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$138,847.50 for Group G (Senior Centers- North & South), to provide the highest quality cleaning services for these selected Fulton County facilities. Effective dates: August 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**21-0520 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Bid #21ITB129983C-MH, Scrap Metal Removal, this is a revenue generating contract with anticipated revenue in the amount of \$5,000.00 with North Fulton Metals (Alpharetta, GA) to provide scrap metal recycling services for Fulton County facilities. Effective dates: August 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**21-0521 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, RFP#21RFP22421K-DB, Construction Management at Risk Services for the New Fulton County Animal Shelter Facility in the amount of \$1,878,756.00 with Winter Johnson Group (Atlanta, GA), a joint venture comprised of The Winter Construction Company and Johnson Construction Service, for Pre-Construction Services, General Conditions Costs and Construction Fee Percentage of 2.75% for the new 58,000 square foot Fulton County Animal Shelter facility (FCAS) located at 1251 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30318. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed for 124 calendar days. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Arts and Libraries****21-0522 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a contract - The Department of Arts & Culture requests approval of the FY2021 Contracts for Services Program funding recommendations totaling \$1,300,000.00. Funds have been identified and are available in the Department of Arts & Culture's FY2021 budget. **(HELD)**

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

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



**21-0523**    **Library**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Fulton County Library Systems, 21ITB129242B-YJ, Newspapers, Magazine and Serial Subscriptions (Books-Periodicals, Newspaper, and Serials - Multi Languages) in the amount of \$109,000.00 with EBSCO Information Services (Birmingham, AL) to provide Newspapers, Magazine and Serial Subscriptions. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2021 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:**                Arrington

**Health and Human Services****21-0524**    **Community Development**

Request approval of a Substantial Amendment to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2020 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to identify the projects to receive federal funds to support projects and activities for low to moderate income citizens; Request approval of Cooperation Agreements with the following cities: (1) College Park (for Brady Recreation Improvements - Phase II) in the amount of \$162,487.00; (2) East Point (for Waterline Infrastructure Improvements) in the amount of \$200,000.00; (3) Fairburn (for Community Plaza Development) in the amount of \$250,000.00; (4) Hapeville (for Tom E. Morris Splash Pad) in the amount of \$103,000.00; (5) Union City (for Old Savannah Infrastructure - Phase II & Oakley Road) in the amount of \$322,000.00; and (6) Palmetto (for Sewer Rehab Infrastructure Improvements) in the amount of \$218,971.00; to authorize the Chairman to disburse funds and execute and administer the contracts, and other related documents consistent with the federal program requirements and this Board action. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**21-0525**    **Senior Services**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Senior Services RFP# 18RFP11228A-FB, Comprehensive Nutrition Care in the amount of \$319,144.43 with Open Hand Atlanta (Atlanta, GA), to provide home delivered meals, meal delivery and nutrition counseling for Fulton County residents aged 60 and above. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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



**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****21-0413 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution expressing the intent of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County regarding the authority to terminate the Fulton County Elections Supervisor; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (REMOVED ON 6/16/21) (REMOVED)**

**ITEM REMOVED FROM THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON**

**21-0466 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval to amend the Board of Commissioners Procedural Rules for meetings, specifically, Rule Six: Agenda, Preparation of and Public Comment. **(Abdur-Rahman/Ellis/Hall) (HELD ON 6/16/21) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Morris

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**21-0467 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners amending and clarifying the per diem allotment available for the Board of Directors of the Development Authority of Fulton County; and for other purposes. **(Morris) (HELD ON 6/16/21) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER MORRIS**

**21-0526 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2, Sections 2-67 and 2-79 of the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to the Code of Ethics to require the filing of an annual income Financial Disclosure Statement from members of the Development Authority of Fulton County; and for other purposes. **(Morris) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER MORRIS**

**21-0527 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County to execute the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Fulton County Rescue Implementation Plan (RIP);" and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (ITEM RULED IMPROPERLY BEFORE THE BOARD BY THE CHAIRMAN)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman to overrule Chairman Pitts. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****21-0417 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Jail Population Review Teams (**Arrington**) (**HELD ON 6/2/21 AND 6/16/21**) (**HELD**)

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON**

**21-0528 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Invest Atlanta Board of Directors June 17, 2021 Meeting Summary (**Morris**) (**HELD**)

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER MORRIS**

**21-0529 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Development Authority of Fulton County (**Pitts**) (**DISCUSSED**)

**21-0530 Board of Commissioners**

Presentation and Discussion: Future of Fulton County Police Department (**Pitts**) (**HELD**)

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY CHAIRMAN PITTS**

**21-0531 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: District Attorney - ORCA funding and backlog (**Hall**) (**DISCUSSED**)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****21-0532 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Hausmann, Ellis, Morris, Hall, and Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Vice Chair Hall, to approve requests representation in items #1 and #2 as discussed in Executive Session . The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Hausmann, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to settle the Quiet Title action that is the City of Hapeville, Fulton County #2020CV338515, grant an access easement and authorize the Chairman to execute all necessary documents. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to settle the Condemnation action M&J Lue, Inc., Stonewall Tell Road at Butner Road Dual Roundabout Fulton County CAFN2017-CV-296453 and authorize the Chairman to execute all documents. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to authorize settlement authority in item #6 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Hausmann

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

f. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the settlement negotiated in the Estate of DeMontae Ware v. Jackson et al 2016-CV-278728 in an amount of \$850,000.00 and authorize the Chairman to execute all documents. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

g. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve settlement with Erich Carl Harper and Mwangi Kwesi in the case of Harper v FC, USDC File Action Number 1:21-CV-01207 in the amount of \$98,274.58. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

#### **ITEMS ADDED TO THE MEETING:**

##### **21-0533 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of (2) contracts: a contract with Hammonds House Museum (HHM) not to exceed \$70,000.00 and a contract with National Black Arts Festival (NBAF) not to exceed \$50,000.00 to provide expanded operational resources, educational and arts-related services to the citizens of Fulton County.

##### **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Vice Chair Hall, to approve adding item #21-0533 to the Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Vice Chair Hall, to approve with an amendment by Vice Chair Hall to increase funding as follows: an additional \$130,000.00 to Hammonds House, \$150,000.00 to National Black Arts Festival, including a friendly amendment by Commissioner Hausmann to increase funding to Johns Creek Community Arts Center by \$15,000.00 bringing the total allocation of funding to \$200,000.00 for each entity. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Ellis

**Did Not Vote:** Morris

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
REGULAR MEETING

July 14, 2021

10:00 A.M.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Good morning everyone and welcome to the regular meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. We’ll be having just one meeting in the month of July this year, today July 14, 2021. It’s approximately 10:02 a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Chairman Robb Pitts.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Present.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Commissioner Liz Hausmann. Commissioner Bob Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Present.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Present.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Commissioner Lee Morris.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Present.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Vice Chair Natalie Hall.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Present.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Commissioner Marvin Arrington Jr.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Present.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Commissioner Kadijah Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Present.”

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you. Please rise for the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. All rise please.”

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Madam Clerk.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 2, Consent Agenda, **21-0480**, 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, this Item will be moved to the regular meeting agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, we have an Item to be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to the August 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “What page?”

**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 7, 21-0504, Department of HIV Elimination.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “And Mr. Chairman, the only reason for that is there’s an error on the agenda item summary. We’d like an opportunity to correct that and there’s not a time sensitivity to this item.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Thank you, Madam COO. Any other items on the Consent Agenda?”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Yes, Mr. Chairman. Also on page 7, Vice Chair Hall has requested to remove an item for separate consideration, 21- 0506, Community Development. Request approval to amend the coordinated intake assessment system emergency solutions grant an emergency solution's grant COVID grant awards. This item removed for separate consideration.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, any others.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.”

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

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yes, I would like to remove item 0491.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “What page.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “It is on page 4 of 13; it is the appointment of Mike Bodker to the Fulton Development Authority.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yes, just for separate consideration asked to remove item 21-0483 –“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “What page, what number again.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “At the bottom of page 2, 0483 the last item on page 2.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “And Mr. Chairman, just to make sure, that was for separate consideration, not total removal.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yes.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Any others? I’ll entertain a motion to approve as amended. Commissioner Ellis has moved to approve seconded by Commissioner Morris cast your votes, please.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the vote is open.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Consent agenda as amended.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, we have an item to be added to today's regular meeting agenda on page 3 of the add-on memo 21-0533, Arts and Culture. Request approval of two contracts with Hammond House Museum and National Black Arts Festival to provide expanded operational resources educational and arts related services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Anything else? Any other additions or corrections? All right then on the, yes. Okay. Let's vote. There's a motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis seconded by Vice Chair Hall. Let's vote, please.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Bottom of page 7, Regular Meeting Agenda, **21-0507**, Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, we have amendments to today's regular meeting agenda. Item to be removed and moved to the August 4th regular meeting on page 9, 21-0449, registration and elections. Request approval to award a contract without competition to provide additional poll pads and accessories. Item to be revised on page 8, 21-0509, Vice Chair Hall is removing the proclamation recognizing Reverend Dr. Herman Skip Mason Appreciation Day. And also on page 9, Vice Chair Hall has requested to hear item 21-0153 before item 21-0512.”



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "On what pages are we talking about."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Nine, I'm sorry on page 8. No, this will be on page 9 to hear item 21-0513 before 21-0512."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else? Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, I would like to remove on page 12 item 21-0413, and also on page 13, I'd like to move item 21-0529, on page 13 above item 21-0467, on page 12."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any other additions, changes."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, also need to add that the added item, Vice Chair Hall would like that to be heard before -- before item 21-0522, on page 11."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right repeat that on page 11, what?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 11, the Arts and Culture Item, Vice Chair Hall would like the added Arts and Culture item to be heard before 21-0522."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So the item that was added to be heard at the same time."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any others? If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the agenda as amended for today, today's meeting. Motion to approve as amended by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Cast your vote, please."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion passes; six yeas, one abstention."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay. On page 8, **21-0508**, Ratification of Minutes, Regular Meeting Minutes June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Recess meeting minutes June 16<sup>th</sup>, Recess meeting post agenda minutes, June 16<sup>th</sup>, and Special called meeting post agenda minutes June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any questions, comments, corrections? Hearing none, the motion is to approve by Commissioner Ellis seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Let's vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**21-0509**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing Youth Workforce Achievement Day sponsored by the full Board of Commissioners.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Good morning, everyone. Let everybody get settled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to read this today as we celebrate this great group. Oh now, everybody didn't have to go down there. Yeah, let's be balanced over here y'all. All right. Thank you. All right. Whereas, Work Source Fulton with the support of the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners provides job training programs and employment opportunities that have served 168 youth between the ages of 14 and 24 by providing mentorship, GED instruction, career exploration, virtual jobs shadowing, and conversations with executives and information technology, healthcare, and the logistics industries, and whereas the Career Compass Academy has been recognized as a best practice and exemplary program in the state of Georgia for providing youth with virtual access to workplace learning during the pandemic; And whereas, 72 Fulton County youth completed the Career Compass Academy earning \$200 a week while exploring these in demand industries learning how to navigate the workforce, strengthening workplace fundamentals to be a successful part of the workforce; And whereas, these Fulton County youth, have continued to work towards achieving their educational and career goals while navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic; And eight youth have entered into full-time employment upon successful completion of their training; So now therefore be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commends and congratulates the youth of Fulton County for their stellar and exemplary efforts and working towards successful educational and employment goals; And does hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, as Youth Workforce Achievement Appreciation Day in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations.”

**YOLANDA BUFORD:** “Thank you so much. Good morning everyone. Thank you, Chairman Pitts and the entire Board of Commissioners for your support of workforce development and in particular, your support of education and training for our young adults in Fulton County. I'm Yolanda Buford, a member of our Workforce Development Board and also the Chair of our Youth Committee and joining me are some of our amazing youth that participated this year in our various youth programs in the Career Compass Academy as well as staff that leads our youth initiatives. We're just so delighted and thankful for the opportunity that Fulton County has given to our community and to our residents as it relates to training and education opportunities that

are there. As many of you know, it was a hard year last year for everyone in the pandemic, but our young youths and our young adults persevered throughout having to change the dynamics of the learning platform in which they had to go through not having the opportunity sometimes to actually go into the workforce and work on site at companies, but as a part of the partnerships that we had as a Board with our community partners with Fulton County and with various others of employers, our youth were able to have virtual work readiness training opportunities, they had the opportunity for career exploration to prepare them for hopefully finding their next career path, a new career path, or discovering what their passion would be. So, I want to just say on behalf of our Workforce Development Board, our staff, our community partners, I want to thank Fulton County government for your continued support. We met all – I repeat ALL of our performance measures as a youth committee through a pandemic and we're so looking forward to many more things ahead. Thank you all so very much.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “The next proclamation is recognizing Sergeant Melissa Parker appreciation day sponsored by Chairman Pitts.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “I'm delighted to read this proclamation. Whereas, Sergeant Melissa Parker began her career with the Fulton County Police Department in May of 1996, after graduating from the Fulton County Public Safety training center; And over the course of her career worked every single police beat in both North and South Fulton County; Wow; And whereas, Sergeant Parker was the epitome of a community police officer working on and off duty to establish good community relations especially with underprivileged children; And was known as the go to person when it came to helping those in need, constantly networking with different agencies and departments, building contacts, and disseminating lists of resources for those in need of services; And whereas Sergeant Parker was the face of the department for many years as the public information officer working closely with the news media and was their favorite contact when they had a police related question or wanted an interview; Melissa leveraged those contacts to assist the community when there was critical information that the department needed to disseminate about active threats, crime warnings, our services the department provided; And whereas Sergeant Parker was promoted to Sergeant and was transferred back to the Fulton County Public Safety training center where she started but this time as a Class Coordinator and Instructor teaching and guiding new generations of police officers; And after 25 years of public service, she decided to follow her passion for teaching and begin a new career as a high school teacher guiding the next generation of leaders; Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and all associated with the Fulton County Police Department commend the service and dedication of Sergeant Melissa Parker during her tenure with the Fulton County Police Department; And celebrate with her and her family on the

occasion of her retirement after 25 years of dedicated service; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 14th, 2021, as Sergeant Melissa Parker Appreciation Day in Fulton County Georgia. Let's give her a hand please."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "I'd like to say something. Well actually, I hate to go in front of a police Chief, is that all right? I just want to say that it wasn't mentioned here but Sergeant Parker also spent some time doing the very delicate work of providing security here for our meetings. Got to know you very well then. I've always been very much an admirer of your work. You're going to be missed, but we thank you very much for all of years of service to Fulton County. So best wishes."

**WILLIAM YATES, CHIEF, FCPD:** "Good morning. Melissa came to me two weeks ago to let me know that she was leaving the department and what I normally do is try to talk people out of it. But after 15 minutes of telling me how excited she was to teach, I told her that the smile hadn't left her face and she responded by saying my cheeks are hurting. So, although we're going to miss her greatly. We're very pleased that she's going to do something she loves and she's actually going to teach at the high school where her two children attend. So, thank you Melissa."

**MELISSA PARKER:** "While, thank you, it's hard to sum up 25 years of service, but first of all I would like to thank Fulton County and the Commissioners for the opportunity to serve Fulton County. I have thoroughly enjoyed all my time here. Again, I've worked in just about every corner of the County, and I've enjoyed every place that I have worked. And again, it's hard to sum up that many years of service and I had this all planned out when I walked up here but it's all left my mind. But I just want to leave everyone with one thing: Always be kind and always just take a couple of moments out of your time and your day to say something nice to someone. You never know what someone is going through. You can change somebody's -- somebody's day if not more than that for someone. Just take time out of your day to do something extra special or say something extra special to someone. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing Erica Michelle Robinson Remembrance Day sponsored by Vice Chair Hall."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "All right. This is in remembrance of a young lady who unfortunately passed away due to a tragic accident. And I just had to do this proclamation for her. They recently had a vigil and I was not able to attend, but this is my way of showing that she will be remembered. Whereas, Erica Michelle Robinson was born on August 21, 1987, to Rosa Robinson and the late Roy Wilburn, Jr., at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia; And whereas, Erica attended Adamsville Elementary School, Jean Childs Young Middle School, and graduated from Frederick

Douglass High School in 2005 where she was a member of the tennis team, President of the Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization, and she was a drummer on the Douglas Deadly Drummers Squad where she was named Elite Percussionists in 2003; Erica earned her bachelor's degree in criminology from Albany State University in 2009 where she continued her love of music as a member of the Albany State Marching Rams Show Band; And whereas, Erica was blessed to travel extensively to exotic destinations including Egypt, Thailand, Amsterdam, and India including her love of music Erica also enjoyed roller skating -- I do too but I can't do it because of an accident; And while she was in college she won the student union game room championship title in both spades and ping-pong each year during her tenure at Alabama State University; And whereas Erica made her commitment to Christ at a young age when she joined the Greater Springfield Baptist Church where she was a member of the C. E. Callaway Choir and later joined and attended Jackson Memorial Baptist Church; Now, therefore be it resolved that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Erica Mitchell Robinson for a life of purpose and mourns with her family on the first anniversary of her transition and does hereby proclaim July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as Erica Mitchell Michelle Robinson Remembrance Day in Fulton County, Georgia."

**TIFFANY ROBINSON:** "Good morning. My name is Tiffany Robinson, and Erica Robinson was my little sister. And I just want to say thank you to the Board of Commissions, Commissioner Natalie Hall, Fulton County, you know, just for recognizing my sister and who she was. She was a loving person. She did, she would do anything to help anyone and you know her smile was amazing. She would make you laugh, you know, and she would bend over backwards for anyone. I just want to tell Fulton County, like, from my family, like it means so much that y'all just recognized her and that she is not just another name just in vain and we just have to do more in the city to stop reckless violence for no reason. You know people should be able to feel free to go out in the city and just want to enjoy themselves and that's it. And not have to worry about if they're loved one is going to be able to come home the same way they left. And you know our world has changed drastically and I just want to say thank you so much. It means so much to me and my family that y'all just took time out your day to just recognize Erica and who she was. And so, we're from Atlanta. We're born and raised here, and we love this city. And I just want to say thank you so much just thank you so much for recognizing Erica. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Clerk continue, please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 8, Public Hearings, **21-0510** Public Comment. Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via zoom, videoconferencing, or by submitting their comments in writing online by visiting the County website at [www.FultonCountyGA.gov](http://www.FultonCountyGA.gov). Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public would not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes. Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, we have -- we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 27 speaker cards. Will the first five speakers, please come down. Councilman Khalid, Catherine M. Robinson, Jim Martin, Amber Connor, and Daphne Jordan.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “For elected officials, our rules -- the time limit does not apply to elected officials, but for everyone else two minutes and when you have 15 seconds remaining of your two minutes, I'll simply say 15 seconds, and that will be your key to sum up. Councilman.”

**COUNCILMAN KHALID KAMAU, CITY OF SOUTH FULTON:** “Thank you. Good morning. I'll still try and respect the time. Councilman Khalid. I bring you greetings from the city of South Fulton, Atlanta's Twin City, and the Blackest city in America. In 2019, this Commission voted to reject HUD funding to address homelessness and hunger in Fulton County and then COVID happened. And it turned out we needed that money. And we still need that money. COVID is still happening. In 30 days, parents will begin sending their kids back to school, and as they are trying to figure out if the schools are safe to send their kids back to. They now, also, have to figure out where they're going to house their families because moratoriums for evictions are being lifted. I know as a councilperson -- I know that we always need money for programs, and we're always looking to fill lost revenues in our budget, but this 206 million dollars of ARP funds are the taxpayers' dollars of Fulton County and they need that money back. And the last thing that I want to talk to you about is in 89 days, we are going to start early voting for our 2021 elections. Now, is not the time to try something new. There are people in this country, and perhaps even on this commission that are so angry about the results of our previous election they are willing to dismantle our entire democracy to get their way. SB 202, which passed our state legislature in March, presents an existential threat not only to our elections board but to the voting rights of Fulton County citizens. I was born in 1976, my family has been in America for 400 years, 15 generations. I am the first generation of my family to be born with full citizenship. The first generation of my family to be born being able to vote, being able to go to a public library, being able to drink from any water fountain in this building. And I hope that there are four people on this Commission with the courage to say to the



County and our citizens, we aren't going to let anybody turn us around. Thank you very much, South Fulton forever.”

**CATHERINE ROBINSON:** “Hello and thank you for this opportunity. My name is Catherine Robinson. I am Personnel Manager for Happy Faces Personnel Group. When the 2016 civic award was awarded to Fulton County, we were the sole agency staffing for Fulton County elections. I was responsible for hiring most of the employees that excelled in their roles. Most of those outstanding individuals have worked election since including during the pandemic of 2020. When negative comments are made of our organization, we do not typically respond in a public forum. Truth needs no defense. Recently, so many targeted attacks against us have resulted in violent threats against my staff. So, I feel compelled to speak. I didn’t come today to sway your decision. We know our value. What I do is want to correct several egregious statements against Happy Faces, a company that has modeled the vary definitions of integrity, honesty, and fairness. We do not staff election day poll workers. We do not run, manage, or train any elections’ personnel. We do only recruit in Fulton County. We have no political affiliations expressed or otherwise. There is and always has been a single owner of Happy Faces. It is not Stacey Abrams. We have been self-funded for the 25 years we have been in business. An accomplishment. Not until additional agencies were involved in June of 2020, were negative comments made. Lastly, the staffing model Fulton employs for elections by using Happy Faces –

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Fifteen seconds.”

**CATHERINE ROBINSON:** “--not only ensures diverse concerned citizens are working the elections, but it is far cheaper to accomplish the very goal you seek. 20 percent thank you.”

**JIM MARTIN:** “Hello. Jim Martin resident of Northwest Atlanta. I’d like to thank Commissioner Hausmann for removing the appointment of Mike Bodker to the Development Authority of Fulton County Board from the Consent Agenda. I don't know Mr. Bodker and I’m not here to speak either for or against his nomination, but rather of the importance of this position and to the public understanding that. The only authority that this commission has over the Development Authority of Fulton County is in appointing its Board Members, and once appointed, they have unfettered authority in giving away hundreds of millions of dollars of our tax money. And as such, I think it’s important to understand where they stand on critical issues, especially given recent news articles about corruption, and self-dealing at the authority. It would be nice to know that new appointees are committed to reform and by that I mean real reform and not the sort of window dressing reform that the old guard at the authority would prefer. What does real reform mean? Real reform means respecting the wishes of local

governments not just local government such as Sandy Springs where your friends happen to be operating, but local government such as the city of Atlanta whose requests have been consistently been ignored by the development authority of Fulton County. Real reform means due diligence on proposals that are brought before the authority by developers and their attorneys not merely rubberstamping those gifts and parodying the assertions that are made along with them. There has been a bit of an unwritten combat between the development authority and developers recently that is well summarized by the Cheryl Crow lyric lie to me I promise I'll believe. That really needs to come to an end. Real reform means auditing; not merely auditing finance. --"

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

**JIM MARTIN:** "--which is desperately needed, but also auditing past actions because again these assertions that are made by developers in seeking these gifts often bear out not to be true and no one checks. Thank you."

**AMBER CONNOR:** "Good morning. I'm Amber Connor. I'm here today as a testimony to the crime and lawlessness that is plaguing our city. I was going to present numbers and statistics that show the obvious increase in crime rates, but what good are numbers when dead bodies piling up don't even seem to matter. Political horse-trading has allowed for reconstituting of judicial reforms that allow a few to control the direction of the state and city for purely economic means while dismissing any need for a basis of morality. So, now we are faced with a society whose younger generations' hunger only for short-term gratification of pleasure, and are mostly void of any spiritual connection to their fellow man even less to their creator, but I'm not here to preach. I am here to give my testimony. My Family has lived on [Inaudible.] Avenue which is behind Zone 1 precinct for 13 years. During this time, we've watched our youth get recruited in to gangs. You can all say that these kids have a choice, and you're right they do. They can choose Blood or Crip. Children get picked off one by one. We have watched 15-year-old try to rob a drug house across the street from us and watched him get shot in the chest outside of our bedroom window at 3:00 a.m. We have tried to mentor a child who worked with us in the summertime; had a bright future; was a junior working on academic and basketball scholarship. He made a bad decision to get into a stolen car with his friends and paid the price. These young kids often ask for help. They play on the streets by our house because we have cameras that make them feel safe and feel like some sense of security is there. It is obvious that we are all failing them. We all know that the crime we see today is purposeful, multilayered, bipartisan, and centers around money and control. And while intellectuals play their multi-layered chess game with their constituency, it is our babies --"

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



**AMBER CONNOR:** "--future generations that are being sacrificed. I'm a strong woman as many others are, and after all the crime we have seen, our district attorney's office is in need of funding. You know it. I know it and we all know it. Do the right thing."

**DAPHNE JORDAN:** "Greetings. My name is Daphne Jordan. I was here to address the Board of Commissioners in 2017, in regards to slider crimes that were plaguing us in South Fulton. My citizen led task force collaborated with police and government officials to raise awareness about these crimes and thankfully the County allotted \$2.5 million dollars to address these crimes by 22 repeat juvenile offenders. Today the crime is still spiraling out of control. It has been since 2017. Throughout Fulton County in 2018, some juveniles were known for entering an auto; now they're pulling out guns on people trying to support their water selling efforts. In 2019, my sister was shot twice by an 18-year-old working as a security guard in her stomach, by a repeat offender in Union City. She will never be able to have more children as a result of this; but, thankfully she's alive. Since April of 2021, 27 new cases with youth as young as 13 years old, have been charged with murder. Clearly there's an issue with youth crimes and gun violence that must be addressed. One of the County's priority areas is justice and Public Safety. It states, Fulton County is committed to providing the highest level of public safety services and justice services to its citizens. I'm here to ask that you show us that you are committed by providing the additional financial resources from the \$200 million in COVID relief funding that you have received. Provide that to the criminal justice system to adequately combat the crime in our communities. Show your commitment by allocating additional financial resources to strengthen our criminal justice system. The crime in Fulton County is a fundamental epidemic that affects us all and our quality of life. --"

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

**DAPHNE JORDAN:** "--thank you very much."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Walter Jordan, Belinda Logan, Joy Barnes, Pamela Howell, Donna Watts-Nunn."

**WALTER JORDAN:** "Good evening Fulton County Commissioners. I'm Walter Jordan and as my wife previously stated, I am here to talk about the crime in Atlanta. The district attorney's office needs more funding. Me being an entrepreneur and a restaurant owner on Edgewood Avenue. Edgewood and Auburn is known as one of the most historic district streets in the district. As I look at my phone right now, I'm looking at four different shootings that's happened since January. On Edgewood Avenue. It's a

pandemic. It's worse than COVID right now. Every week someone is getting shot on Edgewood or Auburn Avenue. There's a homeless problem as well on Edgewood and Auburn Avenue. No one is talking about it. We're turning a blind eye to it. As I get off the exit to go to my restaurant, everyday there's four or five panhandlers at the red light knocking on my doors. They don't just stop at your car any more; they knock on your window. It has to be something done Commissioners. This, this has to stop today. No one wants to start a business in a historic district, what would King say about that district right now? Something must be done. We must allocate funds immediately. This is something that can't be held up. Thank you so much for listening."

**MALINDA LOGAN:** "I am Malinda Logan, retired educator; retired member of the Fulton County Arts Council where I served four terms representing District Seven. As an educator, mother, grandmother, an advocate for the arts, I know the importance of our arts institutions. I come today to speak on behalf of the Hammonds House Museums and Galleries where I served as a liaison from Fulton County Arts Council for a period of three terms. It goes without saying the importance of the arts to achieve so many of the goals that are being spoken of today. We need to make sure that there are resources like Hammonds House to provide a comprehensive accounting of our rich cultural and ethnic heritage. I urge you to increase funding for Hammonds House in order that we may address the pressing concerns of education, of cultural enrichment, and of instilling pride in all of our youth and adults. Thank you."

**JOY BARNES:** "Good morning Commissioners. My name is Joy Barnes. I'm a resident of District Four. Your agenda item calls for the Hammonds House Museum and Galleries for a budget not to exceed \$70,000. I'm asking that you exceed that budget amount by tacking on 100,000 for a total of 170,000. I'm reaching out to ask for your support. For 33 years, Hammonds House has been a haven for people seeking inspiration, interaction, and intellectual stimulation centered on the art of the African Diaspora. It is the only stand-alone Historic House Museum in the city of Atlanta. It's dedicated to African-American art, and is an asset to the cultural fabric of Atlanta. Thank you for your support. Thank you."

**PAMELA HOWELL:** "My name is Pamela Howell, and I'm a volunteer at the Hammonds House and I've been volunteering there for over a decade. And I want to say how it's a valuable place, and it's a quality place where I can come and share my time and be productive in the area."

**DONNA WATTS-NUNN:** "Good morning everyone. I'm Donna Watts-Nunn, and I'm currently a staff member at the Hammonds House Museum. So, needless to say I'm here to ask again, ask you to start with thanking you for your continued support; but also, to implore you to increase our support. At this moment, we are really in need of

increase, well, the hit we took from last year of not being open, has added to the historical underfunding we've been living with for some time there. At this moment as a result of what happened last year with the pandemic, we all know that the arts really provided a lot of sanity and a lot of humanitarian relief for folks. And now that Hammonds House is really playing a part that's impacting the entire city if you will, well I actually just stated we're getting visitors from as far as Kennesaw and Johns Creek coming into the West End now to 1. Gain some knowledge about African-American arts community, but also to hold conversations. We're facilitating, you know, inclusion there; so, it's very important that you guys support us and increase that support this year so that we can go beyond the part time at the reduced capacity that we have now to serve folks and so, we can now provide, you know, additional support for additional programming to you know, enhance the lives; and 2. of course provide value to the community. So, I want to thank you again for your support and ask you again to increase that funding. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Karen Lowe, Bessie Shavers, Jack White, Julian Bene, Bill Bozarth."

**KAREN COMER LOWE:** "Good morning everyone. I am Karen Comer Lowe, the recently appointed Executive Director Chief Curator at the Hammonds House Museum. And I'm here to speak to you about the importance of the Museum. The Hammonds House Museum is the only standalone historic House Museum that is dedicated to African-American art. We were founded on the legacy of Dr. O. T. Hammonds who was a long-time resident and arts collector here in Atlanta; and we have a stellar permanent collection that we inherited from Dr. Hammonds. The Museum has been open on a part-time basis, and we are currently aspiring to open on a full-time basis, but we cannot do that without increased funding. We are hoping to offer more programming, add more staffing, so that we can work with the community that's been coming in. On this part-time basis since we've opened our doors, we have seen a diverse group of people come through our doors of all ethnicities. People coming who have been visiting in the city now that we can travel and things are opening up. So, Hammonds House is really drawing in a diverse audience, but again we would like to increase our hours, and increase staffing, and we cannot do that without your increased financial support. So, thank you for your time."

**BESSIE SHAVERS:** "Good morning, my name is Bessie Shavers, and I am a proud retiree from Fulton County. I have lived in another County for many years, but my full understanding and appreciation of the city of Atlanta and specifically Fulton County came from working in the--. But I have been a volunteer and a supporter of Hammonds House for about 15 years. And after retiring, I still came into the city to volunteer. I

believe Hammonds House is a jewel worthy of the current funding, but increased funding. I have seen the attempts at what is being done. I've seen diverse populations come in for the lecturers, and for the viewing of diverse art. I appreciate what you've done, but again, more funding is needed. I believe the computer systems need updating, they need other staff to be available; and of course, to bring in more art. I believe art inspires young people in the community to see possibilities of what they can do. I believe we've heard before that art soothes the beast or whatnot, and I'm believing that when young people have an opportunity to see what is possible, for their gifts they will apply them. Thank you for your funding. Thank you for your consideration of increased funding."

**JACK WHITE:** "Commissioners my name is Jack White. I live in Commissioner Arrington's District. Good to see you again, Sir. I'm here to talk about the Development Authority of Fulton County which I knew very little of till recently, and know a whole lot about now. It's Chair, Mr. Turpeau, has been repeating the line recently that all the bad stuff happened under the old crew, and it will – it'll now be different under the new crew. But the new crew is the same with one exception as the old crew. They have a - that doesn't clean anything up. Mr. Turpeau and Bacote rubberstamped tax breaks in the same fashion as Mr. Shaw did in a sweet and cozy arrangement Mr. Turpeau as Executive Director reports to himself. An arrangement many of us would like in our work place. All of these men, but Mr. Beach helped themselves to way more per diems and the one per official Board meeting than is the reasonable and obvious norm. We learned sadly and not from the Board minutes where this was not recorded that in May, Mr. Turpeau arranged a \$15,000 a month salary for himself as interim Executive Director and then backdated it to January 1st, so \$67,000 signing bonus. He is even still trying to undermine the modest control of per diem's that Commissioners Morris has proposed. No other authority development authority pays per diems that we know of. And in fact, Mr. Turpeau is now asking for more than even the Board of Regents which has to travel as he does not gets. Only two months ago Mr. Bacote tried to use \$25,000 of DAFC cash--"

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

**JACK WHITE:** "—thank you Sir – in the council district recent candidate. The excess per diems, and Mr. Turpeau's salary should be repaid to the citizens of Fulton County. In 50 years as a resident here, I've been proud of much of this County has done and never more distressed than by this. And my final remark, Sir, is I too am a fan of the Hammonds House, and I think I just became aware of where \$67,000 could be found for them."

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

**JULIAN BENE:** “Good morning Commissioners. Julian Bene, former Board member of Invest Atlanta. I am here for the development authority scandal that I did play a small role in uncovering. Your constituents are fed up with senseless tax breaks for projects that will happen anyway, because they're in hot markets like Midtown. It's market demand Commissioners that drives abatement, not the four percent discount on project investment that abatements amount to. Needless tax breaks underfund schools and services which actually makes an area less attractive and hurts economic development. In 2023, DAFC tax breaks will cost Atlanta alone \$50 million; a result in residents paying more than their fair share of taxes and receiving less than their fair share of schooling for the kids and of city and County services especially with those who need services the most. Today you'll ask questions and perhaps pass resolutions that nibble at the edges of DAFC bad governance, but your powers seem minimal. You can't call back the ludicrous \$200 per diems that you never authorized, nor stop DAFC from giving themselves slush funds with fees the tax breaks generate. We saw last night, Mr. Turpeau is fighting any control from here. The real leverage you have is Board appointments. The two school reps that you put on DAFC should help. Now there's just two appointments left. One of them is yours, Chairman Pitts. One of them is Commissioner Hausmann's. Some 500 residents now have signed petitions and numbers growing calling on you, Chairman Pitts, to place a real reformer of the Board to join other new members and turn DAFC around. If you don't do this, it will be business as usual at DAFC. We'll soon know where you all stand on putting the reform majority on DAFC's Board. We fervently hope it's with the misused residents of this city and County. Thank you.”

**BILL BOZARTH:** “Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, my name is Bill Bozarth. I've lived in the city of Atlanta for 33 years, and for the last four and a half years, I've served on the Board of the Atlanta development authority, Invest Atlanta. During all of that time, all of the board meetings, all of the committee meetings, all of the visits to the community, all of the discussions with developers, I never knew there was any such thing as a reimbursement to a board member of a development authority. So, I like everyone else was quite surprised when we found out not only were the members of the Fulton County Development Authority getting these payments, they were giving themselves access as well as other abuses. So, I'm sure you're no less shocked about this than I am that it happened under your watch. Early on, when I questioned our staff about projects coming forward to provide tax abatements to the lease purchase bond we can also put in place, I said why are we doing this? This particular project is in a portion of the city and that needs no economic boost to happen. Why are we spending public money? And when I kept pressing the staff, ultimately the answer was well Bill, if we don't provide the tax break, the Fulton County Development Authority would do so anyway. So, we have this unfortunate situation of two development authorities

competing with one another over who can give away the tax breaks to the developers; and it's become so commonplace, I think you know this, it's almost like a developer entitlement program that exists. It's expected and it's baked into the financing process of all of these projects. I know I'm almost 15 minutes, Mr. Chair, so I'm going to wrap up quickly. So, my charge to you that it's up to you to do whatever you can today in this debate to put things right. And I think one of the things we definitely need to put right is stop having competing development authorities in the city of Atlanta. And I thank you for consideration."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Will the next six speakers, please come down: Devin Barrington-Ward, Tim Franzen, Dr. Janice Johnston, Elizabeth Damond, and Aimee Uphues, Marcia King."

**DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD:** "Good morning my name is Devin Barrington-Ward. I am a candidate for Atlanta city Council District Nine, and I'm here to tell the Board of Commissioners that it is time to wake up to the realities that there are some folks on this Commission that are intent on dismantling our democracy. There is no reason why we have not approved this contract. We need people to stay in their seats. We need people to put the political horseman trading aside. We need to stop the poli-tricks, and we need to do what is right by the citizens of Fulton County. We should not have to worry about whether our elections in November are going to happen appropriately. At the point where Richard Barron, the Elections Director that many of us have had challenges with is saying that he is unsure on whether or not he is going to be able to facilitate our elections because this Commission has not approved the contract that is needed to make sure that he has the resources he needs. We're in trouble. So, I need you all to do the right thing by the residents of Fulton County. We deserve to have a Democratic process that works for all of us. In addition to that, we deserve to have our money in our pockets. The American rescue package dollars are our taxpayer-funded money. It came from Washington DC, but it came from the taxpayer's dollars here in Fulton County. And the money is needed. We just heard folks give very passionate pleas about how crime is on the rise. And crime is on the rise because we haven't dealt with the root causes of crime. The root causes of crime are housing. The root causes of crime are the lack of youth job programs. The root causes of crime are the lack of the fact that we don't have a criminal justice system that works for everybody in Fulton County. Enough is enough. We cannot police and jail our way into safer streets. We need to invest the resources -- the \$206 million—"

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

**DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD:** "—that's coming to Fulton County to decrease equity in the city of Atlanta because we are the number one city for income disparity in the



country, and so, it's no wonder why we are the number one right now for crime in the country as it stands. I need you all to do the right thing."

**TIM FRANZEN:** "Good morning y'all. My name is Tim Franzen and I'm today, I'm speaking on behalf of the Housing Justice League. We're also concerned about the Development Authority scandal. The most galling part is that the Development Authority is sitting on \$8 million in a bank account. That \$8 million comes from fees and a quarter of a billion, that's right, a billion of tax breaks that the development authority has doled out to rich developers in the past few years. Tax breaks that have hurt our school children and prevented the city of Atlanta from doing anything meaningful on affordable housing. We know that the Development Authority is mismanaged and self-dealing. They should not control the \$8 million of ill-gotten gains just as they should not have used other fees to pad their bank accounts to overpay executive directors, to pay lobbyist, and artists, slush fund grants and all the rest. Will the Commission take control of the \$8 million and devote it to some good for those who need it? It should not be used for lobbyist to keep this dirty game going. It should not be used to overpay executives. It should not be used to help the Development Authority board members win elections. And finally, Housing Justice League is fighting for the wellbeing of tenants who are about to be evicted, having lost income, and gotten into rent arrears during the pandemic. That \$8 million should be spent rescuing families that are about to become homeless. Thank you."

**DR. JANICE JOHNSTON:** "Good morning Commissioners. I'm Dr. Janice Johnston. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm here to express my opposition to engaging or allowing Happy Faces temp agency to provide services for Fulton County elections. For a County election office partly staffed by Happy Faces that has been placed on probation for its unacceptable conduct of elections, it has been accused of inadequate management of voter rolls and voter residency requirements, it is missing thousands of chain of custody documents of absentee ballots, it has been charged with double scanning of thousands of ballots. Fulton County election office entered into a contract with the company Happy Faces. Happy Faces temp agency was and still is financially connected with Democrat political activist Stacey Abrams which according to Ms. Abrams is technically legal, but in my opinion is unethical and unacceptable. It places our election process at risk of partisan and questionable hiring practices. As of yesterday, this Fulton County election office faces new charges of election conduct that is quote riddled with massive errors and provable fraud. With an error recording rate of 60 percent with multiple falsified tally sheets from the recount prepared by someone whose name is redacted maybe a Happy Faces employee; it is simply not acceptable at this time to use Happy Faces temp agency for Fulton County elections--"

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

**DR. JANICE JOHNSTON:** "—until these serious findings have been investigated. Thank you."

**AIMEE UPHUES:** "Hi. My name is Aimee Uphues, and I have been a resident in Ms. Hausmann's District since 2011. And I would like to voice my strong opposition to the renewing of the contract with Happy Faces temp agency to run our elections. There's several reasons for this. The election workers should be local stakeholders of the community where the election is held; not a paid temp agency. Who are the people that Happy Faces temp agency hires and what are their qualifications? We've all seen the video of Ruby Freeman and her daughter at the State Farm arena and other videos she posted online mishandling the mail-in ballots. We are still awaiting an investigation and accountability for the numerous irregularities in the 2020 election. The citizens of Fulton County should return to having our residents work the early voting polling and all aspects of the voting process. We should not pay a temp agency from another County to run our elections. Happy Faces temp agency is headquartered in Tucker, Georgia it's in DeKalb County not Fulton. The only connection Happy Faces has to Fulton County is a financial link to Stacey Abrams as the secretary through the now account. How would you vote if Brian Kemp or another political candidate have the slightest hand of a financial interests in the people entrusted with counting the votes. You must return voter integrity and impartiality to the Fulton County elections. The corruption in Fulton County election warrants investigation and that starts with not renewing Happy Faces temp agency's contract or any other temp agency that has a political connection. We the people of Fulton County demand an investigation and accountability into the irregularities and fraud in our elections. You serve—"

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

**AIMEE UPHUES:** "—the citizens of Fulton County, you have been entrusted to ensure voter integrity of our elections and you have failed us miserably. You can start with returning the voting process back to the citizens of Fulton County and not renewing Happy Faces temp agency contract for \$7.7 million. Thank you."

**MARCIA KING:** "Good morning. I'm Marcia King. Lived in Fulton County since 1987. I was a monitor at the Georgia World Congress Center on November 15th. I arrived on time at 8:00 a.m. It was apparent that activity had been for the audit of the November election. Apologies I'm nervous. It was apparent that work had already started long before 8:00 a.m. We were dismissed early. Work had been -- the audit had been completed; this was Sunday. We were due to continue volunteering and working for the GOP, the monitors that following Wednesday, but it was finished on Sunday. So, there



were several observations that I made during my short time there from 8:00 a.m. till after noon. I felt very uncomfortable. I can go back to that, but very quickly I left. I drove back to my home in Alpharetta. I didn't feel good. I decided to drive back. I reentered the Georgia World Congress Center. There was a police officer there. I encountered Carter Jones who works directly for the Secretary of State's office, and we had a conversation. I asked him where all these people came from? Where, where, who was chosen to audit? He said Happy Faces. I said was there any vetting as to whether or not they belong to the Republican or Democratic party, he said no. And the reason he knew they were from Happy Faces,--"

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

**MARCIA KING:** "--he said he recognized them from State Farm arena. And many of them he also said they were also retired librarians from Fulton County and employees from the department of behavioral services. So, I'm here to ask that you vote no to Happy Faces being reinstituted as a temp agency to be involved in our elections. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Last six speakers in Assembly Hall, please come down: Julie Adams, Rosie Jackson Puckett, Valerie Eberhart, Ravi Windom, Maggie Goldman, and Jewel Johnson."

**JULIE ADAMS:** "Hi my name is Julie Adams. Yesterday newly released evidence from Publix records prove that seven batched tally sheets created during the Fulton County hand count audit were falsified. You all have I've provided copies of the batched tally sheets for all of you. These tally sheets falsely reported that Joe Biden received a total of 850 votes and zero votes for Donald Trump and Jo Jorgensen in the November 3rd, 2020 election. The actual ballot images for these batches prove that the tally sheets were fabricated by one of the auditors during the audit conducted on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the World Congress Center. The question that you now must answer is who falsified them? The signature on the tally sheet is redacted so no one currently knows. One of the more likely possibilities is that the individual was a Happy Faces employee. The Happy Faces staffing agency supplied some of the auditors who produced the tally sheets as part of counting ballots during the audit. Happy Faces has also been named as a defendant in the ballot inspection lawsuit against Fulton County. You owe it to every resident of Fulton County to find out who falsified these seven tally sheets."

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

**JULIE ADAMS:** “The people of Fulton County deserve to know, and the Board of Commissioners must also know before even considering whether or not to renew the Happy Faces contract. Thank you.”

**ROSIE JACKSON PUCKETT:** “Good morning Commissioners, and to my Commissioner Khadijah. My name is Rosie Jackson Puckett and I live at 4365 Melanie Drive, South Fulton, Georgia, 30349. I am here today to ask each of you, Commissioners, to please vote for the approval of the resolution to execute the American rescue Plan Act of 2021. Some of you Commissioners might not feel that your constituents in your Districts are in need of these funds. However, I live in District Five of the city of South Fulton. And there are residents there that are in desperate need. We heard individuals today talk about the crime. Yes, we have crime off of Old National Highway, but crime is because individuals sometime have a lack of food, a lack of housing. There are a lot of things that come with that. But the Bible tells us in James 4:2, it says you have not because you ask not. Well, there have been a lot of people on their knees praying, and God has answered prayer and he has brought forth funds to Fulton County. And today, we stand asking not one, not two, not three, not four; we’re asking all seven, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, yes we're asking all 7 to come forth today and approve these funds. I am or was a small business owner and since I have become extremely young, my daughter has taken forth – I got you--”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Fifteen-seconds.”

**ROSIE JACKSON PUCKETT:** “--however, we are no in a process – we are small business and we need the funding for our small business. Please, take out self and bring in the service that you have been appointed for and vote to approve the funds for the rescue plan. Thank you.”

**RAVI WINDOM:** “Good morning. My name is Ravi Windom, an Atlanta native and a family member of the Hammonds House Museum. I said family member because I was raised in the Hammonds House. Growing up, my Dad would take me religiously to visit the Hammonds House and I would be so excited because I would always have such a rich cultural experience that will always leave me feeling full, hopeful, and inspired. Mostly because everything about what I would experience at the Hammonds House, I could completely relate to as it always highlighted African-American arts and culture. Fast forward some 30 plus years later, I have found myself -- found my way back home at the Hammonds House Museum as the Programs Manager Consultant. Thanks to continued support and funding, we have been able to keep that spirit of the Hammonds House alive even during a pandemic with digital programming for the entire family, and thankfully we have been able -- we have been blessed to reopen our doors recently to the public. Which so many black institutions nationwide unfortunately have not or did

not get to see that light of day again. The Hammonds House Museum is more than just a museum, it is a window of hope; it is a window of self-reflection, inspiration, and literally a safe space and escape from all that is going on right now. We are literally the little engine that could right now with five staff members including consultants like myself.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Fifteen seconds.”

**RAVI WINDOM:** “With your continued support in abundance, we would love to keep that spirit alive and growing. And lastly, if you have not had the wonderful chance to come visit us at the Hammonds House Museum, I invite you to bring your whole family and please come visit us. Thank you.”

**MAGGIE GOLDMAN:** “Hello my name is Maggie Goldman and I'm a resident in Johns Creek District One. The appointment of Mike Bodker current Johns Creek Mayor to the Development Authority of Fulton would be a mistake. A time when the Development Authority of Fulton is under strict scrutiny over per diem payments, and members being too cozy with developers, the Commission needs to look very closely at each new member appointed to this Board. A quick Google search of Mike Bodker unveils many ethics accusations related to developers. In 2013, the accusations caused five members of the Johns Creek City Council to commission an ethics investigation. Among the accusations in the 28-page investigative report that Bodker approved a zoning change for a project on Bell Road even though the developer was a friend who had previously allowed him to use his vacation home in Florida for free. I can't imagine what development experience Mike Bodker even brings to the authority. He has been the Mayor of Johns Creek for 14 years and yet Johns Creek is an example of the opposite of economic development. Have you been to the Johns Creek Town Center? Oh right; it doesn't exist. Yet our neighbors in Alpharetta, Milton, Duluth, Peachtree Corners, Suwanee, and even South Forsyth have excelled in the area of economic development. In the 14 years and a few failed attempts such as 2015 with the intention to develop a town center named The District, the buck stops with the mayor. His ability or lack thereof to build coalitions, work with the city Council to bring economic development to fruition. The only thing I can see Mike Bodker bringing to the Development Authority is his apparent friendships with developers. That is exactly what we do not want from the board members at this time.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Fifteen-seconds.”

**MAGGIE GOLDMAN:** “Of all the people who could have been chosen for this appointment, you couldn't find one person without a history of ethics accusations and with some semblance of economic development success? Thank you.”

**JEWEL JOHNSON:** “Good morning Commissioners, and especially good morning to my Commissioner Sixth District. My name is Jewel Johnson, and I live at 4660 [Inaudible.] Lane, city of South Fulton. I'm here today to ask each Commissioner to please vote for the approval of the resolution to execute the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. First of all, I want to let you know that I happened to be one of those small business owners, a retired healthcare professional. And I know that we have many people in the city of South Fulton -- all of South Fulton that really needs this. And I'm asking each one of you not to play the games with these people because this might mean living or dying for some of them. So, please do the right thing. And I'd like to say, as it relates to the Happy Face situation that we have -- under the leadership of Robb Pitts, our Chairman, the Board has failed to renew the contract with Happy Faces. Ladies and gentlemen, I don't care if it's green face, yellow face, blue face -- I happened to be one of your employers and Fulton County has many, many employers. But I happened to be one as a mayoral candidate for the Mayor of the city of South Fulton; this is a shame that you would even consider having municipalities run their own elections. Please give the Board of Elections what they need.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Fifteen-seconds.”

**JEWEL JOHNSON:** “That's just like saying, okay, all attorneys don't need to have anybody represent them. But they do. And so does doctors. So do the right thing. Thank you very much for your time and your patience.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “No further speakers in Assembly Hall. The next speakers will be Zoom participants.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “How many?”

**CLERK GRIER:** “I'm not—”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “Good morning Commissioners. We have seven wishing to speak. Public comment. The first to speak--.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “You say, just a minute, you say seven; seven, all right.”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “The first to speak is Bridgette Thorne.”

**BRIDGETTE THORNE:** “Hello. Every since you decided to override the Board of Elections decision to terminate Richard Barron, you rendered the board powerless. Now that you have taken over the power of the election process, it is your job to make sure our elections are efficient, transparent, accessible, and fair. The State auditor's unabridged report is shocking. There was so much mismanagement. Now, truth is starting to be revealed. In the state auditor's report, Happy Faces employees are

overheard saying that they are there to “F” stuff up. The state auditor questioned how Happy Faces vets their employees. He says many of them don't care about this process. Ralph Jones doesn't trust Happy Faces employees. Jay Moss has issues with them taking orders from their Rep and not her. Who is in charge? Sounds like Happy Faces is telling Fulton County elections employees what to do. By approving this contract, you are allowing it. This is not a misinformation campaign against Happy Faces. Fact, Happy Faces is directly financially tied to Stacey Abrams company Now account. You can find this by doing a UCC search of the SOS website. By approving this contract, you are allowing this. There is a controversial video of Happy Faces employees scanning ballots multiple times. To this day, Ralph Jones and Richard Barron cannot give a reasonable explanation what happened that night. The lack of any reasonable explanation only casts serious doubts on the honesty of our elections. By approving this contract, you are allowing it. Voting is a fundamental right and a right that right now is being delegated to a third-party, Happy Faces. Barron says he doesn't know who they recruit or how they recruit.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Fifteen seconds.”

**BRIDGETTE THORNE:** “[Inaudible.] supposedly handling our ballots by approving this contract, you are allowing it. You are failing to preserve and protect the clearly established Georgia constitutional rights and equal protection and due process of all Fulton County citizens. If you prove this contract, I hope you enjoy your upcoming lawsuits. Thank you.”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “The next person is Susan Mahalik.”

**SUZANNE MEHALICK:** “Good morning Commissioners. My name is Suzanne Mehalck. I'm a homeowner and a small business owner in Roswell District Two. I first urge you to agree to a minimum of one hour for public comments. Now, more than ever, it's vital that we take the time to listen to as many voices as possible. I would also like to offer my support for the funding and renewal of the Happy Faces contract for election staffing. I am deeply disturbed by false right wing media reports and comments by some of my fellow residents continuing to promote proven falsehoods, such as the idea that Stacey Abrams has any kind of ownership with Happy Faces, which she does not. This fact is well documented and accessible to all. I've also done some research regarding Ms. Bridgette Thorne who coincidentally just spoke before me, a former voting technician who continues to publicly allege fraud in our 2020 elections, and who keeps bringing debunked conspiracy theories here to the public comments and encouraging others to do so as well. As we know, Ms. Thorne was not invited back for the January election. This has been portrayed by Secretary of State Raffensperger and the entire right-wing stratosphere as a retaliatory measure against a whistleblower. Indeed,

whistleblower protections are vital to maintaining citizen oversight into government actions, and if true, this warrants appropriate consequences. However, in the case of Ms. Thorne, it is important to note that a spokesperson for Fulton County told the press that this former election worker was actually quote under review for infractions including a violation for using cell phones to photograph elections' activities."

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

**SUZANNE MEHALICK:** "—inappropriately showing ballots to a poll monitor and making misrepresentations to the public on YouTube. It bears stating that regardless of the outcome of any one investigation, the fate of county elections' are more important than whether two residents get to work the election. In my opinion, it is the appearance that Republican Board members may be withholding election funding from the county and retribution for not reinstating the two women."

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

**DARRYL CARVER:** "The next person to speak, Mary Barron."

**MARY BARRON:** "Good morning. My name is Mary Barron. I live in Sandy Springs, and I want to express my support for the renewal of the Happy Faces contract. To ensure the Fulton County will have the capability to run the municipal elections in Sandy Springs on November 2nd. Sandy Springs is over a hundred thousand residents. Our Mayor and all six city Council seats will be on the ballot, and the election is only three short months away. I have heard that if Fulton County does not have enough staff to run the election, the city might be required to run it. This is not an acceptable proposition. Our city clerk, while competent, has not been trained to run elections. There won't be sufficient time to train the clerk, the staff to secure voting sites, and the equipment for the city to run this election competently. My experience with the November 2020 election, and the January 2021 run-off election, was that those elections were run very smoothly in Sandy Springs. The Fulton County Board of Elections did a good job at improving its' processes so that the lines were short even though the volume of voters was high. People I spoke to said that their polling places were managed efficiently by the staff. I hope that we can have a problem free election and I trust Fulton County to perform this task so long as they have enough workers. In contrast, the city of Sandy Springs ran a special election in 2016 to fill a vacated council seat and that election was fraught with problems. The election had so many issues, it was referred to the state Attorney General's desk which we are still awaiting a ruling. When discussing the 2016 special elections--"

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



**MARY BARRON:** “--spokesman Sharon Quan was quoted stating that one issue was getting enough experienced poll workers to work all the locations. The citizens of Sandy Springs don't want a repeat of that fiasco. Now is not the time to be making major changes to our election staffing. [Inaudible.] the Happy Faces contract.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Next speaker.”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “The next speaker is Melissa Mulvaney.”

**MELISSA MULVANEY:** “Hello. My name is Melissa Mulvaney and I’m from Roswell District One. Commissioner Hausmann, I remember back on April 21<sup>st</sup> during a discussion about Fulton employee bonuses; and after you referred to Fulton employees who you noted were happy they were able to keep their jobs when many in the community did not; You said quote that we have to be fair to those in the community that ultimately have to pay our bills, and so many of them are struggling. And I would much prefer that as we talk about rescue that we’re looking at who really needs to be rescued. Our small businesses and our agencies that are providing support services certainly know who those folks are in our community. That's where we should be directing our resources in my opinion end quote. I hope you will follow through on this statement and vote, yes, on the rescue implementation plan that meets all the concerns you addressed on April 21st. Thank you.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Mr. Chairman, may I, real quickly, sorry to interrupt, but I’ve gotten a text saying, the viewing public cannot hear the virtual comments. I don’t know if that’s from FGTV or something else. Somebody could look into that, that would be terrific.”

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** “Thank you, Commissioner Morris. We just learned of that technical issue, so, they are trying to address it now. I apologize for the inconvenience.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “No, no, continue please.”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “The next person is Susan Ross.”

**SUSAN ROSS:** “Good morning. This is Susan Ross. I’m a lifelong resident of Fulton County, and a supporter of the Hammonds House Museum. My parents were friends with Dr. O. T. Hammonds, and I was able to grow up visiting the Hammonds House collection in his home. When he built, when he renovated the current facility, it was a perfect place to house the treasure of his collection -- fantastic collection of African and African-American art. Hammonds House has one of the oldest Robert Duncanson paintings that has been located so far. So, we have many historical treasures. I



strongly urge the Commissioners, especially my Commissioner in District Six, Commissioner Khadijah and all of the Commissioners including the Commissioner whose District the Hammonds House is in, Natalie Hall, to support increased funding for the Hammonds House. In this time, it is an institution which we must support, we must preserve, we must build. I'm just strongly encouraging that you support the Hammonds House and also the National Black Arts Festival. Thank you."

**DARRYL CARVER:** "The next person to speak is Irmara Canady."

**IRMARA CANNADY:** "Good morning Board of Commissioners. It is indeed my honor to be with you unfortunately virtually but still present today. Not as the Board Chair of the Hammonds House Museum, but as an over four-decade resident of Fulton County and whose mother now in her 70s has had the joy and blessing of living in Fulton County and experiencing and enjoying in the safe environment of Hammonds House Museum. I really wanted to share the impact of the Hammonds House Museum as a commitment made by Fulton County to further elevate art and culture across the County. Hammonds House Museum is not just a beautiful house museum based in the West End, but it is an institution that has literally touched and impacted the lives of citizens across Fulton County. Whether it's the partnerships that we do with John Creeks art center, or in the South Fulton art centers. Whether it's a meeting and programming spaces that we offered for AID Atlanta at the Atlanta beltline, the West End Rotary Club of the National Wildlife Federation, or whether it's the national recognition of how Fulton County supports the arts through Hammonds House Museum, through the relationships with the Alvin Ailey dance theater company, the Historical Preservation Society, the Smithsonian Magazine, or the numerous artists of every shade, of every sexual and gender orientation that have been able to exhibit their work at Hammonds House Museum often time sharing their work in this space where they would not otherwise be able to share this space. The Hammonds House Museum for over three decades has continued to be the epicenter of providing the realization of not only the Board of Commissioners and Fulton County's commitment to art and culture, but the Board of Commissioners and Fulton County's commitment to the community of every corner of Fulton County. So, today—"

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

**IRMARA CANADY:** "--I hope you as a resident that loves this County and who wants to continue to live in a county that is thriving culturally to say, please continue to elevate the financial support for institutions like Hammonds House Museum and our sisters' partners at the National Black Arts Festival. Thank you for this time."

**DARRYL CARVER:** "The next person to speak is Juliette Cartel."

**JULIETTE CARTEL:** “Hi. My name is Juliette Cartel, and I live in Johns Creek District One. In April, the Commission passed a resolution against SB 202, and there was a report from the County Attorney due back in 30 days. It was supposed to have information on legal action the Commission can take against SB 202. Please make this report available to the public. I support renewing the contract for Happy Faces. The last elections ran fairly smoothly. And the accusations against Happy Faces have been completely false and not supported by any evidence. Decisions regarding contracts should be based on facts, not unsubstantiated accusations. And we have elections coming up and we need Happy Faces to make those happen. I’m against the deployment of Mike Bodker, the Mayor of Johns Creek, to the Development Authority of Fulton County. As a resident of Johns Creek, I’ve been frustrated with the lack of economic development. We wanted a town center for some time, and it’s never happened. While cities around us have developed areas that attract people and help support the local businesses. We have trouble keeping young people in Johns Creek once they graduate, and people who retire in part because of the lack of economic development. Also, he’s been investigated at the direction of his own city council at this accusation. Based on Mike Bodker’s history, ethics accusations, and lack of experience in economic development, I oppose his appointment. In March, the Commission voted to approve certain priorities for the American Rescue Plan funds. Stop the delay of these important funds. Please vote, yes, for the rescue plan implementation. Thank you.”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “The next person is Ben Howard.”

**BEN HOWARD:** “Thank you. Greetings Commissioners and staff. And special greetings to you, citizens and voters of Fulton County who are watching and/or listening to your County government in action. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. Let’s take a look today at the reasons why present and past administrators of the County department dedicated to the aging fight hard and long to keep senior advocates like George Pilkington and Ben Howard off the Board of Directors of the Commission on Elder Affairs. The senior advocate would work hard to ensure that more than a mere ten people participate in Zoom meetings on the Commission on Elder Affairs. A senior advocate would insist upon keeping the Commission on Elder Affairs fully populated including helping to fill the current vacancies for North Fulton and for Commission District One. A senior advocate would help develop an information packet for new Commission on Elder Affairs Board members, so they won’t have to play 20 questions about what they are supposed to be doing. A senior advocate would help to ensure that with legal personnel and ethics personnel are unilaterally asked to defend the modus operandi of the office of Aging management, County Commissioners would

know about it before a Ben Howard comes to town to talk. So, Commissioners, senior citizens, and friends of seniors, stay tuned. More to come.”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “And that concludes the virtual comment section.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, the next speakers will be the e-mail comments read by Mr. Carver.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right, And how many?”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “Mr. Chairman, we have 19 comments on 8 topics. As we had discussed in the past, we will, we will read the first of a set of comments on the topic and then tell you who else echoed similar comments.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. Thank you. Go ahead.”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “The first public comment is from Rebecca Paradis. My name is Rebecca Paradis, and I’m a resident of Fulton County in District One. There are certainly some issues to workout regarding training and supervision of Happy Faces personnel who worked the polls in this last election. However, the numerous comments about Happy Faces being quote proved to be highly excessively partisan and not transparent in recent elections end quote, is completely false and not supported by any evidence. Happy Faces personnel is a minority owned business which has had contracts with the State of Georgia, for over 20 years and contracts with Fulton County for seven years. Fulton also utilizes Happy Faces in senior services and community development programming. It’s unlikely that their employees perform well in these areas and not for elections work. The attacks on this company are purely partisan, and the company should evaluate, and the Commission rather, should evaluate the company on the same criteria and the Commission rather should evaluate the company on the same criteria it evaluates all contractors. The delays in approving the funding for this contract have put our elections – the delays in approving the funding for this contract will put the Fulton County elections’ board at risk of not being staffed, and not being able to carry out our elections in November. Our elections may fall to the responsibility of cities who are not prepared for this. Early voting starts in 90 days, and we need you to approve this contract today. In April, the Commission passed a resolution against SB 202, and there was a report from the County Attorney due back in 30 days detailing any legal action the Commission can take against SB 202 to protect Fulton voters. Please make this report available to the public. Expressing similar sentiments were: Rachel Marie Bartlone, Lori Randall, Davida Denton, Lisa Skyer, and Michael Baron.”

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**REGINA WALLER:** “The next set of comments are in support of the American Rescue Plan. My name is April Shepperson. I am a resident of Fulton County in District One. I support Happy Faces personnel who worked the polls for the last election. I support the maximum of a one hour of public comment time, and I am against appointment of Mike Bodker to the Development Authority of Fulton County. I would like to elaborate on my support of the implementation plan for the American Rescue funds that Commissioner Abdur-Rahman submitted that was approved months ago. Fulton residents need these funds now. Do not continue to block what could be a life line for our community based on biases and political jockeying. Vote yes today. Thank you. Others who support similar comments are Andrew Randall of Fulton County District One, and Melody Kelley of Fulton County District Two.”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “The next comment is in support of Board public comment. The comment is from Adam Borneman. I’m happy to see that the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting a majority of the Commissioners agreed to keep in-person, virtual zoom and written comment permanently and not only because of the pandemic. I request that you provide at least one hour of comment to accommodate these methods. If you only offer 30 minutes, it’s possible that in-person and Zoom comments could take up that whole time leaving the already shortened version of written comments out of the session. I am confident that a maximum of one hour will easily accommodate all three forms of public comment and if written comment is cut off after one hour at least some of the written comments will have been read. Also, echoing similar comment is Rachel Marie Bartlone.

**REGINA WALLER:** “The next comment is fighting voter fraud. My name is Leslie Mullis and I am a Sandy Springs resident in Fulton County District Two. I am writing today for three purposes. In the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, a majority of the Commission agreed to keep in-person, virtual Zoom, and written comments permanently, but limit the time to 30 minutes. That is not going to be enough time when there are agenda items with major impact to the citizens of our County. The ability for citizens to make public comments and have their voices heard in our governing process is a fundamental right. Not some voices, or most voices, but all voices. Limiting the comments or being too cumbersome or one it shows a lack of respect for the people you represent. The time for public comment needs to be not less than one hour. My second comment is regarding Happy Faces contract approval. There is no evidence of Happy Faces personnel being highly partisan in recent elections. Happy Faces is a minority owned business working with the state of Georgia for over 20 years and with Fulton County for seven years. The Commission is attacking and withholding approval for their contract purely for partisan reasons and is purposefully jeopardizing execution of future elections. I am greatly disappointed with the continued efforts to feed the narrative of election fraud. After two

electronic recounts, and one full-hand recount statewide, numerous law-suits filed and tossed out of court due to lack of evidence, I urge any Commissioner that is giving a voice to election fraud narratives either directly or indirectly to stop. If we want to restore the faith in our elections, then the first step is to tell the truth. There is no evidence of fraud to be found. My final comment is to ask for a yes vote for the implementation of the American Rescue dollars today. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has carefully crafted a plan to a consultation with Commissioners, Attorneys and Fulton staff to implement the very priorities that were approved in March. The plan ensures those with the greatest need will receive relief to keep their homes, keep their small businesses in operations, people keeping employed.

**DARRYL CARVER:** “The next public comment is on the library system from Donna Lawson. It would be such a pleasure for Commissioner Robb Pitts, and my servant leader for District Five, Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr., to actively participate in paying attention to a few discoveries made under their leadership within operations of our wonderful county. If time permits, I will list some findings that should be major considerations for further investigation, and an outcome report prepared immediately. First on the list is the suspicious mail that was and is circulating from the office of the County Attorney Kaye Burwell. Kaye Burwell is aware. Commissioner Arrington’s library board Chair representative D. Chip Joyner, has apparently been privileged to use the stationery of the legal department. That certainly seems unacceptable. It is my understanding that he is not an employee of the law office; however, a final determination in conclusion has not been brought forth due to the lack of delivery of a proposed certified letter. And an acceptable reasoning for Mr. Joyner. Therefore, the suspicion remains. In addition, and in brief, I believe that the Executive Director for the FCLS, Gayle Hunter Holloman and the voting library board members agreed to position our County in an ongoing and demeaning state of intentional liability concerns with insensitive patron and staff safety, and security assignments. These library board representatives and the executive director Gayle Hunter Holloman decided that the patron’s should aid in cleaning the reserved rooms in the libraries. What a set-up for frustrated patrons slash staff behavior possibilities at a minimum. In this critical time of COVID-19 and coronavirus pandemic, panic realities the energy put forth to even discuss such a threatening behavior was harmful. What kind of mindsets do we have representing the intelligence of library services? It is not welcoming as the new online video invites us to return to the facilities. What a hypocrisy of the upper managers, inclusive of but not exclusive to Rodriguez, Gillem, snotty George, et cetera.”

**REGINA WALLER:** “The next set of comments address the Hammond House. I am reaching out to ask for continued support of Hammonds House Museum in West End Atlanta. This comment is by Heidi Boykin. For the last seven years, I have served on

the Board of Trustees for the Hammond's House Museum, and I have seen the integrational impact this institution has made on the surrounding communities. Since it is the only stand-alone historic house museum in Atlanta dedicated to African-American art, my hope is that you see the importance of this wonderful institution. Hammonds House Museum has so much to give and share with your financial support it can continue to be an asset to the cultural community of Atlanta. Others with similar comments and in support: Ayisha Jefferies Cisse, and Irmara Canady."

**DARRYL CARVER:** "The next comment is on the Fulton County Development Authority from Harvey Goldberg. My name is Harvey Goldberg and I am a resident of Fulton County in District One. I am against the appointment of Mike Bodker, the mayor of Johns Creek to the Development Authority of Fulton County. During his time as mayor, he's being investigated at the direction of his own sitting Council for ethics accusations. I believe that the Development Authority is currently undergoing scrutiny for its' own issues, and it does not make sense to appoint a new member who has a similar history. As a resident of Johns Creek, I was not impressed with the lack of economic development. We have wanted a town center for some time now and it never happens while cities all around us have nice restaurants, shops, and outdoor centers. We're having trouble keeping young people in Johns Creek once they graduate in part because of the lack of economic development based on Mike Bodker's history of ethics accusations, and lack of experience in economic development, I oppose his appointment. Uttering similar comments were Carrie Smith.

**REGINA WALLER:** "The next comment addresses Board of Commissioner actions. This comment is by Sheila Hamilton. Greetings Commissioners. This public comment is sent out of frustration and much disappointment. First, the raise given to the County employees of 3.5 percent, instead of \$3,000 showed lack of appreciation for them putting their lives on the line to keep the County open during COVID-19. Second, I, along with hundreds of other Fulton County citizens want to know what does this Commission plan to do with \$20 million of our tax money awarded as pandemic funds, since you disapproved Commissioner Rahman's proposal? As I restate, are the citizens tax dollars of \$20 million. I have been coming before this board since Commissioner Bruce Bannister and never have I been so disappointed in the actions of the Fulton County Commission. The days of caring what the citizens needed, deserved, and have paid taxes for appear to be over. As a proud 48-year resident of South Fulton County, I have been forced by your past actions to call on citizens to hold this Commission more accountable by calling your offices frequently, and watching these meetings more closely. I implore this Commission to use tax dollars of the thousands of Fulton citizens that's spent to help the homeless. The rental moratorium ends July 31<sup>st</sup>. Do you even



care what will happen to the children and families who will be homeless. Commissioner Hausmann, you are a member of the Board and should hear us.”

**DARRYL CARVER:** “That was the final of the e-mail public comments.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. Thank you very much. Madam Clerk.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 9, County Manager's items under open and responsible government, **21-0511**, presentation of COVID-19 operational response update.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Mr. Manager.”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Yes Sir, Mr. Chairman, and good morning Commissioners. As we’ve done in previous meetings, I’ll provide a summary, but today I’m going to ask Matt Kallmyer if he’s coming to the podium; Anna Roach, Sharon Whitmore to summarize some of the major sections. So, we will not be going through every slide, but we are going to spend a little bit more time because there are some significant changes from the last report. The most significant change is the sustained rise in cases, hospitalizations due to the Delta variant. Also, with 99.5 percent of all COVID admissions coming from un- vaccinated individuals in Fulton County the urgency to make progress on our vaccination strategy is paramount. The vaccination strategy shift to a mobile centric model is fully implemented with about 2000 per day in capacity. We have ten mobile units touching 40 locations every week and we've been administered 35,000 vaccines from those mobile units as a part of the over 500,000 vaccines Fulton County has administered from our sites. We continue to lead with 61 percent of all adults 18 and over with at least one shot. We also have 51 percent of all eligible with one shot. But we still have a race equity gap and that remains the focus of our communications as well as our mobile sites and you'll see significant take rate from people of color in the information that we provided to you. We're also excited today to report on the progress of our emergency rental assistance program. Now having completed a review of 80 percent of the applications, we have an operational model that will allow us to fully distribute the total funds; not just the first tranche in the next several months, and we plan a second phase opening August the 2<sup>nd</sup>. So, we now believe that we have an operational model that's working quite well and better than any that we’re aware of. And most significant use case in the overall plan that is before you is the court backlog case. I just traded messages this morning with Chief Judge Brasher, who we have his full support for this plan having met with him a week or so ago and the expense projection for that plan now is \$75 million more than the \$61 million that our initial estimates were which is an increase of \$14 million. The vaccination program also has an increase of \$14 million because we anticipate going well beyond the September 30th date when all of those costs were fully eligible for reimbursement by FEMA. These



three cases, the emergency rental assistance, vaccinations, and the court backlog represent over \$140 million and close to half of all of the funds that are in our program. They also hit the three pillars of health response, operational stability, and community support. We have lowered our reserve amount to \$46.9 million and made adjustments to other programs to accommodate these most recent changes. But it shows clearly early in a three year plus cycle that being financially prudent would argue for maintaining some reserve. Also, I think it's prudent to realize that again unlike CARES, this is a multiyear program. We have expended though however, \$33.7 million to date. We've begun the project work up which is our code name for the court reduction program, the recruitment the technology orders, and the space selection. The VACs-Up Campaign that hopefully you've seen and certainly we believe our citizens are seeing is being implemented. I've already talked about the mobile sites being fully operational. Our CSP contracts which is one of our primary efforts in the community are now being reviewed for sub-recipient terms; this is a term of ours that the federal government places upon providers if they are doing a lot of the service to the public and not just functioning as a contractor; so, we can address that and I'm sure Kaye Burwell can help explain that requirement. And, of course last, our employee performance payment, much appreciated and improved by the Board was made in the last week and an additional vaccination incentive program is being finalized. If you walked in the front door this morning, you would also see a vaccination site which we have established here at 141 Pryor. So, in addition to that, what we are now really focused on and have provided in your document is a summary of each one of the programs with KPIs current status and next steps, and this does recommend represent our recommendation in senior staff for the plan before you. We've received feedback that you'd like to see more speed and progress and we're fully committed to doing so. We continue to meet daily at the very senior levels to clear obstacles that come up in this plan. We also meet twice weekly in a joint structure with the Board of Health and Emergency Management to review progress. We have a very intense focus on vaccinations, court backlog, and ERAP as I said, as well as many other efforts as we're now returning to normal operations. But most of the planning and the preclearance work has now been done so, it's focus on execution going forward. And we plan to publish dashboards at an overall level as well as at each program level to allow you to track progress, but also the public. And I have fundamentally no doubt that Fulton County will continue to lead in all dimensions of COVID response while remaining in compliance with the federal guidelines. So, Mr. Chairman, if it's acceptable again we will have Matt very briefly pick a couple of slides, Anna Roach pick a couple of slides, Sharon, pick a couple of slides. We also have Jessica available for any comments on communications, Dr. Roshell on ERAP and Alton Adams on project work. So, we are very much at your pleasure in terms of covering the rest of this."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you Mr. Manager. Mr. Kallmyer.”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** “Good morning Commissioners. Matthew Kallmyer, Emergency Management. Instead of picking one or two slides, I just want to go ahead and touch on some statistics that are very important for everyone. You heard the County Manager initially stated, I want to pause here and go ahead and make sure this resonates with everyone. According to the department of public health over the last two months 99.5 percent of all hospitalizations have been due to people that have been un-vaccinated. 99.7 percent of all fatalities have been due to people that are not vaccinated. Let me repeat that again. 99.5 percent of all hospital admissions are from people that are not vaccinated. 99.7 percent of all fatalities are due to people who are not vaccinated. Please let that go ahead and resonate for a second. Since the tracked information continues to show that 85 percent of our new COVID infections are reporting in areas with the lowest vaccination rates; we’re trying to do what we can to get those mobile crews out there to address those. And we are starting to see some progress on our equity programs, and you’ll see that on the slides in the deck that you have. What is a concern, seven-day averages; they are starting to go up. Our hospitalization numbers are up 68 percent excuse me 68; cases are up to 52, and our percent positive rate is creeping up close to the three percent. It’s still in a place where we can actually use our epidemiologists to continue to do contact tracing, but it is getting something of a concern; the Delta variant is something that we are watching. Please make sure you look at the death rate inside there. While it is down, please remember we told you in the past it is a lagging indicator. Three to four-weeks later is when we start seeing some changes when it comes to fatalities. Leaning to our vaccination efforts, when it comes to the percent of individuals, the County Manager said that 18-years and older, 61 percent of our population has received one dose. Theirs eligible for that as well as 57 percent are fully vaccinated. So, we’re continue to go, we’re continuing to look through the data the state department of public health and continue to raise that number for us as they refine the information that they have inside their systems. So, we are continuing to see increases in that every time they have made updates. Our fixed and mobile program has vaccinated over 512,000 excuse me, done over 512,000 vaccines administered, and our mobile programs about 35,000 thus far. When it comes to our 12 to 29-year-old group which is the actually, the majority of under vaccinated individuals in our community, we’re starting to see 41 percent of those individuals taking advantage of the vaccination. GICC did close. I wanted to go ahead and pause here for a second to thank the city of College Park and their Mayor, for the gracious generosity that they actually had opened that facility to us to be able to support the businesses of South Fulton. We were able to vaccinate 66,138 individuals at that site, and we’re actually had a very good partnership with CHOA, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta to go ahead and vaccinate the youth through that program as well. With the

closing of that, we wanted to make sure there was still another opportunity for those people in the areas of South Fulton to take advantage of vaccinations; so, we opened the site at the Stonewall Tell Road 5710 which is across the street from the Annex. We are open Tuesday through Saturday as well as we have some evening options as well until 8 pm at night, and all that information can be found on the County's website, the VAX's up page that Ms. Corbitt monitors and manages. One thing that I wanted, the last two things on the school system excuse me I just wanted to highlight that so Atlanta public schools we have actually have a partnership with them to vaccinate their contractors, faculty, staff, and students. On 38 schools during the week of August 9<sup>th</sup>, so we'll be going around to different locations they're welcoming us into their programs. Of parents actually go ahead and sign the waiver form for their children in the school systems will go ahead and allow the children to be vaccinated during the school day as well as any other adults that come throughout the school day to take advantage of that. With Fulton County schools, we're actually partnering with them to have Banneker High school and North Springs High school on Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup>, to go ahead and offer vaccinations to their community as well. So, I'll pause here for any questions."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I have a question."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Where are we as far as our rate for communities of color; what is the percentage that we have successfully been able to vaccinate."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** "So on slide, I believe it is nine inside your deck, Ma'am, you'll actually see the percent vaccination that we have actually had over a couple weeks period, and the data is still slowly coming in. But you'll see that when it comes to the most recent category for there, it looks like we are actually and I apologize for my poor eyes, almost 30 percent for the African-American community during that time, our Asian community just shy of 10 percent and our Latino community about 6 percent, Ma'am, and they are still other unknowns that we're waiting to get categorized from the states data."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And so, I do have a concern, and I'm open to any obstacles that you all may be having. I've been looking at the tracking of this for the last 90 days, and it does not look as though we getting a lot of tracking on it as far as communities of color. So, I am concerned as to what we are doing as Fulton County. Is it working; is it not working; or are we taking the opportunity to think outside the box because I have had mayors as well as city Council people especially in that city of the South Fulton corridor. Even though I am excited that we do have it at the Stonewall Tell

but driving them there to Stonewall Tell seems to be a challenge. And so, I just would like to know based on your information, what's working and what's not working."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** "Well I will say there's one thing that you just said that actually causes me to have a little bit of excitement. If there is people that are telling you they want to go ahead and have vaccinations, please help us. We're seeing a drop in the amount of individuals that want to sponsor us to have mobile vaccination sites. It's very confusing to us. We think that some people may have gotten to the point of fatigue or just think that we're past this. We're not. So, if there are people that are coming to your office, please pass that along to us, and I'll do my best to reach out to your chief of staff to find out some of those locations, but we agree with you. The only way we're going to move this needle is actually getting the trucks to these locations where people are actually doing other activities and catching them along the way. So, while this data that we're showing you today includes a lot of the state data, there's a lot of things that we have from our mobile program that we can actually share with you and your office that show a little different story of how we are actually getting a larger portion of our Black and Brown communities actually meeting targets with that program; so, I'd love to be able to show that to your team."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I appreciate that. I offer and accept a collaboration because I think often times in the African-American community, we have to take it to them. You are competing with misinformation, you're competing with individuals that are getting information off of the Internet, you're competing with informations who are scared. I have actually had people from all districts to call and ask me about their children. Ask should they get their children vaccinated. And so, I'm more than happy to be accommodating. I just think that we may be at a lull, but that is my perception with the African-American community. We may need to work just a little bit harder, but thank you all for all the work that you all do."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** "Thank you Ma'am. I look forward to working with your team."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "All right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yes, just a quick question for Mr. Kallmyer. I think I saw some numbers the other day, and I think those were state numbers for kind of like the top three sort of age categories, I don't remember what the breaks were. And it looked like basically you know kind of the state of Georgia and like 85 and up and I think may be going down to about 65 that the vaccine rate percentage uptake was in excess of

like 80, 85 percent for each of those categories. Do you have the numbers and that those sort of top three bands for Fulton County?”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** “I’ll have to go ahead and refer back to my notes. I don’t believe I have that with me Sir. I do apologize but I’ll provide that to you.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay, I mean it just they’re 61 percent and 57 percent that we’re showing is significantly higher than sort of the state percentages, correct? You know, so certainly that’s a very positive sign. I guess you know kind of we’re thinking about -- you noted I guess that the 12 to 29 group is -- that’s where we’re trying to specifically really concentrate our efforts in addition to you know our initiatives around communities of color, correct?”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** “Yes Sir.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay.”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** “So, slide 11, Sir, did have a snapshot of the states dashboard, but if you look at our third bullet point on there, you’ll see our higher numbers. So, when the state does report their numbers, they look at the total population. They don’t look at the eligible population. So, that’s something we always try to show case to y’all is the eligible population. This is what we’re trying to meet.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “All right. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Vice Chair Hall.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question about the seating arrangements because we were originally seated in a different way, as far as our Commissioners, staff, and County executives. And so, with the numbers dropping and we took the barriers down between ourselves and everything. When are we moving back to the original seating arrangements for the County executives, and County Commissioners staff? Is that a question for – in the BOC meeting -- is that a question for Mr. County Manager.”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Yes, Ma'am. Could we, if we could, we have the next session being reopening and we are going to discuss an incident within our employees and I think it would be appropriate at that time to discuss all of the BOC directives across the board.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Thank you. I appreciate that.”

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Other questions?”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** “Mr. Chairman, may I, Ma'am I forgot to go ahead and ask you to remember that was slide 14 that I want to just direct you and your team's attention to, so you'll see that is specifically for our mobile efforts right there in the African-American community. Once again with our mobile team 45.10 percent of what we're actually reaching with that particular effort. So, the mobile effort is doing much better than what we're seeing at some of our fixed sites. We're really looking at does it make sense to keep as much resources at our fixed locations or put it more towards our mobile effort. So, we have an additional 3 Street teams that the Board of Health has put out in downtown Metro area that are actually just foot soldiers getting out there touching people trying to have get them to understand why it's important, and then we also have our ten mobile units that are out there in the community as well. So, that's why we'll be able to go ahead and answer some of the questions that you just poised to me, Ma'am.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Thank you. I appreciate it.”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA:** “Yes Ma'am, sorry Mr. Chairman.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Anything else? If not, Madam COO.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Slide 23, please. So, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, as the manager stated we'll hit a couple of highlights in the reopening's section. As you can see, we are still trending green on our reopening indicators and gating criteria for reopening although we are still at a downward trajectory of our seven-day average of positive cases. As Matt stated, there are some concerning news around the rising cases over the last several weeks, as well as some unknowns with the variant. But we are comfortable that we are proceeding all be it with caution, but we are proceeding without reopening our government. Next slide, please. We debated including the information about -- about our vaccinated employees; two in particular that did test positive for COVID-19 because we didn't want to discourage anyone from becoming vaccinated, but I think thanks to Matt who reiterated the point that vaccination works. And the most important thing to take away from that is that while it's not a hundred percent solution to our COVID-19 pandemic, it is effective. And it is effective against hospitalizations and death for those who choose to be vaccinated. All that said, we did have an incident where vaccinated employees did become positive that did create some concern within our operating departments and so, DREAMS response was to immediately implement a mask requirement for its employees -- I don't



want to get into what kind of situation we will get in if we lose a huge component of our Department of Real Estate and Asset Management who serves us on a daily basis. And so, for their protection we have asked that they go back to requiring masks when they are interacting with the public. And so, in terms of our countywide response, we are going to also implement a mask requirement for our employees' protection when they're in common areas and they are interacting with the public. We'll hear more about increased incentive efforts as a part of that County response as well. And then we will be using our communication tools to reinforce social distance practicing for the safety of our employees. If you could go to slide 27. I'd also just like to take a moment to highlight our before and after of our employee wellness incentive program for vaccination within our employee population. Kenneth Hermon and his team are leading this effort. And as you can see our applications have increased to 2,560 for today's report. At the last meeting it was a 2291 which is a change of 269 applications. So, progress there. That progress is also reflected in the approved applications which is at 2,353 today. At our last Board meeting, it was at 2,102, and that brings our overall known vaccinated percentage to 52 percent of our employees as a result of their participation in this incentive program. And that is up 5 percent from the last time we reported it. It was at 47 percent. Next slide, please. I just wanted to touch on this slide to make you aware Commissioners that we're in our final phase of reopening. Our most significant highlight from that is our senior centers. On July 12th, opened for in-person services at our facilities on an appointment basis; and that went very well. Happy to report that. And there are several slides within the deck that provide updates on activities -- reopening activities within that phase 4 reopening category as well. If you could just go to slide 32 please. And the final highlighted point that I'd like to make is around emergency rental assistance Commissioners. We had a total of about 10,000 good applications -- or total applications that we ended up with overall in emergency rental assistance. And I'm truly proud to report that at this point, we have adjudicated through our efforts 8,282 of those cases. And that represents approximately 7.36 million in payments made from our allocation to constituents for utility and rental assistance. And we look forward to bringing the remaining 1,762 applications to a close within the next one to two weeks, and that represents a significant surpassing of our original target of it taking eight weeks to complete review of the submitted applications. And all of that information is good, but it's a lot of numbers; but I think it's quite nicely illustrated on this line chart which shows the significant improvement in the number of disbursements for that program made since we implemented our improvement plan which became fully implemented on June 21st when all of the additional resources became in place. The last thing I'd like to say on this particular slide is that what's not reflected is tomorrow's payment -- Thursday's payment which is projected to be at this point approximately \$2.2 million worth of the emergency rental and utility assistance



paid tomorrow and that'll be our highest number to date. We've been trending at approximately \$1.1 million per week. And for the first time will be at 2 million so proud to report that uptake to the Board of Commissioners. Next slide please. And so finally, just wanted to provide the Board of Commissioners a preview of our plans for emergency rental assistance 2 affectionately called ERAP2. We are moving to a primarily outsource model for ERAP2. If you recall the pillars that we outlined for you and we originally described ERAP1 included the application, several steps within the adjudication portion, and then payments being the final section of our implementation plan. Well, we do plan to retain the application portion of that continuum, but we do plan to outsource the remainder of it. We've found from our experience with ERAP1 that where we saw much of the delay was in the actual adjudication as well as some portions of the payment process, and we believe that an outsource model as reflected by the improvements that we put in place over the last several weeks is a better way for us to deploy the funds in ERAP2. And so, we are in the process of working with purchasing to finalize the procurement for provider in that regard, but most significantly we plan to reopen our application portal on August 2nd. It is eagerly anticipated by our constituents who continue to be in need, and so we are going to work to transition vast majority of the lift to our provider, but we will plan to open the portal on August 2nd. What I have challenged the staff to do is expend the funding that has been received already from ERAP2 within 60 to 90 days. And we're going to be working diligently to even outperform that target. And when I refer to the funding that we have in hand already, specifically, we received a total – or we're anticipating receiving a total of \$42 million dollars from the federal government for emergency rental assistance, 8 million was from the consolidated appropriations act, and another \$24 million was from the American Rescue Plan. What we have in hand is the \$18 million from the consolidated appropriations act, and another \$10 million from the American recovery act, so a total of \$28 million. And I am really going to be targeting expending that \$28 million within 60 to 90 days. And so that's our projection, and again I'm proud to report our progress on emergency rental assistance. Mr. Chairman, with that, I'm open to any questions and we have the rest of the team here."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right thank you Madam COO. Vice Chair Hall, Commissioner Hausmann, and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. I thought you had some questions?"

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** I already spoke. I was never removed after I spoke."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I thought you wanted – okay, I thought you had a question you wanted to ask when she gave her report. They asked you to wait. That's it. You're done?"

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, all right, Commissioner Hausmann.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. Okay, so you just reported that we have 28 million in this category for rental assistance in house at the moment, correct.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “So far.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “And we have distributed to those in need of rental assistance how much.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Just over \$7 million Commissioner.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “All right. And then the costs we have incurred to develop this process and do the work what is that figure?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “So far, we have our allocation of \$18 million. We did use the percentage that is allowed by the federal government for administration, but we also incurred additional expenses to expedite the adjudication. And so, as a team we decided that \$5 million worth of allocation from the American recovery funds would also be added to the \$2.5 million in administration from the 18.

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** All right. So, my quick math says that we have -- and I'm terrible at math, so on-the-fly. So, what do we have left in that category, the rental assistance bucket.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “What is remaining for administration, or what is remaining—”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “In total to utilize.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “So, if you take the \$7 million dollars from the 16 that we had that was outside of it approximately \$8 million.

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “18 million.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Yes.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Okay. So, are you finding that we're having more success with the current process -- I guess I should ask it this way; how many applications have been approved out of the ones we received.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “So, the total number of cases that were paid is 1,296. We had a significant number of cases that were either out of County, or within the city of Atlanta. That number was 6,305.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Okay. And then, what is it, we have about a thousand left you said?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “That’s correct 1,296.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Okay. One of the things that was discussed at length at NACO , was the treasury's willingness to take comments. Are we supplying those comments, with what we face with trying to organize this to treasury?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “So, I wouldn’t say that we've had a direct communication with NACO, but we are escalating our concerns about adjudication and the compliance requirements to several stakeholders. We participate in a regional discussion led by the ARC. Those concerns have been articulated to that group which consist of the 11 direct recipients of those funds. I've also communicated directly our concerns with the state DCA, and more importantly we have talked with the offices of Senator Ossoff, as well as the offices of Senator Warnock, and discussed our concerns directly with their staff.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Okay, well that's great I would also request that you do go directly to the treasury website. I believe the deadline is tomorrow to make those comments, but they are very interested in the experiences of counties throughout the country. We’re in a as you know not the only one’s facing these issues, and they're willing to take a hard look at making some adjustments, if necessary, but I think it’s important that we participate in that process directly rather than going through outside partners and not miss the window which I do believe closes tomorrow.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Yes, ma'am.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Okay. I may have another question in a moment. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Yes, Madam COO. Is the application process is closed, correct?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “For now, yes, Ma'am.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** When did it close?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “It closed on April 15th.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “And what percentage did we have processed and paid out at the time that it closed.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “I’m sorry, March 15<sup>th</sup>. We were open from March 1 to March 15th.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “And what percentage of the applications at the time that it closed – what percentage of the applications were either fully processed or in process?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “On the date that the application’s closed, I’d have to go back and look. I’m not sure what percentage were adjudicated at that time on March 15th.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “I mean we were in the process of collecting them. They had been received within our system, but I don’t know on that date how many we had evaluated at that time.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** And so, at this time even though we don’t know what percentage at the time that we closed that had been processed or in process; what percentage now do we have that are done? I just want, for transparency sake, if you can repeat that for me.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Absolutely Commissioner. Again, we had approximately 10,000 applications and we have adjudicated 8,282. Now again that includes those that have been approved and paid, those that have been denied, those that have been withdrawn as well as those that are duplicated. So that is the total number of cases that there has been a decision on one way or the other.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. So, we stopped taking applications -- we closed it out March 15<sup>th</sup> is that what you said?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Yes, Ma’am.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “We closed it out March 15<sup>th</sup> and today is July 14th?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Yes, Ma’am.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “And we have approximately almost 2,000 applications that need to be processed or in process?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Correct. And we do anticipate that it will be completed within the next week or two.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Within the next week or two. Okay. And so, the amount that we’ve had -- and give me that amount, I’m not real good with math just like my comrade here -- that amount that has been approved is what now?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Yes, Ma'am. So, the amount that has been paid to constituents to date is \$7,368,000.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. And so that seven -- that amount that has been paid ultimately was for applications that was taken up until March 15th?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “That's correct.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “It's no applications that have been taken in since March 15th, correct.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “That's correct. And we're very eager to reopen the portal on August 2nd.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Let me ask you this. First of all, let me commend because I have -- the thing that I do like about the effectiveness of my office, I have constituents that call, and they e-mail and they say hey, I’ve gotten approved. So, I commend you all's office for that. Right now, where are we in trying to close the gap, so to speak, and from the time that they apply for it, to the time that is ultimately approved -- now I know it's a lot of factors that come into place, but if you can just kind of give us an overview of where we were versus where we are now.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “I am going to ask Dr. Roshell to help me answer that question because she lives and breathes this on a daily basis. But I will say in addition to the improvements that we have put in place that will essentially guarantee a quicker adjudication process; I also want to highlight the fact that we have lots of learnings from the administration of ERAP1. And now, we'll leave our application portal open longer because what we've realized from the original set of applications is that many were not good applications. And so, we got through them very quickly, and learned that we shouldn't have been nervous about the 15,000 applications because the quality of them weren't as good as we thought they was. But that is the learning and we'll correct that going forward but things like that are equally important as the actual

proactive steps that we've put in place as a part of our improvement process, but I'll let Dr. Roshell get a chance to tell you what she and her team has been doing."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, thank you."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** "Good morning. Pamela Roshell, Deputy Chief Operating Officer. Commissioner, one of the primary factors that has allowed us to see this significant spike in our ability to adjudicate the applications quicker is simply manpower. We've had the 70 additional reviewers that were added on June 21st. We have had the ability to use some of the proxies for our income, and some of the other improvements that we've just learned along the way. And so, and some of it is just training that when this process started no one in the country had ever run this particular program against this set of guidance and principles. So, all of those factors taken together have given us the confidence in the ability to simply get through the applications quicker. We've also done much more by way of outreach to constituents following up with them in between time. So, for example, they're given a certain number of days to present their information back to us. We've taken much more time to continue to follow-up with them to ask if there are other ways we can help. We have contacted the magistrate's office who has been really a great partner in trying to mitigate an unnecessary eviction. And so, all of those factors taken together, has really helped the team to see the improvements that we have seen."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you. So, my hope is that since we have been closed to taking applications, when we start back taking applications, it sounds to me that the process will be a little bit more streamlined. And like you all have said, even with the quote good applications because you know good applications to you or I may be different to someone else. And so, I want to continue to partner with you all and give you feedback. My biggest concern when we were back in March was the length of the process that it was taking. And we know that the moratorium ending, and we may have more that are displaced. I know personally for me my objective is to not only -- you all have what I consider good applications, but a more streamlined time which it looks like you all are doing. So, thank you, for that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anyone else at this time?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, Mr. Chair."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I want to ask about mortgage assistance. I know we going to be getting eviction rentals starting back up on August 2nd. Will mortgage assistance be running alongside that?"

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “So, it’s a good question Commissioner. The CFO and I were just whispering about whether or not we had gotten information from DCA about the \$300 million they received for mortgage assistance. And we have not gotten any guidance on how they plan to implement that program. They are having public hearings it looks like at this point, but we haven’t gotten any guidance on how that funding will be implemented at this time. We have not begun any mortgage assistance from the American Recovery Plan in Fulton County. Primarily, because of what we’ve seen happen with emergency rental assistance. The guidance is very clear that we are prohibited from duplicating funding. And so, there’s a lot of complication with the state having a set of funds on ERAP, Fulton having a set of funds and the inability for us to basically ensure that we’re not duplicating funding. So, what we want to make sure we do prior to implementing a Fulton County mortgage assistance program, is somewhat being lockstep or at least be fully aware of what the state government is doing with their funding so we don’t provide duplicate awards to recipients.”

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Anyone else? So just a quick question Madam COO -- an observation, more than a question. You know at the height of the pandemic we were following the science; and the science, now, seems to be suggesting that we’re -- things are going up, getting worse. And the worst maybe yet to come; is that accurate? Am I interpreting what I’m hearing accurately?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Yes, I wish, Matt were still here. I do believe that --”

**DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH:** “I’m here.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Oh, hey Dr. Paxton. Thank you for that.”

**DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH:** “[Inaudible.] still very low. We are definitely seeing an uptick, not only in the US, and in Georgia and those back states which are really getting the brunt of this, like Missouri and Florida and some others. But we are seeing an uptick now in our own case rates. Our percent positivity rate is now rising a little bit, to somewhere around the 2 percent rate, which is better than it was in the past, but still worrisome. It’s also estimated that the Delta variant, which you’ve all probably heard about, which is the more transmissible, and arguably, more dangerous variant is rising in the state. The latest estimate that I heard yesterday was that it probably accounts from somewhere right now about a third of all the infections taking



place in Georgia. We don't have confirmation of that yet, but it is rising very precipitously. So that combination of things is all very worrisome. It means that we need to stay on our toes because we are a ripe -- we are a set up for, you know, resurgences most particularly among the unvaccinated, as Matt has pointed out to you. It is the unvaccinated that are really suffering from this and we can expect to keep on suffering."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, if that's the case, I mean, should we be basically maintaining the status quo, or should we become more aggressive again with respect to who comes into this building? Require everyone to wear a mask No. 1; and No. 2, should we be more aggressive with respect to our employees? I just heard this morning, where hospitals are now requiring, not asking, not pleading -- their employees if you want to work here, you're going to be vaccinated, otherwise you don't have a job. That may be a little extreme, but I'd rather be more aggressive at this point."

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "We're certainly taking a more aggressive posture with employees for the protection of our workforce, and still in the spirit, honoring the Board's action that was taken at the last meeting. You know, part of the complications is, you know, the CDC says one thing about mask --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--well, excuse me one second."

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But for the Board's action, what would you be positioned to do?"

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "But for the Board's action, I think that we would be well served in continuing with a mask requirement. The temperature taking is something that our Board of Health has told us is not effective, so I support eliminating that. But I don't see anything wrong with a mask requirement, particularly, for the protection of our workforce."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'll come back. Commissioner Hausmann."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Well, what we passed was to follow the CDC guidelines, which does require that if you're not vaccinated, you should still wear a mask. If you're vaccinated, you don't have to, so I think we have a good handle on which employees have been vaccinated—"

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "--we do not, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "--we certainly know which ones got the incentive—"

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "--we do not. The Department of Human Resources receives that information and holds it very tightly because of the fact that it contains medically sensitive information. I do not have access to his list, and it is an honor system that we are on with respect to people -- people's choice to wear a mask. We can assume that those who are masked are vaccinated because that's the rule. But we actually do not know. I've heard anecdotally, from Dr. Paxton that even in her office, she is aware of unvaccinated individuals who don't wear mask, and had to address it there, so—"

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "—okay, if I recall too that we required that if you were in a health division in the County then you would still be wearing a mask. That is being enforced, correct?"

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "Yes Ma'am, that's correct."

**DR. LYNN PAXTON, DIRECTOR, FC BOH:** "—Commissioner Hausmann, just to specify on that. What we required was upon people who were in the clinical parts of the health department would have to wear masks. I was talking about people I have seen in the nonclinical area -- the office area who I knew were unvaccinated were not wearing a mask and had to be told to go put their mask back on."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Okay. Thank you for that, Dr. Paxton. So, the report that Mr. Kallmyer gave us with the, I believe 97 and a half percent of those hospitalized are not vaccinated. And the death rate was 99.5 -- I'm saying that oppositely. Only .5 of those vaccinated have had a death situation; is that correct?"

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "Yes, Ma'am, that's what Matt --"

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "--okay. So again, were trying to incentivize our community. One of those incentives of course would be to go back to normal life, and not have to wear a mask. And so, I can certainly appreciate the sensitivity of knowing officially, who has been vaccinated or who is not. What is the percentage that we have given of our employees that the incentive bonus? We do know that figure, correct?"

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "I believe it's at 52 percent. Kenneth, do you know that?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF, HRO:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "So, then you could assume on that data that almost half of our employees should be still wearing a mask to work."

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Okay, is that happening.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “I don't know the answer to that question. And again, there's no way for us to verify whether or not the person who has a mask on is the vaccinated versus not.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “And I hear you. I think it's incumbent upon us to communicate to the employees that if they are not vaccinated, they must wear a mask, and if they don't, they are significantly accelerating the risk factors. But to penalize those that have done it I have a problem with that. I think that there has to be a gradual way that we can resume our normal life, and one of the benefits of getting a vaccination is to no longer be required to always wear a mask. Certainly, understand hospital settings are different, health clinic settings are different; but to penalize those that have gone to the lengths of taking the vaccine versus emphasizing to those that have not the risks, I think is not a fair situation at all. And it doesn't send the right message that we believe in the vaccine because I think we do.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “I certainly agree with you that we do Commissioner. I might phrase it differently than penalizing the employees it's really for their own benefit which was the reason we put the example in the slide deck about the vaccinated employees who did become positive. It is not a hundred percent solution and this is really for everyone's benefit. And again, I think you are correct in that we might want to consider not doing it in certain areas. In other words, where there are fewer than three people in a room, or certain areas with safe. But again, we believe that for our employee's safety, wearing a mask is a minimum requirement that would protect them in the workplace from becoming infected.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Well, I do think that data that we got today about the significant impact -- positive impact to getting the vaccine on anyone perhaps would get the COVID virus is something that we should strongly be communicating not only to our employees, but to the public. I think that's really good information. But I do think that if we're going to continue to encourage people to get the vaccine, they definitely need to understand the benefits. And those that decide to take the risk should take appropriate precautions. I just think if -- we should not add to the mixed message that the vaccines work. And if we go back to requiring people to wear masks throughout our building, we're going back to a mixed message. We're not, we're not sending the message vaccine works. And that people should take advantage of the opportunity to get one.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I agree with my colleague in this case. Because at some point, if we're truly trying to get back to normalcy; and I'm fully vaccinated, but there are businesses or situations that I go in, and I put my mask on. Even though I am fully vaccinated. And so, I hear what the Chairman is saying. I am concerned the numbers are going up, but at some point, I think we have to leave some of these to self-discipline because we're never going to get back to normal what that is to anyone's purview; but I'm afraid that I feel like we're sending mixed messages. And so, I would offer that the message we send is what percentage of that are not vaccinated, that are hospitalized, that are losing their lives; and, you know, if you are vaccinated it's okay to put a mask on. I mean I wouldn't put it in that laymen of terms, but what I'm saying is I think as a Body here, we have a duty to try to be as crystal-clear as we can on a message to the public while also understanding that we need to allow self-discipline. One only needs to look in this room, ourselves, we have people wearing masks, we have people that are not wearing masks; so, I think at some point, if we are truly trying to get back to a normal society, we need to put clear concise information out there, and allow the individual to hopefully do what they need to determine what would be best for their situation. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Vice Chair Hall.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I was approached by many of my constituents who they trusted that they could tell me that they were not vaccinated and they were not going to get vaccinated. And they asked that I'd be a champion for them, and speak for them in saying that their bodies belong to them. That they should not be bullied into what to do with their own bodies. They need to be able to make a decision for what they want to do. And this is a free country. This is America. It's supposed to be free. These people not only told me that they were not going to get vaccinated, but there were many of them who said that they had antibodies and they were not going to get vaccinated. And so, they have a right to do what they want. And I was reminded that there are plenty of people in America who have never been vaccinated because of their religious beliefs and other beliefs. And they are not going to get vaccinated because of that. So, I agree that we do need to mask up to keep people safe. The vaccinated can carry the virus and be asymptomatic, but pass it onto others who are not vaccinated. And so, I think that's why it's important. If the doctors' offices think it's important to mask up, I think that we should see the importance in that. They are the doctors. So, let's keep everyone safe.”

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah, I'll be brief. Just in listening at this, just the thought came to mind just offer up for consideration you can do with it what you want to do with

it. You know, we've come out with a policy that's consistent with CDC guidance, and you know largely in line with what you know everybody else is doing. Our vaccination rates, I guess, that we know of you know with our employee base is about 52 percent. One suggestion is to have a memo come out from the County Manager go to all employees, get a read receipt stating what our policy is; if you're vaccinated, you're not expected to wear a mask, but it is our policy if you're not vaccinated, you're expected to wear a mask. Put some of this data in here about the high rates of vaccinated, of contraction amongst the nonvaccinated so that they're aware of it. And if you choose not to wear a mask, then you're doing so at your own risk and you're putting your own self at risk. But the policy of this government is what was outlined. And just put it out there and reinforce it. And also, make the encouragement you know of folks to you know avail themselves of the opportunity to get vaccinated. So that's just a small suggestion I'd offer up for consideration."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else at this time? Commissioner Hausmann."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Yes, thank you Commissioner Ellis. Now you said a lot clearer what I was trying to say. So, if that needs to be in the form of a motion, and I'm happy to make that motion to write the memo that was just suggested by Commissioner Ellis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Was there a motion?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "If you want me to put it in the form of a motion, I can. I mean, I don't know if it needs to be, if you're just comfortable with doing it."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Well, unless you just going to tell us if you're going to act on that request."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I think we've got a great opportunity to not only do that but as soon as Kaye approves the enhanced incentive program to become vaccinated, for our employees which I think we're on the cusp of being able to doing that, we could do both; so, that we can remind them of the risk and the policy, but then restate the incentive. And of course, by providing a vaccine site right inside the front door, we can largely remove certainly for this complex here, the issue of inconvenience."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Just personally I don't think we need a motion for this based on what the County Manager just stated. I think that's something that can

be implemented without a motion. That's just my opinion I don't think we need a motion for this.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. All right. And then Madam COO, I had asked you a question regarding the, our libraries in general, but specifically about the Central library. And my question was quite direct. Is it open or is it not open, because I'm hearing that different groups are having events there, and scheduling events; is that true or not true? If it's open, we need to know, and the public needs to know.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “So the Central library is not open. We are planning for a late September reopening of Central library. At this point, we do have a certificate of occupancy for the Central Library; however, the facility hasn't been commissioned yet by our PM team and that includes reviewing the installations and ensuring certain things for warranty purposes. So, no events should be taking place at the Central Library.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Should be?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Should not be taking place. However, there are employees at the Central library. There are contractors at the Central library. I believe meetings with employees have been taking place and can take place at employees, but I wouldn't -- I wouldn't say members of the public during this commissioning phase should be allowed at the Central library at this time.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. I'll double check what events I'm told has been taking place there and get back to you.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Okay. Okay.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you. Continue.”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Yes Sir. I think at this point, we're gonna ask Sharon Whitmore to overview the plan financials.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Thank you, Mr. Anderson. If we could go to slide 36, please. I plan to just review two slides and then hand it off to Mr. Adams to share with you some information on the court backlog project and then to Dr. Roshell for a brief update on the additional funds to our CSP partners. The slide that is before you now is the standard summary slide that we've prepared to inform you of the allocations that we have in our consolidated COVID response plan. If you look at the planned changes column between June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>, you will see that there are a number of items identified as changes to the plan. In the emergency expense reserve fund, we've reduced the allocation that we had set aside for the payment to employees,



because the actual payment was closer to the \$10 million-dollar amount. Down in the green section of the report in the American Rescue Act funding, we have realigned some of the recommendations in order to fund the additional costs for the backlog project that Mr. Anderson spoke about in his opening remarks. We needed to increase it by 13 and a half-million dollars. We did so by reducing the funding that we had originally allocated for mortgage assistance and small business assistance. In addition to that, we had to move about 14.2 million for vaccination support out of the bucket that we had originally set aside for FEMA reimbursement as we do not expect to be able to file for reimbursement for costs that we will incur beyond the end of September of this year. And then we also identified a bucket of resources for a community vaccine incentive program as well that totaled 1.7 million. On the far – so those were the changes that we've made since our last presentation. On the far, right hand side of the slide, you'll see our year-to-date expenses in each of these categories; 13.8 million dollars from the emergency expense reserve fund; 2.3 million out of the local fiscal recovery funds from the American Rescue Act, and then 7 million dollars from ERAP1, and again this was as of July 10th. And then lastly, we have expended about 10.7 million in funds that we expect to receive FEMA reimbursement for the total of 33.7 million. And as the Manager indicated in his opening remarks, we do are still retaining a \$46.9 million dollar reserve across all of these sources of funds. And that's intended to be able to support the expenses that we're incurring currently on the vaccination program, and have been incurring should the FEMA reimbursement fall through. So, we wanted to make sure that the resources that we did designate and spend for FEMA that we had a reserve in place to cover those -- should the reimbursement not come through. The next slide that I wanted to share with you is on page 39 of the deck. So, if we could move to slide 39, please. Thank you. I just wanted we -- in the deck, we've provided an updated status report on each of the use case scenarios that were presented back in mid-April. I'm just going to run through the highlights of those. You can see the details in the deck, and I'm going to turn it over to Alton and Dr. Roshell to cover those two programs with you more in detail. And so, from a highlight's perspective, I think I've mentioned this previously, but I wanted to reiterate that we did receive the first tranche of our local fiscal recovery funds back in May. It was \$103.3 million. As I just covered with you, we've expended \$33.7 out of all of our resources that we have available for the COVID response. The court backlog project; we've commenced recruitment. We have technology acquisition, and site selections in progress. We made our employee performance payments on June 30th, the Mercedes-Benz vaccination site has concluded, and we've moved now into as Matt indicated our mobile unit deployment phase. We have also begun to implement some of our VAX-UP campaign initiatives in the community. We have the pandemic proofing consultant in place, and they have completed their initial assessment. And then Dr. Roshell and her



team are now finalizing the sub-recipient client's terms on our community service partner contracts. I mean with that Mr. Chairman, and I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to Mr. Adams, so he can share with you his slides and I think we need to move onto slide 49."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Mr. Adams."

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, PSS:** "If we can, can we back up two slides? Great, thank you. Good morning, Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Hall, Commissioners, all Madam Deputy COO's of Public Safety and Justice. There's a little bit of background and I'd like to give you a brief update on what we have dubbed project ORCA, which is our COVID-19 case backlog project. We started working on this in December of last year. When we started to look at the accumulation of the cases as a result of the closure of our court system, as you're aware, we did keep some things going via virtual – our virtual platform particularly first appearances, but in terms of actual criminal cases and jury trials, those ground to a halt. And as a result, we have a what I described as unprecedented in relation of cases that we need to get after in Fulton County. In terms of specifics, if you can go to the next page, please. And one more. Thank you. To give you a sense of scale, the total number of cases by court system approximately 34,000 for Superior Court; almost 40,000 for state; and for magistrate court 132,000 cases. So, a more than 200,000 cases that have been impacted as a result of the reduction in our ability to have trials over the last over the last 15 months. The – next slide please. The recommended approach in the way we are proceeding to address this accumulation really is twofold: 1 is a pure expansion of the capacity of the system itself. So, our plan is to add 20 additional court rooms, satellite courtroom locations, some of them are going to be satellite; some are going to be courtrooms that have been mothballed; in the court house we're going to be reopening and refurbishing. We're going to be looking at how we can maximize the existing courtroom footprint so on any given day you may have a court room where the judge is in fact not having court on that day, we're going to look to utilize that as efficiently as possible. And perhaps most significantly we're going to be adding 300 plus staff to basically stand up and expand its capacity over the next three years. And as part of that support required of the need for technology not only for these individuals, but to supply the additional court rooms that we're going to be standing up. The second part of this effort also includes some productivity improvement and enhancements to the way we do stuff today. And there are a number of those that we've already began including for example the triaging of cases, and focusing on cases that impact the jail for example or criminal cases or cases that in fact the DA wants to bring to a grand jury as quickly as possible. So, there is some triage already underway, but additionally we're going to be extending our court hours. So, we're going to be doing I'll call it evening court. I won't call it night court. But we're going to be using

some of our satellite locations in particular to address DUI cases and the like with the solicitor and the state court system. So, we in fact can rev-up our ability to deal with some of those. We're going to have some additional litigation manager training because the litigation managers at the heart, are the ones who in fact are able to manage the calendars for the judges, and allow us here again do achieve some productivity gains. And then things like improving processes and technology allows us to do things like real time case disposition by the clerk to allow us here again to approve the through put of the existing system all the while adding some additional capacity as I've described here to form. The next page talks to the budget, and as the County Manager indicated, we initially indicated it would be approximately 61.5 million. We have the numbers changed largely because there were some additional benefits that we had not anticipated in our first budget. Our current budget calls for a spend over a three-year period of over \$75 million. And 90 percent of that in the way of individuals -- people who are going to be hired and who will be with us for three years helping to address this particular situation. Every single one of our agencies is going to get enhancements -- are going to get money to be part of this process. And I think I think it's important I think to point out that in addition to having started talking about it in December of last year, we have been meeting with individuals from each one of the various agencies -- this is in fact a plan that has been developed in conjunction with representatives from all of our departments in the justice system. And in fact, it won't work if you do it any other way because you have to have the ability to have the DA for example hire investigators so she can get cases going. And then we've already started hiring jury services people, so they can start planning for the jury trials, and then at the same time, we have to make sure the public defenders have enough people so that they can go in and support the increased caseload. So, it is very much like a, I think the term we use, and probably overuse is an orchestra but for this to work, all of these instruments have to play together and work together if we're in fact going to be able to move through this the system as we're targeting. In addition to the people, we've allocated funds for technology -- that technology includes individual laptops for the individuals who are onboarding as well as technology required for the court rooms that we are in fact going to be bringing up as part of this effort. We're going to require some leasing and furnishings. Some of these are in fact place holders, so for example the leasing of furnishing is an estimate because we haven't quite finalized exactly which court rooms we're going to be doing which with. So, for example we've looked at potentially using three locations at the Central library. Well, we've got to figure out exactly how we're going to use them, and then we can figure out how we're going to use technology. We're looking at some other options in terms like I said of bringing some court rooms out of mothballs. Well some of them are going to require significant technology enhancements. Others are going to require just a little bit of work around

the edges. So, some of that is in fact work in progress, but at this point in time, some of the things that we had to do to get going, and the CFO alluded to this, we have begun the postings and we have begun the hiring for the roles that we had identified in July. And for July, we have identified 83 roles that we wanted to get after. So, we have started the postings, and we started to interviewing for those. We have in fact ordered the technology and we actually have a back field because the technology's been required -- takes 90 days right now to get the level of computers-- Dell computers that we need so we're going to backfield from the other technology that we had allocated for other purposes within Glenn's organization. And then finally, in terms of the space, we've identified the near-term space areas that we want to focus on. The six courtrooms of the existing courthouse. Some additional properties that are owned by Fulton County, and then finally at some point, we're going to be looking at some other peripheral areas that we can expand into. So that's where we are in terms of the budget, and next page, please. In terms of timeline, as I mentioned, we've started the process. We've been actively planning, and working on the implementation phase of this. I think it's fair to say that we've ramped it up since we got treasury guidance that this is something that we could move forward with, so if we are operating in warp 4, now that we're operating warp 8 in terms of getting after some of these things. Our goal is to have this entire system up and running in October. Now, we've also started other things right. So, we've already started to triaging we've already started looking at software that can help us manage the calendars as we move forward. So, I don't want to give you the impression that everything is going to happen magically in October 1. We're going to start there, and we've already started ramping up, but our goal is October 1. We want to be able to operating at the level that will allow us to start reducing these cases at the target that we've set. And finally -- next page. As part of this process both from an operational management ensuring that we in fact are tracking at the way that we want to and achieving our objectives, as well as the requirements in terms of federal reporting is part of spending these funds, we are developing a very detailed list of KPIs or we're going to try to. Those are going to be a combination of operational KPIs. In other words, how we are what are we actually doing on a day-to-day basis that allows us to keep track with the expenditures, with the number of people being hired, with the technology deployment and all the things I mentioned; but also, what we described as outcome KPIs because ultimately the measure of our success is going to be 1. Are we reducing the accumulated cases? Are we in fact starting to achieve and get closer to the core processing standards that we continue to track? And then finally, are we having an impact on the Fulton County jail population because we know that obviously we have a number of individuals in jail that have been impacted by the slowdown in the court system. So that's our current plan. Happy to stop and answer any questions or expand if you'd like."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Thank you Alton. And we will go to the questions. I’m going to skip myself in the absence of the Chair right now, and go to my colleague Commissioner Bob Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “All right. Thank you. Just a couple questions. In terms of I think really kind of the centerpiece to what we just heard really is this should be the centerpiece of use of our American Rescue Plan funds given many of the comments we've heard well as sort of clearly sort of indicators that you put up on the page about the significance of our backlog you know what that means for all of us operationally. So, I applaud the efforts on the plan that's been outlined here. Question: I know that a heavy part of this plan is going to be dependent upon getting a descent number of people onboard fairly quickly, right? So, both I guess sort of a question for our HR partners, our manager in finance, do we feel like, you know, sort of our blessing on this moving forward with this that you got what you need to you know accelerate the process, and not hit hurdles with the onboarding of people?”

**ALTON ADAMS, DEPUTY COO, PSS:** “Commissioner, if I can, before HR weighs in, I think you've identified probably the biggest risk. I think our risk is not that we won't, that we don't have enough money, for particularly for 2021. I think our biggest risk is if you read about -- we all have friends who are trying to hire people. I think our biggest risk is, can we get these 300 people hired in four months given everything that's going on. So, just to respond to that I do think that is probably one of the biggest concerns is can we in fact ramp-up at the pace that we've identified.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay, all right; but in terms of just sort of the process and that sort of thing where we've sort of thought through kind of an idea about how we can accelerate to getting people onboard?”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “Good afternoon, Commissioners. Yes, you know, we've spent a significant amount of time during these conversations with Alton and the ORCA team navigating those pitfalls that are associated with our normal hiring process. And we believe with the recent changes that we made to some procedures and with enhancements to what we're going to do with some HR support that's also going to be supporting the ORCA process that once we find the candidates for those positions, we should have no problems getting them through our system.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. You know I think going back to that slide on page 51 just kind of put that out there I guess sort of the magnitude of looking at these numbers I guess we heard things about you know kind of investments in certain areas I don't know when you put that slide back up there—”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Can we go back to slide 51 please.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Yeah, I just think this is you know these are pretty strong numbers I think for people to understand it’s not just a one-shot deal. This is a you know this is a three-year timeframe or close to three-year time frame in which we’re looking at. So, this is fairly, fairly significant and monumental you know sort of undertaking an investment in kind of all aspects of our justice system. I want to also kind of just shift back to Sharon’s presentation before Alton made his remarks. I think, you know, there’s a great overview of kind of how you’ve all gone about thinking about how we’re going to implement our response and what the different initiatives that we were going to undertake were, and as I’d indicated sort of in our last meeting, I think we’ve done a great job in terms of the process we went through with the CARES Act. And I think the way that you’ve outlined it going forward, is in line with that and if not even stronger and rather than sort of continue to add any question marks about whether or not we have a plan, I think we do have a plan. I think it’s been sort of clearly outlined here, and I’m going to move approval for the expenditure and implementation of the American Rescue Plan funds as outlined in this presentation beginning on page 36. And that the Manager bring forth adjustments and modifications to the plan as necessary based on changing needs and issues and that the progress be reported onto this board minimally once a month, and that we have discussion on it once a month. So that’s my motion. I hope that my colleagues will support that so that we can be clear to our citizens that we do have a plan and that we’re actively working it, and will be actively working it.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “I’ll second that motion.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I have a question.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, Vice Chair Hall, followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** I had a question, and Madam COO and CFO, and Mr. County Manager, you know I sent, I had an e-mail sent to you to ask you what were those areas of the overall County ARPA funding plan also called the COVID response plan, and Commission Abdur-Rahman’s resolution, and can someone please speak to what you stated so that it can be public record.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Thank you, Vice Chair Hall. The difference between the plan that’s before you today, and the resolution that was included in the add-on package are three -- three items. The first is mortgage assistance, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman’s resolution asks for \$32 million to be

directed toward mortgage assistance, it asked for a small business assistance program of \$10 million dollars, and a nonprofit rescue assistance program of \$10 million dollars. So, those were the three primary differences -- Vice Chair I wanted to say in my response to you last night for the mortgage assistance number I gave you \$22 million because that was what was on the resolution that was in posted agenda package in the version that's in the add-on package this morning is back at the \$32 million-dollar level. So, want to make sure that I clarified that with you."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. And so, what we see here on the consolidated COVID response plan, page 36, which Commissioner Ellis referenced is mortgage assistance is on here, but was it removed?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, Commissioner and the funds for it were moved into the court backlog project."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "And why was it removed."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It was moved into the court backlog project to support the increase in the increased cost estimate in the court backlog project."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Well, earlier I thought that Madam COO referenced the fact that we are prohibited from duplicating funds. And so, we're looking at the mortgage assistance from a different lens of what is the state government doing as it relates, is that correct—"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "It is. And that's as we were looking at how we could fund the additional costs of the court backlog project that was the very reason that we landed on feeling comfortable that we could shift the funds out of what we had set aside for mortgage assistance in knowing that the state has a program that they are preparing to launch."

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "Know, just at the state level of funding is over \$300 million dollars compared to our ten."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay, and is that going to directly impact Fulton County constituents? In a way that we can ensure that our constituents are taken care of as far as mortgage assistance."

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "So again Commissioner, we don't have the details of the state plan, but we expect that they have to apply this statewide because there was no like ERAP went to separate funding jurisdictions, there was not



an equivalent allocation for mortgage assistance from the federal government to individual jurisdictions in Georgia.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. So, they’re going to receive all of the money, then they have to make a determination -- they have to handle it from there? It’s not -- they’re not going to directly fund us.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “That’s correct.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. But we are going to have mortgage assistance.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “That is correct.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Just want to be clear to our listening and viewing audience. And you have small business on here for 4.5 and you removed that; can you explain that? Why was that removed?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Vice Chair, as we had our discussions around this, and we were looking at the use case plans that we had for the small business assistance program. We had not built out yet a real plan around that, and again, felt like recognizing the need for the court backlog project and the Board at the last meeting having signaled that you really wanted us to move forward with that, we felt like we could make an adjustment there. And we expect that we may see some changes as we receive reimbursement from FEMA -- we do expect to receive some reimbursement; we’re just not sure how much. And so, we expect that we’ll be able to as we receive the reimbursements free up some of what we have sitting in the contingency to put back into other programs as we move forward. So, this was our thought process around those two particular items in order to be able to support the full ask on the court backlog program.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “And also, the nonprofit rescue assistance that has no number whatsoever on it. But in the e-mail you sent me, you said \$10 million. So why is that not being addressed?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “That was not an item that we had specifically funded in our initial recommendations to the Board and so the nonprofit assistance fund has always been something that would have needed to have been additional add-on in order for us to meet the amount that was in the Commissioners resolution.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. And so, let me just make sure we’re all clear. So, there’s no stipulation on us being able to utilize this funding for small business and nonprofit organizations; is that correct; we can use this funding for that those two areas?”



**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Yes, both of those areas would be allowable uses as long as you follow the guidance around you know qualifying entities.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Well, these are two specific areas where we used CARES Act funding, and the need has become even greater because the COVID-19 pandemic hit people hard all of 2020, and continues to and people need to be rescued -- our small businesses and our nonprofits are the fabric of our communities. We know that because we give grant funding to our nonprofits to help Fulton County provide the services and programs that we provide to the community. They enhance us. So, I would like to see those things actually in the plan. I don't want to see them removed or not addressed at all. They need to be in the plan, so I would like to offer a friendly amendment for us to at least continue to have those things in this plan. So that we can address them. I think that's to as well as arts absolutely you know what I forgot all about the arts. I thought I saw it somewhere but absolutely the arts. We're going to address some of that today as well.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “If you listen to what I was just go back a piece of what I said, was for the Manager to bring forth adjustments and modifications to the plan as necessary based on changing needs and issues and I certainly have no problem if the Manager wants to bring forth for us those recommendations related to nonprofits or the arts or small business you know as the opportunity for the types of programs emerge they could be brought before us and the funds are available you know I certainly think we should entertain those, so—”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “And Commissioner Arrington your mic is off. Commissioner Arrington said and veterans. I agree as well. And are the youth in here? I see childcare, but are the youth in here anywhere because we need to make sure we address the youth. We want to make sure our plan is comprehensive in everything that we do.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “One thing I will note, Commissioner Hall is that we—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Will you speak up a little bit please.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “—we did in our \$8 million dollars associated with our safety net services for CSP you know a number of those programs are specifically oriented around youth. And so it is, you know as well as some of the other groups that we're talking about, so there are things that are built into there.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I forgot we did allocate that extra funding.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Right, and I think also to note too, is you know there is a reserve here. Eventually that reserve will be brought down right? You know, as those needs and issues emerge, and some of these different categories are talking about you know certainly would be places that we should consider expending funds, so.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “All right. I think that covers everything. This can be considered a comprehensive plan, and I just want to ensure that you know I deal with facts and not fiction and I want to ensure that our listening and viewing audience know and understand that no Commissioner on this Board has refused and sent back any funding. The funding is coming as allocated by the federal government. We are receiving it, and as a Board, we are allowing our County Manager to do his job to provide a recommendation to us with the assistance of his staff, and we are making those determinations on where this money should go and we are sending it to the community rental assistance program, and everything else. So, just to bring some clarity because I heard a lot of constituents today under the assumption of some false information thinking that we are turning away money and we are not.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. Thank you, Vice Chair. Commissioner Hausmann.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yes, well said Vice Chair Hall. I appreciate those comments. I would agree that small business assistance is extremely important right now so I would request that that be risen up to a level of urgent action as well. Mr. Manager, as you develop your plans, I do think that the small business assistance program is crucial to getting things back on track quickly. But I do agree that we have a pretty solid plan here. While the court backlog project may not rise to the level of a lot of awareness out there when you hear folks come before us and express their concerns about the level of crime in our community, we can't ignore that. I think we all recognize the situation that is out there and the dire need that we have to make sure that our streets are safe and our part of that is very significant. So, I'm very pleased to see that is a high focus, but I do really strongly feel that small business programs are also very, very important. Mr. Hermon, you talked about the hiring process, and the large effort that's going to be required, and we certainly understand that. I just want to reiterate that I heard you say that your staff and your team recognize the urgent nature of this and that they will work with all speed as much as possible to make this happen and you've communicated that to your team, correct?”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “That's correct, Commissioner.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Okay. We always hear stories about things taking a while. And sometimes it's just a matter of something may be getting pushed to the side

unnecessarily or by accident so I just want to make sure that everybody recognizes that this is very, very urgent.”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “That's correct. We are taking this project as seriously as anything we've undertaken in recent history.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Very good. And then finally I just want to say that again this of course was a big part of the recent NACO conference talking about the various needs and the various programs and the various things that different communities are facing; not everyone is the same. There are broad categories of uses based on individual community needs, but the advice that was given -- and I think the public needs to hear this -- that these funds are to be used or allocated within the end of 2024, but we have until 2026 to actually spend these funds. But the advice was to move with caution as things can change, and to as much as possible do programming that has lasting impact. And so, I feel like we have a plan that does all of those things and I thank the staff for coming up with such a solid plan, and I look forward to working together as things do change to make any necessary adjustments, but I think this is a very solid plan.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “The mortgage was in the RIP plan as a policy directive. The actual plan that was passed gave initiatives from this body for mortgage assistance, small business assistance, nonprofit, and arts. And I see that all of that has been stripped out. And so, here again rescue, R.E.S.C.U.E., R.E.S.C.U.E., R.E.S.C.U.E., -- what we're doing today as a body, we're telling -- because what I'm looking at here is \$75 million dollars. And so, what we're telling our listening audience is we need to take care of the court situation, but the actual homeowners who have waited patiently don't need assistance right now. And so, we're not sending the correct message because as a policy directive in the RIP, we said that these were focused areas in addition to what the County Manager buckets of what he would be doing. And so, I will put forth to this body that what has been presented goes against what was passed by this body. Because as a Board directive, we put those focused areas in for a reason. Here again, mortgage assistance; here again small business; here again nonprofit; here again arts and culture. And I would submit to this body that you are undoing something that already passed. Now, I don't know about the people that's sitting here, but we have mortgage assistance that needs to go out yesterday. We're sitting here saying wait to see what Georgia is going to do for Fulton County? When has Fulton County waited for Georgia to take the lead on anything? And so, I would say to you, 1. I'm not sure how legal this would be considering we have already passed a resolution with focused areas for one; for two, we have mortgage, homeowners who

could not apply for rentals, who could not apply for utility assistance, and we're still telling them to wait? We have nonprofit organizations -- everybody on this Commission -- and I would say the ones that I know for sure Commissioner Arrington and Vice Chair Hall had nonprofits that they put forth that did not receive funding because it was exhausted. Or we had nonprofits that were underfunded. And so, those nonprofits that are the lifeblood of Fulton County to help our citizens, are being told to either take a little amount of money, or don't get money at all? Because someone decides that they want to play politics? People are hurting. People are having to give up their homes. These are taxpaying constituents in Fulton County that have been waiting patiently for some help. The nonprofits have been waiting patiently for some help. The small business owners have been waiting patiently for some help. We have moratoriums that are ending, and so, I take issue with two different things: are we telling people that we've got to choose to deal with the court backlog? Or help our mortgage holders, or help the utilities, or help our nonprofits when that comes to \$75 million dollars. Why can't we do both? And more importantly, why are we gutting a resolution that has already passed for focused areas? So, I would say, at this point, I would like to make a substitute motion to adopt the plan as it already stands because it actually takes care of everything. And more importantly, yes, it does -- it gives the County Manager -- if you would read it -- it gives the County Manager the right to be able to pick and choose what is the priority, and what would be in compliance or not in compliance; but to strip out mortgage assistance, small business, nonprofit, and arts? We did this in March. So -- we approved it in March. And how legal is it to unapprove -- to gut something that we've already passed with four votes? So, I would say to the County Manager, if we voted on four areas of focus and they're being stripped out, how legal is this?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Was that a substitute motion Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes, substitute motion."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Wait, wait, there is something wrong, because we just added all of those things, we didn't remove them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "True."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "We just added all those things. They're in the plan, the consolidated plan."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm sorry Vice Chair. It looks to me from what I see, we removed them."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “No, we just talked we had a whole discussion up here and added them back. I asked Commissioner Ellis if he would take my substitute motion to add them back in.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “But so I can understand, would you mind repeating it, because that's not what I understood.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “So, can, can you please tell her what the friendly amendment was officially.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “The friendly amendment was nonprofits, the small businesses, arts youth, veterans.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “And the mortgage assistance.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “And the mortgage assistance is being done by the state.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “So, the mortgage assistant was not added back in.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “It was a whole discussion on what is happening with the mortgage assistance program. I just want to get give clarification where clarification is due because I don't want to be loud and wrong. And you know just because you say something over and over doesn't make it true. So, let's stick to the facts. And the facts are that we added all those things and every one of those things is being addressed and as a body, I'm sure everybody is going to vote for us to do all of those things. We can call the vote right now.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I was waiting for a second.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. Here's where we are. We have a motion on the floor to approve that has a friendly amendment attached to it. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman now has a substitute motion which she just described. Is there a second to her substitute motion? All right fails for lack of a second. Now back to the main motion which is to approve motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis seconded by Commissioner Hausmann. Cast your votes, please.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the vote is open.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “I was still in the queue.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “I'm sorry. Sorry.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “I think there were others in there too.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “There were? I thought that was old. All right. Commissioner Arrington, Commissioner Morris. We're back to the main motion now.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Okay, [Inaudible] go back to slide 36 please. The one that our CFO was talking about. Thank you, can we go back to slide 36 please. The one with our CFOs talking about – Madam CFO, can you tell us what we already spent with the rescue funds? What does this chart anticipate that we will – have we spent any rescue funds? Are we planning to spend any rescue funds.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Commissioner Arrington, in the green section of the chart is where our American Rescue Act funds are presented. It's a total of \$205.5 million that's allocated that includes the funds that we've received for the local fiscal recovery funds, and the funds that we received for ERAP2. That's what those two are. And out of what we've been allocated, we have actually expended \$2.3 million of that thus far.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Okay. All right. And the plans are as outlined, I guess to spend the rest over the next 12 to 24 months.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “It's actually spread through 2024, and to Commissioner Hausmann's point that she made, you have to incur the obligations by the end of December of 2024, and then you have an additional two years to spend. So, if you have a contract in place for something by December 31st, 2024 then you have two more years to spend against that.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “And just as a reminder; what happened with our CARES Act funding. Did we expend all of that or are we still in the process of spending those funds?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “We did fully expend our CARES Act funds by the end of December of 2020.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “So, the sky is not falling? There's no -- because as I understand it, there are people running around telling people that if we don't pass a specific plan, the world is going to come to an end. Is the world going to come to an end? Do you think we're going to spend this money?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “I think we'll spend it – we'll spend the money.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “There is a fable called chicken little. Chicken little ran around telling people the sky was falling. We have someone running around telling people that the sky is falling. That this money won't be spent. That it won't be



spent in a proper way all because people don't want to spend it the way they want it spent. The sky is not falling. That is called fear mongering. The sky is not falling. We're already spending the money. We have plans to continue to spend the money, so anyone telling you that the sky is falling because they don't get their way, has lost their mind."

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

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "I'll be very quick. I really got in the queue to address one of the first comments Commissioner Ellis made about all of this process about an hour ago. And it goes to his question -- to Mr. Hermon about assistance to get these positions filled. I had a meeting with the district attorney yesterday, who is quite concerned about the processes and the for lack of a better term, not her term, the bureaucratic issues associated with getting these positions filled quickly. And it occurred to me to think about that earthquake in San Francisco where they expedited the rebuilding of the bridges that collapsed by waving a number of procedural rules and that sort of thing. And then the speed with which the DOT repaired the I-85 fire here in Atlanta. If there are any things that we need to do to suspend because of the emergency nature of this court backlog, if there's anything that will be helpful in that respect, I think it would be terrific County Manager, Mr. Hermon, and the County Attorney to bring those to us. Things that we might need to waive to accelerate the onboarding process."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The DA is telling us the opposite of what you just said Mr. Hermon."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "So, my comment, not to make any judges about who's right, but if there's anything we can waive, that would be terrific."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. The motion is to approve. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman you want to be heard again?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Please. Just a quick question. Just one quick question. To the County Manager, how do you present a plan that goes directly against a directive that was given in March?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I don't believe we did that. The way that we tried to address each one of these is in the following outlay: for mortgage assistance, we believe that that will be addressed by the state program hence, and if it is a \$300 million-dollar program, ten percent coming to Fulton County will be an equivalent of \$30 million. In terms of small business support and this could be refined further if this was the will of the Board, we had put in \$5.2 million into small business loans which we have



a provider we know how to do it also gives leverage for additional funds. So, it's probably the equivalent of eight or nine million; in job training \$2.7 million. So, in our view that was the response to the small business directive. In the CSP program was how we viewed supporting nonprofits. Of course, that's an \$8 million dollar allocation. And then most importantly which I think Commissioner Ellis's friendly amendment or the friendly amendment to Commissioner Ellis's program does is the reserve itself, today it's 46.9. The reason that number is at that level is that we have 41 million in expenses that are FEMA related as those expenses get approved and are reimbursed by FEMA then that 46 million is available for all of the things that were just outlined in that friendly amendment. So, in our view, we did come back with a plan consistent with the direction."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Chairman, I just want to go on record with the listening audience here -- sometimes when you speak power to truth -- sometimes you have to stand alone because I am the Commissioner that gets out in the community because I am the Commissioner that sometimes spends 12-hour days. I didn't just pull any of this information out of the sky. We have homeowners that have been waiting patiently. We have homeowners that have been waiting patiently. We have nonprofits that have been waiting patiently. We have business owners that have been waiting patiently. If you want to call me rabble-rouser if you want to call me loud if you want to call me not along to get along; I take that as a badge of honor because I was hired by Fulton County taxpayers. And I say again today how do you undo something that we as a Board voted for. And all I can say to this is I hope that we all as a body understand elections have consequences. Thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Like I said, don't be loud and wrong. And I personally don't like anybody to lie on me. And especially lie on me publicly and don't bring receipts because everything I do is going to have a receipt to it. And just because you say something over and over doesn't make it true. And you can't say you want to collaborate in public but not effectively communicate behind-the-scenes. So, we need to move forward with the comprehensive plan for the County which includes everything and this includes everything. The mortgage assistance will be addressed as was explained. The state is getting \$300 million, is that correct Mr. County Manager, I want to make sure I'm quoting facts."

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

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "And you said 10 percent of that is how much."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “10 percent of that will be \$30 million.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Which you expect for us to get.”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Yes, Ma'am.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay, let’s just do a little correlation between that and the resolution that’s about the same as what’s being asked for in the resolution. We’re not addressing what the needs of the community are. And then you said that I know this to be fact because I voted on it, and requested it along with my colleagues that we use \$8 million to ensure that we fund all the additional nonprofit organizations that were approved but unfortunately, we ran out of the CSP and let me be clear what that is community service program grant funding before we can actually allocate it to all the approved nonprofits, but the \$8 million dollars was approved so that we can go back and ensure that we do fund them. So, the statement made a little while ago about me bringing forward some nonprofits and them not getting funded is untrue. They will get funded in that additional \$8 million dollars that we voted to allocate towards the CSP; is that correct.”

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** “Yes, Ma'am.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “All right. All right. All right. I just want to make sure. So, we have a consolidated plan to spend the American Rescue Plan Act funding, and to most definitely address our communities, to address rental, mortgage, youth, Veterans, everything -- my motion -- my friendly amendment is on the floor. We are addressing everything. So that being said, thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity to speak.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you Vice Chair.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “So in other words it’s just an acorn not the whole sky.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right guys. Let’s vote, please. Motion is to approve with the friendly amendment.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the vote is open.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Madam Clerk.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the motion passes; five yeas, one abstention.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “What you say, five yeas? What? Yes, I did, mine’s a yes.”

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay, so that will be six yeas, one abstention."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion is approved. All right it is ten till two. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and executive session. We have Real Estate and Litigation."

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

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

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

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(Executive Session begins at 1:50 p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's resume our session."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Items from the Executive Session Madam Attorney"

**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Good afternoon, is there a motion to approve the request for representation that were set forth in Items No. 1 and 2 into the Executive Session agenda?"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "So moved."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Second. Let's vote, please. Actually, Vice Chair seconded it."

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

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

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

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

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**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to settle the quiet title action that is city of Hapeville v 525, King Arnold Street At Al, which is a Fulton County civil action number 2020-cv-338515 by allowing DREAM to accept the parcel of land that is the subject of the quiet title grant and access easement to Hapeville; and authorize the Chairman to execute all necessary documents?"

**CHAIRMAN Pitts:** "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote, please."

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

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**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Is there a motion to settle the condemnation action which is Fulton County v MNJ Lou INC. with respect to the Stonewall Tell Road at Butner Road dual roundabout. Fulton County civil action 2017-cv-296453, and the settlement calls for payment to the property owner in the amount of \$520,000 with authorization for the Chairman to execute all necessary documents?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Cast your vote, please.”

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

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**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Is there a motion to authorize settlement authority as requested in Item No. 6 on the Executive Session agenda?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Again, motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Let's vote.”

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

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**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Is there a motion to approve the settlement negotiated in the case of the state of Demonte Ware V. Jackson, which is civil action file number 2016-cv-278728 in the amount of \$850,000 with authorization for the Chairman to execute the settlement documents?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve, again, by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Cast your vote.”

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

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**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Is there a motion to approve settlement with Erich Carl Harper and Mwangi Kwesi in the case of Harper v. Fulton County, which is United States District Court Northern District of Georgia, civil action file number 121-cv-01207?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Again, motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Please vote.”

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Madam Clerk?”

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

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**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “That was it. Let me just note that that last one, the amount was \$98,274.58.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. Any others?”

**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “That's all I have.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Back on page 9, Item moved up by Vice Chair Hall, **21-0513**, Request Ratification of Countywide Emergency Procurements.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Which Item?”

**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 9, 21-0513.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. What's your pleasure? All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Ellis; and Vice Chair Hall has a question.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I have a question. Okay. So, we received a memo dated July 9<sup>th</sup>, subject: Emergency procurement notification stating that the memorandum provides a list of emergency procurements for the County for the period June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, through July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. But I don't see these emergency procurements on the reports, so I was just trying to figure out are these different from the emergency report that's here on the BOC agenda?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Turn your mic on please.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I'm sorry?”

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** “Commissioner, they should be the same items. It's just on the report that I provide the EPO notification report I provide to

you, I have to provide prior to the Board meeting. So, it should be the same agenda items."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. So, this one is just to show what the --"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "-- also included on that one is the classifications."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "-- the classifications? The only thing -- okay, so this one is just showing the classification --"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Correct."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "-- certification in the memo, and not the source?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Right. So, 1. I provide the EPO notification, I provide you all -- at your request -- the minority participation, if any. And then on the EPO that is the emergency list that is listed in the agenda for ratification, it does include the source."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. So, is there a reason why we can't just put this in one document that's presented to the Board, so that our constituents can know all the information?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Sure."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Yeah, because it's -- there's only one field missing on either document. So, consolidating it would probably just add a field to the--"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "-- yeah, I'll try to get it all on one table."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay, all right. And so, my other questions are: So, what made these an emergency? For instance: Security upgrades for 4700 warehouse site. Did something happen that caused an emergency need for security upgrades that we didn't hear about?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Chief Yates is here, to help."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. Thank you."

**WADE (WILLIAM) YATES, FC CHIEF OF POLICE:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Wade Yates, Chief of Police. The 4700 location is where we are storing all of our COVID things, and doing testing and all that; and so, we've been trying to get a camera

system in there since we started that operation, it's just taken a long time because of some IT upgrades that were needed. And so, we're manning it with armed security currently. And so, we need to pay the armed security. That's why that item's on there, and the other items are the cameras that should enable us to back out the armed security."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay, great. So, we just needed -- it took a little longer than expected?"

**WADE (WILLIAM) YATES, FC CHIEF OF POLICE:** "Yes, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. And so, on the next one it says provide -- to provide media buys that include radio, digital billboards, limited print, and text messages; and to targeted low vaccine uptick communities to address the health disparities associated with COVID-19. I thought this was something that we had approved to do anyway? Especially, when we got CARES Act funding, and we started having a need for it."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. This is just the next installment basically of that ad campaign. So, we've already done -- I don't know if Jessica's not here but--I think we had already spent a million last year, but the plan is to spend another million this year, so this is one tranche of that."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. And why is it an emergency, and not just a continuation of what we've already done?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Do you know?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Because the initial request was via the emergency authorization, so we amended the emergency authorization using these funds. So the initial approval was via emergency authorization, so this was an amendment to that."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "So we amended the initial emergency operations to include this under that?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Yes, because it's a continuation of the VAX-Up program. And this was just for the media buys for that."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. Do we have any more media buys that we need to consider emergencies?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "I'm not sure, I'll have to check with Jessica Corbitt."



**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. Mr. County Manager, Madam CFO?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Vice Chair, I do believe that, Ms. Corbitt does plan some additional communication effort later this year rolling in to the first quarter of 2022, as we continue our effort to reach the hard-to-reach populations for you know for vaccination. So, we do expect to see some need for increases which we would plan to bring back much the same way as what we've done previously.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Yes, that's exactly what I was looking for, in addition to the fact that it was mentioned earlier that we do have an increase in COVID cases and deaths because of the new variant. And I'm assuming we're going to need to do some serious communication about that as well. So, thank you for that. And then the rental of portal hand washing stations for the Fulton County Board of Health; did they need additional ones all of a sudden or what happened there?”

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** “This was an addition of the hand washing stations that they needed to go alongside with the portable Porta-Potties.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Porta-Potties? Great. Okay. And I'm assuming this security guard services because you just mentioned what you mentioned. And then on the last item concerning the emergency rental assistance program: It says to increase the number of adjudicators for EARP to 72; and to extend existing services for an additional eight-week period. But how many will be hired to get us to that 72?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “So we added 72 adjudicators to the 30 that we previously had.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “You added 72 to 30?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Yes, ma'am.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. So, you actually -- this is not to increase the number of adjudicators up to 72, it is actually to hire 72.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “That's correct.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. So, the language is just off?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “Yes, ma'am.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. Thank you.”

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

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yes. I'm just looking at the form. I think it would be helpful if there was some designation in here about which fund this expense is coming from now that we have multiple funds that are helping us. I know you've got the emergency rental assistance broken out, but I don't know if everything is totally expended from CARES yet or not. I just -- as we go forward, I just think it would be helpful for us to know where the money is coming from.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Commissioner Hausmann, on the version that’s actually in the agenda package, we do include the source of funds. We identify them by acronyms EERF for the general fund emergency expense reserve fund, ARP for the --”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “-- I'm not seeing it here, so.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Yes, I know you are. So that’s what, to Vice Chairman’s comment earlier, I think, if we put it all together in the document is the same what we submit to you in the memo is actually what we present on the agenda. It’ll have all of that combined. It’ll tell you the MMP status as well as the source of funds that we’re using.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yeah, for the benefit of the public that may not look at multiple documents, too.”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “Yes.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Anything else? If not, let’s cast your vote, please. The motion is to approve by Commissioner Morris, and I forget who the second was. Let's vote. Commissioner Ellis.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**21-0512** -- okay, Commissioner Arrington. Passes unanimously.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Continue Madam Clerk.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “21-0512, Purchasing and Contract Compliance. Request approval of a Resolution to extend emergency purchasing authority of the Chairman and County Manager for COVID-19 related purchases.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has a question.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Yes, I do. Thank you, Chairman. I'm just -- I do have a concern about this. And my concern is we continue to extend the emergency purchasing authority of the Chairman and the County Manager for COVID-19 related purchases. And I know we're not trying to tie the County Manager's hand nor the Chairman, but if we are trying to get back to normalcy, what is considered emergency, and also at some point, I would have a concern as to continuing to give that power, when, you know, in other instances we are saying that we're getting back to normal, we want to be normal, we want to do business in a normal fashion, but we continue to extend the emergency purchasing authority of the Chairman, and County Manager for COVID-19 related purchases. I want to go on record saying, I do not want to hamstring, or handcuff the County Manager from having to make purchases that are well needed in between the meetings. But at some point, the question has to be raised as to what point do we cross the Board, you know, give the resemblance of being normal, or trying to get back to the normal expectations of business. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Vice Chair Hall.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Can we get an explanation behind why this is needed? I don't know if that will be, Kaye, or.”

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** “Well, Commissioners if I may.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. Yes, please.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Can everybody speak up. I mean, you probably ate too much. We got a lot to cover in a small amount of time, so let's get some energy.”

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** “I thought I was speaking into the mic. Okay. The emergency procurement [Inaudible.] designation only waives the formal procurement process, such as: advertisements, pre-bid conferences addendum's. Purchasing has ensured and maintained a competition by soliciting from multiple providers when we have to utilize the emergency procurement. Throughout the pandemic, Purchasing has continued to do our routine procurements. We've done over 400 procurements. We continue to bring those routine ones before you. And we do them through our process. It's only those that are related to the COVID-19 that we have to do through an emergency. As you all know, we have competed with the state, other businesses, other jurisdictions to get some of the services, and some of the equipment that is needed for the County, as it relates to COVID-19. We work very closely with Matt, and the Board of Health in identifying those. We do go through a competitive process. Those vendors are not going to submit a bid to us; we have to go to them. And we have to negotiate those terms. We have to negotiate how it's going to be

shipped. For instance: gloves was a perfect example. They were coming from everywhere. And so, we had to make sure where they were coming from, what the product looked like. So, there was a lot of things that we had to go through. So, I want to assure you that we are going through a competitive process albeit it is not our normal procurement process for those COVID related purchases that we have to have."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Thank you, Madam Purchasing Director. And based on the language of this Resolution, we initially put this in place because the Governor literally declared a public health emergency in the state of Georgia, and that was the reason why we put this in place; is that not correct Madam County Attorney?"

**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Excuse me what was your question?"

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "We initially put this in place because the Governor of the state of Georgia declared a public health emergency in Georgia; is that not correct because I'm seeing the language in here."

**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That was one of the reasons. Remember the Board of Commissioners had its own declaration of emergency, and the president, as well Health and Human Services, as well World Health Organization, as well; so, there were multiple declarations of emergency."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "But this one in particular continues to state it's based on the Governor. It doesn't state any of those other things that you just mentioned."

**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "The Governor does have a declaration of emergency currently, it's not public health, but it has to do with economic recovery. So, the Governor does still have -- and I believe the language in that is similar in that it does say -- it does talk about the pandemic and instead of talking about it in terms of public health, it talks about it in terms of economic recovery."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "And that's currently in place?"

**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes. That's currently in place."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Does it have an expiration or a deadline?"

**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes. The Governor's only allowed to have an emergency declaration for 30 days, so that's why he renews it every 30 days."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. And so, what is the current one?"

**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “The current one -- the last one expired on July 1st, so I would anticipate that this one, if he did it for 30 days, it would expire at the end of the month.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Do we know that to be the case because you're saying if?”

**KAYE BURWELL, INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “I can look it up.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “You know, I'm particular as they call me. I need the facts.”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** “Matthew Kallmyer for Emergency Management. So, it was on the 1st of July that the new one went out. There's two declarations, one that dealt with economic recovery and the other one --”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “-- speak into the mic please.”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** “I'm sorry. I apologize, ma'am. There's two that came out. One was dealing with economic recovery, and the other one dealt with making sure that there are certain portions of the population that can still continue to vaccinate during this COVID period. So, it may be outside of their normal scope of practice, but they included some of those things inside the language. So, it's a carryover of some of the things that you saw in the public health state of emergency, but it came into another state of emergency that was allowing these folks to continue to vaccinate during this time period.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “All right.”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** “And if I may. One of things I did bring to the Board's attention in the past; we'll be eligible for a hundred percent FEMA reimbursement up until September 30<sup>th</sup>. So, it behooves us to go ahead and marry up with the federal timeline with our declaration as well, so as long as we say we're in a response mode it helps us in our effort to go ahead and seek a hundred percent reimbursement for any COVID response activities that we do have. If we let it lapse, it'll be a harder chance, or harder process for us to go through this process to be able to say yes, we would like to receive funds for these particular activities. So, this simple act would allow us to just be a little bit -- have a better footing through this recovery process.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. Thank you, so much for that, Matt.”

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** “Yes, ma'am.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. There was a motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, I need a second; now, by Commissioner Ellis. Cast your vote, please. Madam Clerk.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**21-0328**, Registration and Elections. Request approval of a statewide contract to provide temporary staffing services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Is there a motion? All right. I’ll move approval. Is there a second?”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON:** “Second.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Properly moved and seconded. Seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Any question or comments? If not, cast your votes. I’m sorry. Just a minute. Commissioner Ellis followed by Commissioner Hausmann. Motion is to approve.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Thanks, Mr. Chair. I know we’ve had a lot of discussion on this so I’ll be brief, direct, and to the point. Maybe a little bit more direct than, I would normally be. Mr. Barron, thank you for being up here. I’ve got just a few questions for you. You sent a memo to us on July 8<sup>th</sup>, and within that, you make a statement that the BRE had directed you to come up with alternatives in case this item was not approved by the BOC on July 14; is that correct?”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “Yes.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. Did you prepare alternatives? “

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “Yes, we do have some alternatives. The main -- our Plan B is to use human resources and have them do the recruiting. That process from tomorrow would probably take about four to six weeks to get everyone on board, which would put us about a month behind of where we want to be.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. So, basically, you have alternatives, but I also note that last week you sent out a memo to all of the municipalities basically implying that if this item didn’t pass that they were all going to be on their own running the elections.

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “This is not an ideal situation to be --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “-- I didn’t ask you if it was an ideal situation. You sent that memo out, right?”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “Yes, I did.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Right. And that was not authorized by the BRE. That was your choice to send that out?”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “The BRE directed me to send something out to all of the mayors.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Telling them that we were not going to conduct the elections if we didn’t pass this item here.”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “That that was a possibility, yes.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Your memo doesn’t say it was a possibility; it says that if we didn’t pass it, you know, basically, you guys are going to be out on your own.”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “Right now we’re still at a situation where if it doesn’t pass, we have to rely on the County process to get through and get everyone on board. That is going to put us behind.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “I understand it will put you behind. You’ve known this item has had some challenging resistance for some time. The BRE directed you to come up with some alternatives; you said you were coming up with alternatives, but yet you turn around, and you send a memo out to all of the municipalities saying that, hey, guess what; if the BOC doesn’t pass this, you’re on your own. That is what is said.”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “Yes, that is what is said, and we did -- after I sent that, we did have a meeting with human resources and I did learn of a new category that we have which is a full-time limited term option to go forward. And we can use that also in the future.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Well, that memo you sent out to me it sort of borders almost on insubordination to make that kind of statement, and to say, oh, I’m going to basically hold everybody hostage on the elections if I don’t get my way. That’s the way in appearance -- it comes across at least to this Commissioner, and to a lot of other people in the public.”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “And I told the Board of Registration and Elections in my meeting that that was going to be probably the case that we would have a very difficult time getting ready for the elections.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “They did not tell you to send something out saying that, hey, guess what; we’re not going to conduct the elections.”



**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “They told me to send something out that warned every one of the ramifications, yes.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Well, it wasn't a warning. It said, if it didn't pass, we're not going to do the elections. That's what the memo said.”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “Well, essentially there is a good possibility that if we run the election, and we're six weeks behind from where we are now, that it is going to be difficult to make that happen.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. I've heard enough. I just want to say this, okay? There's a lot of stuff around this whole topic that's, you know, there's conspiracy theory, there's this, that, and the other, right? But there's also the piece that comes down to we create our own crises time, after time, after time. And it's under your watch. Here's a quote today -- you know this whole discussion started when we had these findings which said, we are overly reliant upon temp personnel, and we need to reduce that. You brought forth no plan for us for that in terms of how that was going to take place. So here we are sitting here at the last minute, again, debating this issue; and it's basically a gun held to our head that oh, if you don't pass it, we're basically -- all of the municipal elections -- we don't know if we're going to pull it off, okay? Here's a quote again -- here's a quote from Carter Jones today: Is Fulton failing to follow proper election protocols again? We've seen sloppy practices. Time and time again, your actions reinforce that we have a limited ability to scenario plan, and develop alternatives; and instead, we choose to create our own crisis of our own making, and blame others for your own shortcomings, and your management deficiencies; and it happens time and time again. And put the conspiracy theory aside, the people of Fulton County generally are tired of it. They want to effectively run elections; not a passing of the buck. I don't normally do this in terms of criticism of folks, but that memo you sent out basically smacked of, I don't care what people are recommending to me, I'm going to choose to do what I want to do -- to heck with everybody else, and I'll hold everybody hostage if I don't get my way. That is inappropriate. And I have nothing more to say.”

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

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Well, thank you, Commissioner Ellis. And I feel exactly the same way. I would like for you to respond to that.”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “I sent the memo exactly as I told the BRE that I was going to send it. And I warned them of that. They told me to send that”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Interesting. I talked to two members. I talked to the Chairman, and another member when I started getting calls from mayors wanting to know what in the world is going on and they were unaware that it was going out.”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “I talked to Alex after that.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “After you sent it, or before you sent it? Because he was unaware when he got a phone call.”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “He was not aware when I sent the memo, but the BRE was aware that I was sending a memo to the mayors.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Well, they don't recall it that way, okay? They don't recall it that way. So, we received a lot of public comments this morning on this topic and I just for the record want to say that I have received 60 e-mails against going forward with this plan for the host of reasons we've outlined over and over and over again. And so seriously it's very, very alarming that you would be instructed by your BRE to come up with a Plan B; which you send a memo where there is no Plan B included in it. I looked really hard to try to find what that Plan B was but I didn't see it.”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “At that point we were still formulating Plan B. There was, when I, the mayors and the municipalities needed to know what could possibly happen if this item does not pass.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Well, you didn't indicate to them that you were going to send a Plan B or formulate a plan B. Before you sent that out to the mayors that got them all worked up about the possibility of having to conduct an election they're not prepared to do. So, it was definitely is a slap in the face to our partners -- our cities that we've work very, very hard to have positive relationships with. Okay. So, some of the comments in these e-mails that I've gotten on this topic since our last meeting have raised some additional concerns. And one of which is that they only hire minority workers; is that the case?”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “No.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Okay. So just for the record, I think it's incumbent on us to try to and have election staff that reflects the population of our County. And in case people don't know it, what the population of our County is currently it is African-American 44 and a half percent, its white 45.5 percent, and Asian, and others is almost 8 percent. So, I would certainly hope if this passes, and I would assume that it will just based on everyone's here, and we're going to vote along party lines more than likely

that, in fact, the workforce from Happy Faces reflects the population of Fulton County. Can you work towards that goal?"

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "We can make that request of Happy Faces, yes."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "All right. And then, I also was told by multiple people that they have tried to get employment through Happy Faces to help with our elections, and they have never been contacted gotten a call back or anything. Can you make sure that anyone that contacts Happy Faces should this pass is at least given the courtesy of being contacted, and discussing it?"

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Yes, and if we get names from Commissioners, or recommendations, we can forward those names along for consideration to Happy Faces."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "I mean even the folks that came up here and spoke in favor of this, said that they wanted problem free elections in Fulton County. I mean, we've been using Happy Faces now for what, through the last three cycles."

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Since 2015."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Yea, we had a big national dust at this time, but we certainly have not had a problem free election since we've been using Happy Faces, and you know it, and I know it. And then, I just have to say you know even the hint of a conflict of interest with a political entity involved in the company that we're going to use to staff our elections office gives such a bad impression to the voters of Fulton County. I don't know how you can stand there and even remotely make this recommendation based on that alone notwithstanding the monitor's report that talked about sloppiness, mismanagement, lack of concern by the workers on the job they were doing. And that's all bad enough in itself, but just the appearance of a conflict in this area is just unacceptable."

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "What is the conflict?"

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "That the company that we are contracting with has a business relationship with a high-profile, political candidate."

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "That accusation against them is wholly untrue. They have no relationship whatsoever. They're 100 percent owned by the chairman of their body. They do not have any of these NOW accounts. We don't know where this came from. Happy Faces doesn't know where this came from. They have

been receiving death threats. They are losing their top recruiter because of it. They're putting in surveillance. They don't even feel safe in their own offices."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "It's public record so we are not going to debate that it's public record."

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

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay. So, let's go to the memo and let's talk about a Plan B. I thought, I thought there was a Plan B in here, on page 2, where you're speaking of Carter Jones, the SCB monitor from the state, and his recommendations; and then a proposal that you said, we and I'm assuming that means you and your team have for the BOC; is that not the Plan B? Or is that -- in my."

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Carter, in all of the conversations that I've had with Mr. Jones, he has recommended --he recommended that we reduce our management -- that we increase our management -- middle-management in the department because he said we got stretched so far thin last year because we were trying to manage 12 places with the same number of staff that he said we needed to take probably 500,000 to a million dollars of what we would give to Happy Faces, and then -- and then invest that into middle-management staff, and other staff that comes from Happy Faces that we were able to retain they're institutional knowledge that they gained over, like a yearlong cycle. So that is one of the things. Part of those items went through the Consent Agenda, some of those management that we work with human resources over the last several months getting the PDQ's ready, those were approved by the BOC this morning. We are looking at doing either a hybrid model next year, or going to complete having human resources take over the whole -- the whole ball of wax going forward. It is -- it's going to cost the County more next year would be \$18.8 million to do the full-time limited term versus about 14.3 million if we used a staffing agency. For the remainder of the year this year, or for this year, would be about \$7.1 million to do that versus about \$5.5 million to use the staffing agencies."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. So, I think you're in combat mode, so you didn't really answer my question. You answered part of it by elaborating on your plan, but my question was; is this this not Plan B?"

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Because you were asked earlier by my colleague why you didn't have Plan B, and I read this and I had assumed that that was Plan B, but you never made any clarification that this is Plan B. So, I'm trying to make sure that that's what it is. And you just elaborated and went into detail about your Plan B. And you literally

read from the memo, so you just confirmed in addition to that that this is Plan B, but you never responded to what he was saying to let him know that Plan B is in the memo. And then I just want to say that, you know, since the Board of Commissioners has the authority to approve a recommendation from the Board of Registrations and Elections to terminate your position that that kind of makes us your bosses. And I would say that, you know, before you make any major move, you would want to consult your bosses before doing something like sending an alarming memo out to our mayors. And especially, you know, such an alarming memo as that. So, this discussion that you said you had with the Board of Registration and Elections about the letter before you sent the letter did this discussion take place during the board meeting?"

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Yes, we had a lengthy discussion during the board meeting about that."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. So, do you take minutes during that board meeting?"

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. So, then that would address what my other colleague was saying about people don't recall what was said exactly, or what they said exactly, or if they heard you correctly. If you could provide the minutes to the board meeting, and we can see what everybody said exactly. And we can actually see what you said, and the fact that this discussion did take place. And it wouldn't matter if they remembered or not because we have meeting minutes, right?"

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. Great. So, I'd like to see those meeting minutes."

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Just to get some confirmation. All right."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Excuse me. I think the entire board would like to see those minutes."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay, that is great, yes, please anybody on the board. I'm not restricting anybody from seeing it, but I know I do. Okay. Let's see what else we have here. All right. So, at this point, can you just tell me what is the current situation at hand? And what is the future look like if we do not approve this agenda item?"

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Human resources now have -- they've drafted a position -- all of the position descriptions for all of the positions that we would

have to hire for through the County, those will go out if the item fails today. And then we will have to go through the human resources process through Fulton County to make sure that we get everyone hired. That process is a little more lengthy than what it takes for Happy Faces to do it. They have -- they have basically a short-circuited process. They have people that are on standby and ready to go. What we'll have to do -- human resources will have to get the requisitions, they'll have to post them, we'll have to have posting time and we get the registers, and then we have to do all of the interviews. We have to do all of that in-house. Human resources has committed to getting us 12 people to help with those interviews -- some of the interviews we will be able to do in a group format, and some of the others that we're going to have to go through and do them all in person. And that's going to take quite a bit of staff time to do that."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. Mr. Kenneth Hermon, can you tell us how long the human resources process takes from the time; you said; you would have to post if this doesn't pass, and how fast? Like, what is that process look like? What's the length?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** "On general, an average, we average anywhere between 45 to 55 days from the posting to the time the person is actually in the seat. What we've discussed with Richard, and his team, or what my team has developed is an extremely expedited process where the postings will be out for a minimum of three days, those individuals, who meet the minimum qualifications will come in and we'll do a group interview for those positions that makes sense -- the group interview, and then that same day once the -- and the group interview kind of takes on the life of an examination for lack of a better term -- that same day if they pass the exam, or that group interview they move straight into training that same day. So, in essence, if this works, we could get him -- that pool of individuals that meet that criteria for the group interview probably within five to ten days from the time the posting has closed, which is extremely fast for what we're doing. But again, the key thing is we have to find the candidates that meet all of the criteria that I think SB -- I forgot the number -- 202 has put on us where they have to reside within Fulton County, or neighboring jurisdictions, and make sure that we meet all of those criteria as well."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "So that could take a little bit longer?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** "Right, those anomalies are there, but once we find the individuals it's from within ten days, we want them in Richard's shop doing the formal training."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. So let me make sure that I'm clear. The original process can take 45 to 55 days, but with your expedited process, it could take ten days except for you do have to try to ensure that they are they live in Fulton County."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “Or neighboring jurisdictions.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Or within the jurisdictions. Okay. And how long could that take? I see the County Attorney.”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “Commissioner, whenever the applicant applies they provide us their mailing address, or their physical address. So that’s how we would verify that as well. I was just providing that as these are the kind of things that we would also have to check for this group of individuals that’s coming in to help the election’s team and the election’s process.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. All right. Thank you, very much.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman followed by Commissioner Hausmann, please.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Mr. Hermon, how many people have to be hired should Happy Faces not be renewed today?”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “Richard, please keep me honest. For the November election we have a number of 472 employees for the November election, and for the 2022 cycle 467. And we’re hoping that for the 2022 cycle, some of the same original hirers from 2021 will be again rehired for 2022.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “And so, we’re talking about approximately 500 people that would need to be hired in order for us to -- for the election to take place should Happy Faces not be renewed?”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “That’s correct, Commissioner.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Almost 500 people?”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “Correct.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. Mr. Barron, is it safe to say that you and I have had some rough run in’s from day one?”

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** “Yes.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “So, let me ask you this question: What duty do you have to the municipalities to let them know that there is a chance that Fulton County may not renew Happy Faces given what Mr. Hermon said almost 400 -- almost 500 people, and we know from the labor reports that employees are scarce these days. I



just want to ask you, what duty do you have to the municipalities to let them know if it doesn't pass?"

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Well, we do their elections every year, so if we have a supplemental staff that are suddenly gone, and at the time that I sent out the memo it was still a 45-to-55 day process. Since then, we've met with human resources and we think we can shorten that, but that is a lot of staff for us to hire. So, it's only prudent to let the mayors know that we -- we are at risk of being behind when it comes to preparing for the election, or that we may not be able to conduct the election."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So, Mr. Barron would it be prudent to say you have a duty to let the municipalities know that there's a risk because some of the municipalities may not be prepared to handle their own elections?"

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So part of your duty is to let them know what could happen, whether you had a plan B or not. It is your duty to let them know? That's what I'm asking you."

**RICHARD BARRON, DIRECTOR, FC BRE:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay. Having said that, we know that we are in a different situation; this is not a situation that we have had before. We've had to deal with some external things, the pandemic, and a lot of other things; but more importantly I think in the sake of transparency, when we are moving on stuff because of a big lie, and then we go to try to put policy in place because of a big lie, I think we have a duty to let the municipalities know because it is an extension of the SB 202. We know that the SB 202 passed. We know what it required and we know that people would be affected by it. So, I say this, I am a size two Sports Illustration model. Now I could say that all day long, but everybody can look at me and tell that I'm fluffy. So, what I say to you, Sir, one, I commend you for under fire. We have not always agreed, and in the future, you know we may not be here; someone else may be here. But I think it's important that we let, in transparency, of the viewing audience know the best thing we need to do is to pass this and make sure these municipalities have fair access -- elections. I have had people from one end of Fulton County to the other call me. I have had mayors call me. I have had Happy Faces employees call me. I have had calls for and against, but what I do know if we do not pass this, we are being just as bad as the Jim Crow races that want to affect this election. So, what I say to you, and I say to this Body, and I say to those that are listening pass the Happy Faces. Let us review this again, and see if some changes need to be made. Thank you, Sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Commissioner Hausmann do you have--”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yeah, just a couple more comments. I would suggest to you that that memo was pure politics designed to try and put pressure on the Commission to change it with some kind of threatening actions. So, I didn't appreciate it very much, but I've already said that. And I would also suggest to the Commission that should this not pass, and we post openings for these jobs, we will be flooded with people willing to help. There's been so much attention paid to this, I don't think we'll have any problem whatsoever finding adequate people to cover these positions. And then in my discussions with the County Manager about potential options should this not pass in developing a plan B, is it not true that they're could be a special designation Mr. Hermon -- seasonal employees, or election worker employees that could commit to a certain number of days per week perhaps during early voting, or whatever the function might be that would not have to rise to the level of getting benefits. There are other ways to approach this; is that not true?”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “Yes, there are Commissioner, but the category that we settled on is a new category that Richard talked about which is a time limited category which we created specifically for the court backlog which goes along with the benefits packages that the County offers.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Okay. But we could in fact set up some that do not require benefits; is that not true?”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “Well, because of the fact that --”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “-- since they are temporary short-term positions?”

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER:** “Right. But because these employees will be working a minimum of 40 hours, the ACA would require us to provide them with benefits.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Well, again I think you'll be flooded with so many folks that you could probably have staggered three day a week employees perhaps. I just encourage you to look outside the box here, and figure out a way because there's a lot of interest, and a lot of community members that would really like to participate that have been shut out. So, I really want to say that there's another way to do this. We're making this way too difficult. We're kind of being lazy to depend on a temporary agency that has so many negative connotations to it. It doesn't make us look good to keep talking about this forever. So, I hope we don't pass this. I'm not naïve enough to think that that's a real possibility, but I am still hopeful.”

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, I'd like to call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Second. Let's vote, please. Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "You got to put your motion in to call the question."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "This is on call the question?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, ma'am, the call to question is on the floor."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Come on guys, let' go. That's the main motion -- calling the question, vote yay or nay."

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now, on the main motion, which is to approve -- you voted unanimous."

**CLERK GRIER:** Okay. With Vice Chair Hall it's unanimous."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On the main motion which is to approve. Let's vote. I can do this quicker than this machine."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The vote is open."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Has everyone voted?"

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 9, **21-0514**, Finance. Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the advertisement of the proposed 2021 millage rate for the general fund of the calculated rollback rate of 9.33 mills; advertisement of the five-year levee history for the general fund; the required public hearing date authorizing the Chairman to sign the pending appeals for properties other than public utilities form, and

authorizing the County Attorney to petition the Superior Court of Fulton County for immediate and temporary collections of 2021 taxes if it becomes necessary.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion is to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Any questions or comments? All right. None, let's vote.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “If, in fact, this does end up being the millage rate, will it not in fact be the lowest millage rate that we've had in a long, long time? Hakeem?”

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** “Yes, Commissioner. Good afternoon Commissioner, yes.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “How long -- has it ever been lower?”

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** “Not that I can recall. I don't recall ever being lower than this. Sharon?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “I don't either, but we can go back into our old --”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “[Inaudible. Chairman is not on a mic.] Thank you.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “I just think that's significant.”

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**21-0515**, Tax Assessor. Request approval to award a contract without competition to identify unreported aircraft for evaluation of ad valorem tax purposes.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Cast your vote. Madam Clerk.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “One moment. Okay. The motion passes unanimously.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 10, **21-0516**, Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide hazardous waste disposal services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hausmann, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Any questions? None, let's vote, please.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**21-0517**, Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval to amend an existing contract for required GDOT traffic study of Fulton Industrial Boulevard.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion is to approve by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**21-0518**, Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval to increase spending authority to cover the cost of the immediate replacement of out of compliance fire pump controller.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Any questions? None, let's vote.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the motion passes unanimously.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**21-0519**, Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders to provide cleaning services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Cast your vote, please.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “And the motion passes unanimously.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Page 11, **21-0520** Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide scrap metal recycling services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Any questions? Let's vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**21-0521**, Real Estate and Asset Management. Request approval of a recommended proposal for preconstruction services for the new Fulton County Animal Shelter facility.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner -- Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Commissioner Hausmann. Let's vote.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “The next item is the add-on item moved up by Vice Chair Hall, **21-0533**, Arts and Culture. Request approval of two contracts with Hammonds House Museum, and the National Black Arts Festival to provide expanded operational resources, educational, and arts related services.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Vice Chair Hall. Commissioner Morris followed by Commissioner Hall.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “I accidentally hit the button.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Vice chair.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “All right. I'd like to make reference to the previous Resolution that we passed that initially Hammonds House and National Black Arts Festival were a part of, and that was item number 21-0460. And on that Resolution, for those of you who do not have a copy of it, it states that we were requesting approval of four contracts -- a contract with Hammonds House Museum not to exceed 70,000, a contract with Chattahoochee Nature Center not to exceed 200,000; a contract with Johns Creek Community Arts Center in an amount not to exceed 185,000, and a contract with National Black Arts Festival not to exceed 50,000. And today we heard from a lot of the constituency, we've also heard from people who frequent the NBAF, and Hammonds House Museum, and those who work there as well. And have heard that COVID-19 has impacted them significantly, as we can see across the arts and culture community that everyone has been impacted. And I do want to just increase these to at least be fair in our allocation and contribution to the arts and culture community to at least be the same amount as its counterparts of Johns Creek and Chattahoochee Nature Center. And so, I would ask that we consider amending this, so that they are in line with the allocations that we have given to the other arts centers and the nature center. So that would mean that Hammonds House would literally get 130,000 to bring them up to the same amount

as the Chattahoochee Nature Center, and NBAF would get 150,000 to bring them up to the same. And that is my amendment to this Resolution.”

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Thank you, Commissioner Hall. I wholly support those increases, and the equitable nature, and the equity in which you’re trying to receive those, or trying to make those entities equal the amounts of the others. You have my full support.”

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

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yes. I just want to make clear that the 204 Chattahoochee Nature Center actually is combined from the former Cochran Mill Nature Center located in South Fulton when that closed three years ago, after the unfortunate drowning that occurred there. And the Chattahoochee Nature Center assumed the responsibility to serve the South Fulton area. So, while it looks like a large amount their duties are quite large. I’m not opposed to considering additional funding for any worthwhile group, but I’m not sure that in this particular case, what’s proposed would provide equity because it is a service that’s provided throughout Fulton County -- the reality is that the Chattahoochee Nature Center itself -- that funding is really a hundred thousand dollars that goes toward that center, which by the way, we own the property, and we have a long-term lease with them. So, I just want to make sure that’s on the table. I’m not saying that I don’t think that these other entities are not worthy of additional funding because they more than likely are, but if in true fact you’re going to be equitable, then I would suggest that there needs to be an increase in the Chattahoochee Nature Center to in fact make it equitable.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Vice Chair, you have another comment?”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I just want to remind everyone that we have given an increase to both of these organizations in the past because they had significantly been unfunded repeatedly. And this time, we are looking at the fact that we have had COVID-19, and they desperately need these funds in the arts community; and these are two major organizations in the community; National Black Arts Festival and Hammonds House are known across the nation.”

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

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Just a question: Again, I’m familiar with these organizations. They do terrific work and deserve all the funding that’s appropriate.”



Where would this funding come from if we accepted this amendment and increased these amounts?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “We would start, I think, by looking inside the arts budget itself for any salary savings that we could use and realign for this purpose. And then outside of that, we would have to look elsewhere in the budget to move funds either from contingency, or from some other source that's determined to be available.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Do you think there is salary savings in the arts and culture department?”

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** “I think there will be some salary savings. I don't have that calculation in front of me right now, but there should be some salary savings that we can tap into.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “There's been quite some time where we had a vacancy at the director level, as well as the deputy director level, and a couple of other positions in arts. So, I'm not sure they're sufficient to fund everything, but there should be some salary savings generated.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “While in theory I do agree with this, my only concern is we have QLS just reopening, and I know for a fact they are underfunded. And so, while I will support this, I'm concerned that sometimes our priorities are not always in line because clearly with the seniors coming back into the centers, and it's not just the center QLS; we want to make sure that our seniors have adequate funding. And so, I would ask that even though I will support this that we do not pick and choose what's just personally important to us that across the board that we look at the need, and the need has been expressed to me by QLS that they are a hundred thousand dollars underfunded. And so, I was just waiting to see what could be worked out, and I'm hoping with the County Manager's office that we will be able to work out something. But I just want to go on record that I do understand the equity that my colleague is talking about, but I also understand that the arts is very important to us. The Hammonds House is very important to the community, but we need to make sure that we extend that feeling across the board, especially, with our seniors because I would hate to see our seniors not get that additional funding that they need.”

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

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yes. If I recall, this item included four items, and we approved two of them at the last meeting. We approved Chattahoochee Nature Center, and John Creek Arts Center; and then left these other two items because Commissioner Arrington was not in attendance. So, my request is -- and I can't recall the numbers, and I don't have it in front of me -- just to make sure that Johns Creek Art Center is also treated equitably, and to bring that back at the next meeting, please so that unless you can tell us right now because if we're going to be equitable – I think we need to be equitable.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I read them all ready. I have the Resolution right here.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Can you tell me what it said.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Yeah, I'll read it again. Request approval of four contracts: A contract with Hammonds House Museum not to exceed 70,000, a contract with the Chattahoochee Nature Center not to exceed 200,000, a contract with Johns Creek Community Arts Center in the amount not to exceed \$185,000, and a contract with National Black Arts Festival not to exceed \$50,000 to provide expanded operational resources, educational, and arts related services to the citizens of Fulton County.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Would you accept a friendly amendment to include John Creeks Arts Center in making all of them the same?”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I just did make them all the same because Johns Creek is at 185,000; you want to add 5,000 to them to make it 200,000?”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “I thought it would be at 15,000; would it not be?”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “15,000 to make it 200,000.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “To make it 200,000.

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “That's fine with me, yeah, that's fair.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. That's a friendly amendment that's accepted.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “So what's the final amount?”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “So the final amount should be Hammonds House an additional 130,000, National Black Arts Festival 150,000 and--”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “An additional 150 or 150 total?”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “An additional 150,000 because we're taking every one of them to 200,000 so that it's fair.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “I got you, I just want to be clear because you said that it's an additional 150.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Yes, sir. An additional 150,000. And then let's not forget Johns Creek community arts center gets 15,000 to bring them to 200,000 so all four would get 200,000 total.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Thank you.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “You're welcome.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Anyone else. All right. I'm going to support this, but I want to make an observation right now. I heard two things equitably they should be equal and also based upon need. All of these that we are funding giving additional money they do not do the same things. They do not serve the same number of people, so, I think this can get out of hand if this trend continues. And in fact, I can guarantee you that the Commissioner Rahman's already mentioned QLS which is not arts, but I'm certain others when they hear what happened here today, they will be coming forward. And if we're going to be consistent, you can't say yes to some and no to others. You hear me say this all time. It's easy to say yes, but it's hard to say no.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “But Mr. Chair do not forget that we have for the arts contract for services grants and that is why I asked for this to be moved and heard before we do the contract for services because we are awarding grant funding to some of these same nonprofits again. So, let's be clear they're getting money also through contract for services. And let's be clear that we have our community service program grant program that funds the youth, seniors, disabilities, economic stability slash poverty, and homelessness. So, we're giving money out to these organizations in other places as well.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Let's vote.”

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right continue, please.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Page 11, under the Arts and Library, **21-0522**. Arts and Culture. Request approval of a contract for fiscal year 2021 contracts for services program funding recommendations.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Vice Chair Hall seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Ellis and Vice Chair Hall. Strike that Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Hausmann, Vice Chair Hall.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “I’ll be brief and I want to be consistent on this particularly in light of the last conversation we just had. Part of the reason I voted no I think for maybe the past three readings of the contract for services since we’re talking about equity the distribution of funds for the contract for services has been under weighted in the northern part of the County for quite a long time and continues to be with these recommendations, there’s about 1.3 million recommended funds will be allocated to different organizations, and according to the packet about 10 percent of that would be benefiting 35 percent of the population or so. So, you know, to Chairman Pitts this point, you know, equity is often in the eyes of the beholder, and you know we weren’t going to modify this, I don’t think we should have modified the other. So, it is what it is. I think we made a little bit better outreach to some of the organizations – I realize we have new leadership coming in. I hope that there’ll be further outreach into the North Fulton communities in addition some of these organizations which sought funding the amount of funding that they sought and the amount of money that they were granted during this, you know, was undercut significantly versus the ask. And some of the folks who didn’t even ask for you know much at all were trying to build stuff in terms of emergent arts and so forth. Chairman those folks now that’s just getting scraps. So, I’m not going to be -- I’m supportive of the efforts that we have here, but again I think our process is flawed and there’s not equitable distribution across all the districts in the County. And that’s not anything new from me. I’m being consistent on it.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Hausmann.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yeah, I agree. It’s unfortunate and I looked at some of these that are partially funded in fact most of them are partially funded. And I wonder if, in fact, the program can even happen with the amount of funding that we’re given based on what they asked for. So, I’m just really unclear on how we arrived at some of these numbers, but you know when a program asks for \$25,000 and they get thirty-five hundred, I don’t know how in the world they can do the program. So, are we giving good money for something that’s really not even going to happen? And then my second question would be you know have we done an analysis to make sure these are all still viable organizations? They’ve been through a lot. Are we sure that they’re still able to continue operating when we’re issuing these grants?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right, can anyone respond; that's a great question?”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “And if they're in trouble and they're struggling, then we need to know. We talked a lot about recovery money going towards the arts. I haven't heard much about how that might work too, so that's part of my general question.”

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** “Good afternoon, Commissioners and to answer your question many of them are struggling, but they're still surfacing. And so, with the programs that they have, some of them had to scale back due to the lack of funding. Our funding for this year was cut because 320,000 was cut from 2020. I think that went to the relief fund, so when the council and all the people that came together to vote on it they had to make adjustments. To clear that, so, some of them are struggling, but you know we hope that they will move forward.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “And so there is no effort when you don't look at this geographically at all do you? You're new, but we've talked about this for years.”

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** “Right. So, in terms of how we reach out and let people know about what we have to offer, there's so many means of how we communicate. We communicate through the library, through media, through press release.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “I'm talking about in your scoring when you go to award the young grants.”

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** “Say that again.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Do you have any geographic component to the scoring to figure out how much to give the grantees?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “Commissioner, no, there is no geographic criteria for the scoring. However, there is the Arts Council that's involved with scoring they also assist with outreach, and for the public the Arts Council is a voluntary board that is staffed or the volunteers are appointed by the Commissioners. And so, they do help with the outreach in the community. But to answer your question, there is no geographic component.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Well, I hope y'all can just really see the unequitable distribution of these funds throughout our County. Now granted the major arts community is located in Atlanta, we all understand that, but it still—there's a lot of area outside of Atlanta that's not equitably served. And it's just disappointing, and we can do better than that.”

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** “Well, as we move forward – as I’ve been making my rounds to meet with Commissioners staff, I want to make sure that I meet with everyone so that we can sit down and start strategizing some targeted approaches to where we can reach the masses.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “I welcome that. Thank you.”

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** “You're welcome.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Vice Chair Hall.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Thank you. Okay. So first this reminds me of the community service program grants where I recall Dr. Roshell that we had a discussion about the funding not being adequate enough to spread out across all of the approved nonprofits that came through the application process, and I believe you told me that you know you're trying to at least fund as many as possible so you kind of stretched the money out to fund as many as possible. Is it safe to say that that's what you're tried to do this time as well?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “Yes, Ma'am. From the deliberations that the arts Council held, they really did try to serve as many as they could. We saw an 18 percent increase in the number of applications.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. So that being said, I did notice that if you turn to the recommendations packet, and go to the second page it's not numbered, but it's basically the table of contents, and it says at the very bottom list of eligible unfunded applicants page 94; and then if you go to page 94 -- I do want to point out something that needs to be corrected though -- because the title on page 94 says CFS applicants not recommended for funding. Whereas, the table of contents says list of eligible unfunded applicants and that is considerably different. So, can I-- is it safe to say that this is actually the list of eligible unfunded applicants on page 94?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “I’m pulling up that.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “—you’re going to look at it; check it for me.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “Yes, Ma'am. We had a total of requests -- we had 190 applications, and we had a total request of 3.4 million. We had a eligible that are not funded 86,655 those that were ineligible based on their responses on their application \$144,750, and we had one withdrawal 50,000. So, the combined total is \$281,405 dollars.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. So, this page is incorrect then because it says 231,405 and you just said \$281,405.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “Yes, Ma'am. I believe the document you're looking at did not include the withdrawn application for \$50,000.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay, so \$281,405 is what would be needed to completely fund all of the eligible applicants?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “No, ma'am.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “You need more than that?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “It's 3.4 million if you wanted to fund them at their request.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. So, help me understand what is this page 94 and 95 then?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “So, the number of -- the amount that we were unable to fund is 86,655 within the \$1.3 million dollar envelope.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “No, I'm talking about as a total. What's the total number that you were not able to fund that were approved applicants?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “86,655.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Total?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “-but that wasn't the request that was just --”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “No, I think you're not understanding me. Forget about the amount of money that you had allocated for this because we already know that's not an adequate amount of money to cover all of the applicants that were approved. So just as a total, how much money would you need to fund all of the applicants who were approved, but they did not get funded because you ran out of money.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “It is the 86,000.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “It is the 86,000.”

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



**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "So, okay, so knowing that then, what is this page 94 and 95 because not only does it say in the table of contents that it's the list of eligible unfunded applicants, but then on the page, it has a totally different heading. So, is the heading on the page correct, and the table of contents incorrect?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** "I'm scrolling to that and it's page 94, Commissioner."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "94 and 95 because 94 has the title and it's a full-page, and the rest of it is on page 95 with a total dollar amount."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** "Yes. So, on page 94 and page 95, those organizations are combined with those that are eligible and not funded, and those that are -- we're not recommended for funding because of the quality of their application. So, their application did not meet the criteria."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "So you combine ineligible applications with eligible ones that were not funded."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, that is what this page does represent. It represents both categories ineligible because of the quality, and then those that were eligible, but funding was exhausted. And so, therefore they did not receive an award."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "You did them a disservice. That should have been separate from those that were ineligible because it makes it seem like they were ineligible as well, when you're actually saying they were not. They were actually eligible. So, should have actually been separated from this. And, this table of contents, the last item needs to be corrected with the correct title. So, you're saying that all we need is \$86,655 to fund those eligible applicants who did not get funded?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** "Yes Ma'am."

**DAVID MANUEL, DIRECTOR, ARTS & CULTURE:** "That's 18 of them."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "And that's 18 of them? So, I would like to make an amendment to add that money and go ahead and fund everyone; it's not even in the millions. And then I also would like that you know I've heard this even back when I was Chief of Staff to Commissioner Garner that we are not equitably addressing all of the arts and culture

nonprofit across Fulton County and I've heard this raised before by Commissioner Hausmann. And so, in the past I heard that, you know, it was offered that a list of arts and culture nonprofits be provided by those Commissioners in those Districts. And for me, my nonprofits they come to me and they tell me what they do and everything in the community because I'm out in the community all the time, and I have the uniqueness of being entirely inside of the city of Atlanta. So, we have an NPU system that was set up by the late Mayor Maynard Jackson. So, it makes it very easy for me to get into my communities. And so, my arts you already know this, I immediately will send them directly to the director and staff in the arts and culture department, so, that they can connect. But if there needs to be you know the Commissioners know their Districts better than anybody so, can they just provide a list of arts and culture nonprofit organizations so, that you know who they are and that would lessen the time that it would take you to try to figure out where they are and who they are? I think that would help speed up the process Commissioner Hausmann, and Commissioner Ellis. And then I do think that we need to adequately put in whatever number there is of that into the list of contract for services so that they can also get the information."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Do you have some unreadiness, you want to hold it."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "No, I want to just make sure that we add that additional money the 86,655 to go ahead and fund the eligible applicants that didn't get funded. That's my ask and let them provide those nonprofits they keep talking about that we're not covering."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "I asked. I mean, that's what Dr. Roshell said. It seems really low but—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, we have a lot to cover today; some really substantive issues; and let's not you know, spend an hour on \$86,000 dollars. So, is that what it is \$86,000?"

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "I can't imagine that's all it is based on what I did."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is this—"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yeah, thank you Commissioner Arrington. I think we need to look at since you -- Vice Chair you did say earlier if I'm not mistaken because we are here; you said it was nonprofits that were funded, but I said there was nonprofits that were underfunded or they it was exhausted, and so I agree with you."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Don't quote me unless you know what you're talking about."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “But, but, I mean, I’m not quoting something that you didn’t say. In fact, I’m agreeing with you.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “You want to--is the court reporter here?”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “But what I’m saying, Chairman, what I’m saying is this. The reality is for underfunded. That’s the reality. And so, to my colleagues that I’m crossing the aisle and agreeing with, is that it’s more than \$86,000. And my colleague over here is saying it’s \$3 million. So, I would think that we need to hold off on the amount and not put an amount in until we get an actual number as opposed to piece milling it. That’s what I am saying.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I agree.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Thank you. I’m glad that we agree.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “We don’t always agree, but Dr. Roshell can you provide that as I’m asking you.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “Yes Ma'am. The two numbers are 3.4 million is the total requests that every organization made.”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “That includes unqualified applications, is that correct?”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “No. That’s just the eligible applications. The total request was 3.4 million. As the Arts Council attempted to fund all eligible applications within the 1.3 million, they exhausted the 1.3 million before they could fund the remaining 86,000 in requests that they had approved. So, for example if organization A asked for 50,000 and the Arts Council approve them for ten, by the time they got to that approved amount they had run out of funding. And so, that is why there are two amounts. 3.4 million if you wanted to know what was totally requested. They had to fit that 3.4 million of requests into a \$1.3 million envelope. And when they did that, they still could not fund \$86,000 when they pared down that request.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right, Commissioner Arrington, you still want to be heard?”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Again, I’m in support of the 3.4 million. I want to do the same thing we did with CSP; just fund the whole thing. So, you know.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “That’s fine, let’s do it.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Sounds like a friendly amendment. Mr. Chair, we’re ready. Call the question.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “No, seriously this is really getting ridiculous that way we’re doing now. If we’re not ready to move forward on this, we ought to hold it. It’s not time sensitive. But is it time sensitive Dr. Roshell?”

**CHAIRMAN PITS:** “When you hesitate, it means no. Well I’m gonna take it as a no. Your motion is to hold? All right I’ll second.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Can she answer, can she answer that please.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “It’s sensitive from the perspective of just getting the funds to the organizations.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Ask the recipients is it sensitive.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right there’s a motion to hold. I’ll second it. Let’s deal with the motion to hold. Cast your vote, please. The motion is to hold. Madam Clerk, let’s go.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, could you please make the motion to hold?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “She made it.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “She made it.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Okay now—”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “I made a second.”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Press the button, okay, and now, the vote is open to hold. And the motion to hold passes unanimously.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right next item.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “**21-0523**, Library, request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide newspapers, magazines, and serial subscriptions.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Morris seconded by Commissioner Hausmann. Any questions or comments? If not, cast your vote.”

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

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “And Mr. Chairman, I apologize Tonya on 0522, and Vice Chair, was there a specific reason or additional information we were holding the contracts for services for? Is there any additional information you’d like for us to provide in the interim.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Lots. They were all over the place.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Commissioner Morris wants to know where it’s going to be funded from.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “I’ll second that. Madam Clerk, let’s go.”

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 12, on the Health and Human Services, **21-0524**, Community Development. Request approval of a substantial amendment to the Department of Housing and Urban Development annual action plan for community development block grants to identify the projects to receive federal funds for projects and activities for low to moderate income citizens.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right, motion to approve by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Questions, Vice Chair Hall, Commissioner Hausmann, Commissioner Ellis.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I just had one question. There was, what was it -- this line that says CDBG budget area public service description fair housing activities. What exactly is that? Hello Mr. Wilson. Your mic is--”

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** “There we go, my apologies.

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “No problem.”

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** “The fair housing network represents fair housing--”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Speak up a little bit please, Sir.”

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** “My apologies. That represents fair housing training and education sessions. It also represents landlord-tenant mediation around fair housing as well. And these are activities we’ll issue a request for proposal.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Thank you, so much.”

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

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “First of all welcome to Fulton County. I don’t think – can you just introduce yourself real quick?”

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** “Certainly. I’m Stan Wilson, and I’ve been here about four weeks now, and I’m the Community Development Director.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Again welcome.”

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** “Thank you.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “There was a comment made this morning seems like yesterday, but I think it was this morning. That we are not in the CDBG business anymore in Fulton County; this obviously is not the case. I just wanted to state for the community’s knowledge that, in fact, Fulton County is still administering CDBG grant monies, so thank you.”

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** “Thank you.”

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Welcome, Mr. Wilson. You may not be the right person for this question, but I’ll ask it anyway: And then somebody could assist you if you don’t know the answer to it, because this predates your tenure with us here. I know one of the items, and I’m fully supportive of this item, one of the items as noted here I believe is a sewer project and I seem to recall last time we had a sewer project it was CDBG related that we sent the money and then we found out that we didn’t exactly have things set up rightly and we didn’t get the CDBG money, we had to pay for it ourselves. So, can somebody just fill us in on terms of the changes to the process to ensure that kind of everything we’re seeing here, but particularly that one since that was the one in question, or type of one in question you know that definitely meets it and we’re not going to run into any issues down the road.”

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, DEPUTY COO, FC HHS:** “Thank you, Commissioner Ellis. Yes, so the changes in the process we have conducted technical assistance training with all of our cooperative agreement cities to ensure that they understand the procurement requirements, and the documentation that is required to be in the file before we issue their notice to proceed. We have had training on notice to proceed; we have conducted many more in person visits to the sites to ensure that the site actually

exists, and that this is in fact a real project, so to speak. So, the staff has taken many measures to ensure that they are following the appropriate guidelines. We've also increased our technical assistance interaction with HUD based on their learnings from that previous situation."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Dr. Roshell."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, any other questions and comments. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Cast your vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**21-0525**, Senior Services, request approval to increase spending authority to provide home delivered meals meal delivery and nutrition counseling for Fulton County residents age 60 and above."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis seconded by Vice Chair Hall any questions? Unanimous vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Commissioners actions Items **21-0466**, request approval to amend the Board of Commissioners procedural rules for meetings specifically rule six agenda preparation and public comment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. You recall I put together a committee of the Board here, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Hall to work on this and you're ready with a report today -- recommendations? Vice Chair, not Vice Chair but, which one of the three of you is going to make it?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON:** OFF MIC "Mr. Chair, I think we should hold on this. We've got some items that are way more pressing than this."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, substitute motion, a motion to hold; is there a second? All right. Is there a second; I'll second."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON:** OFF MIC "Mr. Chairman."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "How about if we hold it to the end of the meeting; then we'll take it up there is a little more with."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is that, okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's fine. I just know these other items --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right motion is to hold until the end of the meeting. Is there a second? I'll second it. Let's vote. Madam Clerk. Where is this thing? I want to throw this thing in the river. Is it -- can I do this by voice and we can save about another hour?"

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Is the system working?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is it working? All right, let's do this. The motion is to hold until the end of the meeting. Those in favor say aye; oppose no. It's held. Next Item please. Madam Clerk. Madam Clerk. Madam Clerk? Speak up please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "The next item moved up on page 13, **21-0529**, Discussion Development Authority of Fulton County sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. At the last meeting I was asked to contact the Development Authority to have them appear at this meeting to answer -- to make a presentation if they chose to do so, but more importantly to answer any questions that the Board may have. Mr. Turpeau graciously appeared rather agreed to be here. He is here along with some of his board members. So, Mr. Turpeau, would you come on up and then bring anyone with you that you have with you."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Thank you so much Mr. Chairman. I provided a PowerPoint -- I don't know if you're able to pull it up."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Are we able to? We spent a lot of money on this new Assembly Hall."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Mr. Chair [Inaudible.] fantastic."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Who's with you?"

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "With me, I have our Treasurer, Sam Bacote, and our secretary Kyle Lamont; Senator [Inaudible.], Board members as well, hey, Joanna. And board member Joanna Potts. Senator Brandon Beach sends his apologies for not

being able to stay. Again, thank you for having us here. Thank you for supporting the Development Authority of Fulton County during this trying time. While we're cleaning up and implementing policies sorry let me start again. I apologize. Y'all have some long days and I really appreciate your service. Thank you for supporting the Development Authority of Fulton County board of directors during this difficult time especially as we had to concentrate on implementing policies where none existed in cleaning up questionable practices. We know you're busy and may not have had time to read all of the updates we send you so, I ask for your patience as we take a few minutes to talk through some of the changes we've been making since November of 2020. Slide, please. Again, we have new leadership: myself as Chair, Brandon Beach is our Vice Chair, Sam Bacote our Treasurer who has been doing a fantastic job, as well as Kyle Lamont, who's been doing a considerable amount of community outreach. It is currently I am serving as the Interim Executive Director; however, it is apparent that serving as both Chairman and Interim Executive Director is a political and public distraction keeping the Development Authority of Fulton County from moving forward. I informed you on Monday that I'll only serve the Interim Executive Director position through August 31st. Our accelerated timeline to select an Interim Executive Director began on Monday and we expect to have a full board vote based on the top two to three candidates well before August 31st. Senator Brandon Beach will be leading this search as he has done for the North Fulton chamber as well as the North Fulton CID. I am truly grateful for his willingness to move along -- move this along in such a timely manner. Again, it was never my intention to serve as both Chair and our intern Executive Director, but when asked to do so, and with the support of my board I agreed to step up. New board members such as Joanna Potts, we appreciate you and others for stepping up and agreeing to work and I know that you will be bringing valuable perspective to our work. We have new policies and a new focus. Slide, please. **[audio system is echoing continuously]** Per diem policy we created a new video policy in November 2020 and updated it June 2021 defining and clarifying activities that qualify, a uniform reporting and training, post per diem laws for each board member quarterly; matter of fact that was a recommendation from Mr. Morris in six months, but we wanted even more transparency."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS: OFF MIC** "All right, this is not acceptable. Madam COO, we spent a lot of money on this new assembly hall and we're having problems. I don't know what's going on. **[mic is on now]** -- half the time. Let's try it again Mr. Turpeau. Okay. Will it be recorded."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Hello testing. Perfect, thank you. A few updates were made in June, and we're in agree—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Start over.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Slide 3, start over, sorry. No per diem policy was in place when we’re elected as officers. Immediately, we put one in place to reform some abused past practices while continuing to allow the DFC to focus on economic development well before the media coverage began. A few updates were made in June, and we are in agreement with some of Commissioners Morris' proposed recommendations today. Publicly sharing the per diem of each board member with ours’ being quarterly, his recommendation was six months, but we want to be even more transparent. We have asked every board member to file a Fulton County personal income financial disclosure with the clerk. I've done so as well. So has our treasurer, our secretary, Senator Beach has filed one with the state and is also complying with the suggestion that he do one for Fulton County. Other updates include clarification of what official DFC business items qualify for per diem. While the policy has outlined qualifying events as board meetings, committee meetings, and certainly and require certain time thresholds, the development authority of Fulton County refined the policy to require more specifically defined activities that will qualify. A creation of a per diem approval form as an exhibit to the per diem policy, so we are uniformed in our reporting and creating standardized per diem description language for the reporting event. I’ve shared this with the BOC. Specifications in the policy that any board member receiving a salary from the DFC is ineligible for per diem’s as is already put into practice with my role as Interim Executive Director. Slide, please. We have a new focus. More investment in development South of I-20. The map you see there is taken from the DCA. The shaded areas are areas that have 50 percent or 51 percent less income -- moderate income. The other maps we are looking at deal with the poverty rate as well. These are the areas that have been left behind and more development needs to be focused. We want to focus on true quality workforce and affordable housing. We hear a lot about affordable housing and it is necessary, but true quality workforce housing is essential as well, because it is that missing middle, and we want to try to address that issue. We want to create housing so that we can do community retention. There's no reason that someone grows up here but then they can't afford to live here. We want to address those issues. That's where our focus has been. I also am excited because the South Fulton regional mayors are excited that the DFC wants to spur quality development while focused on the need as I said, a true workforce. And a lot of them were sorry that they could not attend today, but they're at a municipal conference I think there was a signing that had to be rescheduled, but we have provided you a letter of their support. So, we have been reaching out building partnerships, and I'd love to thank my team for that. As I said Brandon, Senator Brandon Beach could not be here, so as we transition into this next slide, Sam Bacote has graciously taken that over.”

**SAMUEL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Thank you Mr. Chairman and also good afternoon to the Commissioners. And as mentioned, I am Samuel Bacote and I serve as Treasurer of the development authority of Fulton County; have since November of last year, and I’m pinch-hitting for Senator Brandon Beach to discuss -- next slide, please -- to discuss what we call the central economic development partner. That is us with the state. So, as you can see on the slide there that the state relies on a partnership – next slide, please – that is the slide? Okay, pinch-hitting -- that was the slide - the state relies on a partnership – it, it can certainly go back, okay. I won’t speak to the slides then – I’m getting my script here handed to me as I pinch-hit. Again, the state relies on the DFAC, DAFC as a critical partner in granting incentives and those incentives are used to attract, of course, business to Fulton County in the state of Georgia. To help those businesses create jobs and expand the tax base in particular, and in some instances even be able to lower the millage rate which is a good thing. That’s helped the state of Georgia become a state that’s considered number 1 in business. Now, the authority’s ability to work across I’m going to call it city lines is great because it then serves as a single point of contact for these cities and global corporations. And becomes a way of creating coordination between the state, the cities, and the global corporations; so that there’s no overlap. So, that the global corporations can have one-stop shopping as they’re developing their business plans. Again one-stop shopping with the Development Authority of Fulton County. Now, the most important, I would say, tool that’s used of the state is called the reba grant. These are a type of incentive program that the state of Georgia utilizes to provide financial assistance to induce and assist companies to relocate, expand or construct projects in Georgia. I believe these are some examples of previous slides.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Mr. Bacote--“

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Okay. “Yes--“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Mr. Turpeau

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Yes-“

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “- excuse me. I think we’re very familiar with the operations of the authority.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Okay. Well, we’ll go ahead and move forward.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yes.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Okay. That’s fine. We’ll move over I know you guys know what we do for TEFRA bonds and nonprofits, so next slide, please. We just

really want to quickly -- we just got these estimates in from Earnest and Young. Just give you a snapshot: current taxes collected in 2020 is \$335,000; anticipated taxes new taxes year one is \$8.8 million; tax anticipated over the ten-year incentive period is a hundred and 21 a hundred 22 million overall impact over a billion dollars. We're putting together the meeting now scheduling so we could get that reporting for EY to you in the upcoming meetings. Slide, please. Getting to the heart of the matter: per diem. It's not realistic to say that no one at Fulton County knew of per diem or stipend was being received by the development authority board members. We are working with your legal department to find documentation about when the per diem was officially authorized, but this could have been 25 plus years ago. We recently shared a 2011 memo with documentation that the BOC was well aware as the legal department and others. And at that time, the payment was noted by a per meeting not per day payment with the rates. Our rates are posted on the Fulton County website for years along with other boards receiving per diem's or stipends. Slide, please. What you see is a sampling of the various board payments to various county boards ranging from 250 to 105 just as a point of reference as well as the Fulton County board of tax assessors they have a stipend of \$1,500 a month. Just to put everything in perspective. Slide, please. Moving forward: The BOC determines the amount of the per diem. The DFC the DAFC has not processed any per diem's and has halted once it became aware that there was confusion and we would not want to do anything that would be in contrast to the Development Authority law or any state statutes. Board members shall be paid a per diem for each day based on Development Authority law board members shall be paid a per diem for each day or part thereof spent in the performance of their duties. These duties include board meetings, board trainings, site visits, outreach, and so much more. I mean we have working committees such as the NV and strategic initiatives. A lot of times we get compared to invest Atlanta. We have a staff of three people. We again have a staff of three people. We truly have a working board. So, we're not coming once a month to a meeting, and then stepping away. We are on demand services. When an economic development opportunity has to close, and bonds have to be issued, we have to be there on demand. We put a lot of time and effort to foster strong economies and create even stronger communities that the residents and future residents of Fulton County deserve. I've given you a copy of this PowerPoint as well as all the backups of the new policies that we put in place. I will have to admit prior to new leadership coming on board, and learning about some of the operations, it was indeed loosey-goosey. I am not here to defend any bad past practice where there's no defense. Not doing that. I've spent -- my team spent their time looking forward to service those that have been underserved. Moving forward and breathing new life into this authority. With that I'm happy to answer any questions and look forward to

continued relationship with the Board of Commissioners in Fulton County for the betterment of the residents of Fulton County. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Thank you Mr. Turpeau. All right. Questions, yes, Commissioner Morris followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman followed by Commissioner Arrington.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Thank you Lady and gentlemen for being here. Thank you, Mr. Turpeau. I do recognize and appreciate the progress that has been made. You know I started raising questions about the DAFC when I first got elected, and Mr. Pitts and I went and visited with the former leadership and got you all putting the agendas on your website before an hour before the meeting, and fact sheets, and everything else; and you started doing public comments so the Board was very responsive to our efforts on transparency. We made the progress of giving the school boards –for whom this board spends 50 percent of its investments on their tax dollars giving them seats involved in all that's been great. And since the question's been raised y'all have done a lot to be responsive to some of those concerns and that's very appreciated. The truth is, of course, that the public has totally lost confidence and trust in DAFC, and its leadership I mean that's just the fact. And it'd be great if that slide was still up there [Inaudible.] up because basically what it appears that this board is terribly focused on the money that you all can put in your pockets from your per diem's and some cases salaries for jobs. And it's so unlike – I know you, you you're the analogy to or contrast to Invest Atlanta. It's got a big staff but it does an awful lot more. It has the TADs to administer and a lot of that staff administers that TAD money, there's TAD grants, it has loan programs that the general fund of the city gives to it to administer. So, it's staff that does the bonds for title and the TEFRA stuff is probably comparable to the board of DAFC. But to suggest that that's not a working board is absolutely not the case. I've been on that board now for a while. Mr. Bozart and Mr. Bene who were here this morning been on that board -- we all are on three or four or five committees. We all visit the sites on every project we do, and we get absolutely zero in the way of per diem or compensation. They do it purely -- those citizens do it purely as public service. And I've said before I'd just assume that the per diem at zero for the Board, but I understand state law says it will set a per diem, and there's enough confusion I think we ought to set a per diem. But I thought the \$105 per meeting comparable to the Board of Regents board that oversees billions of dollars, and the MARTA board our representatives on the MARTA Board received a hundred and five dollars per diem. And so, that seemed very appropriate to me and all the ancillary work leading up to that meeting ought to be covered by that per diem per meeting. To put that slide up there suggests again that basically what's driving this board are these per diems and the dollars you're putting in your pockets. And that's what's got the public so upset about all of this. So, I urge you to try to give that up -- that argument up. And I guess the rest of the trust issue quite



frankly is had not Julian Bene done his freedom of information request and turned it over to the press. I'm confident, no offense, that under this current leadership there would be no way we would know any of this has been going on. I don't think it would ever have been made public, and that's a shame, I think. I you know, just to show you a little extent of the lack of public trust here just saw a tweet this morning from Senator Jen Jordan quote formal investigation needs to be opened by the Georgia AG into allegations of graft incorruption because right now FC DA she got it wrong seems more interested in finding ways around new controls than answering taxpayer's questions. Millions of taxpayer dollars in its' control with no real oversight. So, you know I've been working hard to make this Board work with transparency doing what's right with respect to the jurisdictions. I thought it was interesting that we saw in the press that when Sandy Springs says they don't want apartment buildings to be subsidized, you don't do it in Sandy Springs; but when Atlanta says we don't want you to do deals in Buckhead and Midtown and the Beltline where the hottest real estate in the region you ignore them; and I think that's going to be a problem for you continuing problem for you and I hope you do something about that. I got a ton of questions. I'm not going to -- for one reason I've got to pick my grandson up at the airport in not too long, and I'd love to get to the legislation that's on the agenda. But, according to the AJC in June 16<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Turpeau, you had received the fourth-largest amount of per diem's only less than Shaw, Jolly and Metz; but their totals were for seven years and yours for four and a half, i.e., \$45,000 about \$10,000 a year, about 50 per diem's per year. That I assume was for all the things that Mr. Shaw used to be doing for these per diems."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Your assumption is incorrect."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "I'm assuming committees, signing documents—"

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Your assumptions are incorrect."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "All right."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "I'm ready to explain if you let me and we can move forward with this soliloquy."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Let me ask one related question then I'll let you answer that question. Did you at any point receive more than one per diem in any one day?"

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Yes, I've received over the four years eight times. But when I joined the board, I was told I would get a separate per diem for separate work because I had board meetings and then I had committee work. And since it was a per meeting situation it was my first board, I thought it was acceptable. I still think that it -- while questionable and I questioned it, and since it was questionable, I



wrote a check right back for the full amount which was I think maybe sixteen, eighteen hundred, but as soon as, yeah, so I did it over - but it was again board meetings, [Inaudible.] committee meetings, the practice had been for years going way back separate events such as committee work was a separate per diem and I followed that law.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Yeah, well, Mr. Shaw told me when I met with him that when this practice was in effect when he joined the board 26 years earlier. So, it has been a long time practice and I guess it's unfortunate that some folks didn't realize right away that that just wasn't right. You all have a crisis management advisor who is that?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Well, first of all, let me go back and part of the information that you have in your package is 2011 the survey of boards and the practices are documented by the BOC that it was per meeting, okay. So, first of all I want to say that. Also, I want to make sure that we don't gloss over that in November 2020 prior to this press coverage when we found out that this practice was being used and it was questionable, we immediately changed that policy, okay. Let's so – so, prior to everything else, we're focused on moving into the future restoring the Development Authority, focusing in those areas that have been underserved. And so, I didn't spend a lot of time looking backwards. I was trying to take the Development Authority with my teammates and move it in a better direction. I'm sorry again; what was your question?”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Your crisis management advisor?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Well, we have a PR manager, and basically they also during this period where things were unfolding also served as provides us in crisis management because we did--”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Who was that?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Ann Learner.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Ann Learner.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Jackson Spalding.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Jackson Spalding? And how much are you paying them?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “I don't have that in front of me.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Does the Treasurer.”

**SAMUEL BACOTE, DAFC:** “I was about to say, we're probably about \$250 an hour I believe.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “You pay by the hour?”

**SAMUEL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Yes.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “All right, and there was news stories about your lobbyists. Who do you have now?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “We have one lobbyist Ohio River South, Ohio River South.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Ohio River South. They’re with Franklin.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Yes.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “So you’re not using what is I-squared--”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “No.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Okay, when did that end?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “We took them through the last legislative session while we were ironing things out. We ended that service I believe in March April.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Great, thank you. And you had one other at one point Tharon--”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “I believe that was two or three years ago some limited engagement prior to me being in leadership.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “You're not currently engaged.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “No.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Okay, so you have the one. I'll try to wrap up.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “And he's been doing an excellent job helping us do outreach where outreach was never down before so we know what our communities need.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “The board appointed you interim Executive Director on May 18<sup>th</sup> according to some information; is that right?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “That is correct.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “But they backdated your salary to January 1st.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Yes, so that goes back to the 45,000 you were talking about. Basically, most of that amount was when I became Chair in 2020, and Al Nash was retiring. I ended up working just about every day from November, December, January, February, May, weekends – let’s just put it this way, that was at \$200 a day through the holidays working on/with my team what the budget’s going to be, how we’re going to right this ship, how do we move it forward. So, they’ve taken all these numbers, okay, and it distorted what I’ve earned from the Development Authority. Signatures no. One meeting here, one meeting there; no. Hard work. And I never said or never tried to make it seem like I didn’t think Invest Atlanta wasn’t a working board I was just saying that we need more staffing --”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Okay, I asked the question about backdating your pay to January. I still don’t understand what’s that got to do with the \$45,000.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Well, the amount that you said you were asking or insinuated that I was getting money the same way that the previous Chair got money, and that isn’t the case. So, that was the first thing because part of that 45 had been returned. Because, when they backdated it -- when they backdated revenue to me for doing the being the de facto Executive Director they deducted that money. So, I just want to make sure that people don’t think that I--”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “—deducted \$45,000?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “No, I would say somewhere between 15 or 20, I believe.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “In affect per diems between January and May 18<sup>th</sup>?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “No wait a second, I’m not sure the number between January through March it might have been about 8,000 – 8,000 for that year. Actually, I sent a set of full details to the Commissioners about a month or two ago, breaking that down.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “I don’t remember seeing that.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “I will resend that to you for clarity.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “All right.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Because I don’t want anybody to misconstrue.”

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** “So, at the time of the decision to backdate the salary to January, it was after the current Executive Director Al Nash was no longer with the Development Authority. We made that effective minus any per diems that he had received through January to May 18 to your question.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Thank you.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “And the basis I assume was that he had been working full-time.”

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** “He had been already acting in the role.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “In a full-time job?”

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** “In a full-time position.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Okay. The -- right now, I understand that the authority has about \$8 million in the bank is that about right.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “About seven.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU:** “Those are strategic reserves.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Yeah. If someone suggested pointing out about a quarter equivalent to about a quarter of a billion dollars of tax abatements just based on the one eighth one percent fee on the deals. I'd love to know a little bit more about -- well first of all, we heard so much today about needs for affordable housing and other things which arguably is some economic development aspect to all of that, I'm wondering if some of that seven and a half million dollars or something might be focused on some of those needs, it would be worthwhile.”

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** “Mr. Morris, absolutely we have initiated a strategic initiatives' plan which I Chair, because I firmly believe that it's time to diversify what we do at the Development Authority. The problem is, we haven't been able to get to the work, because we've been marred in scandal that was often times done before our leadership that is currently standing before you. So I fundamentally agree with you it's time to diversify what we do at the Development Authority.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Great, great. And I guess part of that diversification was this decision to allow each board member to have a 25,000-dollar amount to invest in projects—”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Basically -- let's talk about that. So, last year, we gave about -- we matched the County to give to ACE, the ACE loan fund to help get

people out of – dealing with the COVID loan, deal with the loan, loan process -- small business loans. And we thought well you know we need to be doing more with our money. Looking at what we can help doing grassroots campaigns across the County, and we want to do it from an equity position, so we came up with a budget. That budget was divided up in \$25,000 each; however, it was merely a recommendation so that every -- every board member could possibly seek out projects that could be benefit to the community. We -- but at the same time there was no policy in place before. We had policies where we like you guys have given to Chattahoochee Nature Preserve, but there was no policy in place, okay? So, we decide let's go ahead and create some policy, get some guidelines, do more grassroots outreach, and it wasn't given to each board member because each board member was challenged to come up with worthy nonprofits or other projects that we could use these funds to spur economic development and then bring that back to the full board to vote on.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Okay, I’m told that that doesn't appear in any minutes at this point. Does it?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “The policy, no--.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “--is this a decision by the executive committee—”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “—no, no, no, the executive committee – it may have been discussed during the budget meeting, but the executive committee drafted the policies and shared it with the board.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Okay. Of course, as you seen from the press that it doesn't look good. Mr. Bacote, who’s running for office to use this. I’m just saying that the perception that’s part of the problems you all have here.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** ““Would you like to speak to that?”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Yes, I was just saying, Commissioner Morris, we know each other go back many, many years we served together –”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “Yes indeed.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “[Inaudible.] so you know -- I think you know how I am integrity, ethics, and all that.”

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** “That’s why I said, perception.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “I hear you. I hear you and so, like this happened in the past, and with a perception like that I have consistently recused myself from those

votes. We've had projects I've had as an example ownership and property nearby, same thing, so I simply would even in that case if it were to become, and it is now that I a perception, I recused myself and I made that statement to continue to stick by that Commissioner Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "All right. One last thing and then I'll shut up cause there's a lot of other folks in the queue it looks like. I think it is a good move on your part, Mr. Turpeau to announce your resignation as interim Executive Director at the end of August 31st. You know I suggested in the press that for somebody to be the boss of the staff that makes a recommendation and be the Chair of the board that acts on that recommendation, just doesn't seem like an acceptable conflict to me. If I were you, I would recuse myself as Chair until August 31<sup>st</sup>. That's just my advice. You don't have to take it. But if it were I, I would recuse myself as Chair until August 31<sup>st</sup>. Let the Vice Chair run things till you step down to avoid that appearance of a problem. That's it, Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We've got a lot more [Inaudible.] Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you Chairman. I'm going to try to go as quick as I can. Mr. Turpeau, how long have you been the Chairman."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Since November 2020."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Since November 2020. And the previous Chair, had been there how long?"

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "As Chair, I think ten to 15 years."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Ten to 15 years? And who was the previous Chair?"

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** "Bob Shaw. Before Bob or after?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "No, Shaw. No, I'm asking you"

**MULTIPLE SPEAKERS:** "Bob Shaw."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Bob Shaw; was there for how many years?"

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** "At least 15 years as the Chair."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Fifteen years as the Chair. Okay. So, to put this in perspective, so because I know the AJC and the media have gotten hold of this, but I think we do a disservice to our community when we lay certain accusations at the

feet of leadership that was not in place when a lot of these decisions were going on or even made. And so, how long has the per diem policy -- the previous policy -- how long had that policy been in place?"

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "There was no policy until November 2020, when the new leadership took control."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN** "If there was no policy, how did you know what to pay? Was it just an accepted practice?"

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "You want to speak to that?"

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** "Yeah, what I'll say about that though, I'm probably the longest-serving board member. I became a board member I believe in 2009 or ten, and that practice or policy whatever you want to call it was called then a stipend, was explained to me by several people on the board at the time. And I was told that it was a per meeting stipend. Now, how it's gotten misconstrued or a misnomer of per diem, I don't know but I was told it was a per meeting stipend, and was told the amount and I determined again that that meant, in my mind at least without giving much in terms of a policy, but that meant that every time we met officially, I was entitled to certainly what I earned or whatever you want to call it at this point, a stipend. Now, when I became Treasurer, in November of last year and sought you mentioned the previous leadership, and saw waiting at the time per diems, I'll call them that because that's what the nomenclature is now, waiting for my approval that went beyond meetings, I immediately said, Oh no way that is not, that is out of bounds, that's egregious and would not approve those payments. And that's what led to at that point in time or soon thereafter, us developing some policy, written policy, around what we issue payments for again, per diem, stipends. I tend to think again the way they were explained to me, there are stipends per meetings, and that's how I've always understood them from the very beginning and had again that explained to me by the leadership at that time including the former County Attorney for the time I was on the board. So, I had, I think--"

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** "--who was the leadership at the time?"

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** "—the leadership at the time?"

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** "Yes."

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** "Well Shaw, yes Shaw certainly."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So Shaw was the leadership you said for about ten or 15 years."



**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “I, again he was in place when I became a board member. I don’t know how far.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “--just speak only to the time that you’ve been here.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Yes. That's correct. Before that I believe it was Powell.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. So, speaking to the time that you – how long you’ve been there? Has anyone on this Commission came to you or any of the other members that you know about mismanage of per diem or stipend or have they ever questioned any of the practices of the Board at that time.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Not to me; to my knowledge again I was not leadership until November of last year—”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “-- and I would think if that were to happen, I would think you would go to leadership, so like right now at this point in time, if that were a question, I am now Treasurer, I would think some would come to me. Again, I was not Treasurer during those times, again since November of last year, since I’ve been Treasurer, only the media has come to me about this.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay, so let me ask Mr. Turpeau this. So Mr. Turpeau, let me ask you this, how long have you been on the Board.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Four years and I just started my second term.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay, in those four years that you've been on the Board has anyone in this body, anyone elected official, unelected official or what have you, have anyone ever reached out to you before now about the stipend, about the policy, about how it’s done, how it’s received, how it’s paid out? Has anybody said anything to you?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “No.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. Let me ask you this as well. How many projects -- how long have you been in leadership.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “I guess about, Novembers so about seven eight months.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “You’ve been in leadership for eight months? In your eight months leadership have any projects been geared towards underserved areas in South Fulton, Southwest Atlanta, South Atlanta.”

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** “Yes, ma'am. So, several projects that we can talk about. There's a project in the Vine City/English Avenue area that came before the board of directors and what we talk about board members being a rubberstamp I'd like to pushback on that because I sent that developer back to the community, and that has actually been the only recognized community benefits agreement in the city of Atlanta since to date. And so, it is a legally recognized document with Vine City and English Avenue to help address the food desert that it's in. Not only that, but I sent the developer back to the Capitol View neighborhood with the rain water project to have more equitable conversations with that community as well. I can assure you that these were the first two times that the developers were sent back to community; but that happened when new leadership was put in place.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “So you said when new leadership was put in place -- is that to insinuate that that had not been done when the previous leadership was in place?”

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** “That is not to insinuate. That is actually fact that had not been done.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. Mr. Turpeau what is the bond rating of the Fulton Development Authority.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “We don't have a bond rating. Basically, we are a conduit so, we don't have -- I don't want to misconstrue my answer.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “What you're asking, we do not have a bond rating.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “You don't have a bond rating?”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Because we're a conduit issuer of bonds.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay, so you're a conduit issuer of bonds; what is that rating that you know of?”

**MULTIPLE RESPONDERS:** “We don't have one.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay, okay.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Each bond is rated separately.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Each bond is rated separately. Okay, so there's no AAA, AA nothing like that?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Well, I mean each individual developer would receive their own rating. We're a conduit, so it's a bond for title program.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay, so the bond rating can be different, that's what I'm asking.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Right.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. So, another question that I have to you is this: As far as the monies that you all receive, is any of that percentage of money comes out of the taxpayers or from the Fulton County budget?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Nothing comes from the Fulton County budget. We receive no dollars from management. And there's some people that say that it's not taxpayer dollars, I don't subscribe to that because in my mind it's future taxpayer dollars; however, it's future taxpayer dollars that exist because we help make them exist. Now, there would be a debate that we'll build anyway or they won't build anyway. The question then becomes when, so it gets kind of confusing, but it's future taxpayers' dollars that we use to incentivize the projects lockdown and get the jobs and services in.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay, Mr. Turpeau, just a couple more questions. Since you've been in leadership, how many new board members do you have?”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “So we have three new board members, right.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “And those board members are who by name please.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Joanna Potts, we have Eric Long, and Mike Looney.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay. And for your executive search – for your search for executive director, is there one particular group that does that or does the whole Board give information for the executive director.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “There is an executive search committee, and if I've missed over in my notes, we're dealing with that reverberation Brandon Beach is the new Chair of that executive search committee because of his experience with North

Fulton chamber, and the North Fulton CID so that we could do something in a quick manner, but what we're doing is we're opening up the search process so that we can collect resumes and put the offer out so there can be full transparency. Kyle is on that committee. Kyle, would you like to speak.”

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** “Yes, I think your question is who's on the committee? So, there is a search committee and it is made up of both myself, Brandon Beach, Samuel Bacote, Marty Turpeau, and Commissioner Liz Hausmann. But not only that as we're leaning to transparency, we have opened this committee up for full board participation. So, that no one is left in the dark as we move forward in naming a new interim director.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Thank you for making that distinction for full board participation leading to the reforms that this organization need. I can only speak for myself as a Commissioner, and those that have come over from the school board. When you have individuals that are outside of the process and they have been appointed by members of the Commission, then it gives the appearance that you're doing something in the dark that you don't want individuals and I'm not saying that you all have but it's very important especially with this Executive Director search, that the full Board has access to that and has input to that. I just will say in closing, I am very impressed with Joanna Potts as well as others I have had an opportunity to speak to because they've given me the good and the bad, but of everyone that I've talked to no one has told me that they think that Mr. Turpeau should step down. They will say this Mr. Turpeau that they need you to have more transparency or maybe when individuals are making accusations and saying things you need to be a little bit quicker in your response because when there is a narrative out here that the Development Authority of Fulton County needs to be shut down just as we're trying to find equity and get projects in South Atlanta and South Fulton County, as a Commissioner of the Mighty Six, I have an issue with that. And the reason I have an issue with that is based on what you're telling us today these accusations and these improprieties were going on quite a bit of time before you came into Chair in to leadership; is that correct.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Yes, Ma'am.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “And I didn't hear anything about that. And so, I think it's very telling that when you had different leadership there and all of these things were in place you heard crickets, but now, we're looking at equity and we're looking at the Fulton Development Authority to live up to its' purpose of serving blighted areas and serving areas that have been underserved there is this real big call to close it down or to say that is not done right. Now I understand with my colleague Commissioner Morris I am for reforms. I think you all need to reform. I think there was an accepted practice that was there in place before you came into leadership Mr. Turpeau and personally on

record, I'm not going to lay that at your foot; but I do think that we do need reform, but this organization needs to live up to its' promise of serving all of Fulton County. It has served North Fulton County, it has served downtown, and Midtown, but it needs to remedy itself and serve South Fulton, Southwest Atlanta, and other blighted areas especially where we have schools -- and we know the schools the abatement they were left out. So, I think that conversation with the school board members suggestions of individuals now should be taken seriously and some movement should be made in that area."

**KYLE LAMONT:** "Commissioner Rahman, you are absolutely correct. As a son of South Fulton, and a fourth generation native Atlantan, the former president Oakland City, I understand wholeheartedly what this investment does to communities of color. It stifles our community and we are here to say enough is enough. We just want to get to the work so that we can begin to do what this Development Authority is set out to do which is drive economic development for the entire County of Fulton County."

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I've said this before, we need uniformity. Between our boards. I've asked our County Attorney, our County Manager. We have you know boards, task force and committees, and workgroups -- we need uniformity. How can you value one person's time more than the other? How can you value someone whose volunteering on a board for Fulton County at \$250 if it's the audit committee, and then value someone else's time at a hundred dollars? Why would you change the value? Why are those values not consistent? Does it have something to do with race? Should volunteers get less because they're a different race? Should volunteers get more because they're a different race? How in the world do you determine the value of someone's time? And everyone is volunteering on all of those committees. I love Commissioner Morris, I consider him a friend. But my friend is racist. Disparate impact -- let me read to you the definition of disparate impact because it's very important -- it's very important that you understand this. Disparate impact is referred to as an unintentional discrimination whereas disparate treatment is intentional discrimination. Disparate impact occurs when policies, practices, rules, or other systems appear to be neutral. It appears to be neutral, we should give them a hundred dollars. They're Black, give them a hundred dollars. Give Bob Shaw and Al Nash \$200,000 a year and give them a hundred dollars. That is racist. It is disparate impact. You're disparately impacting these people because of their race; because they are Black and you set by and didn't say nothing when the White people was there. That is disparate impact and that is racism. That is what we're talking about here today. Oh,

what lobbyist do you have? Oh, you don't have the White lobbyist no more? Oh, now you got a Black lobbyist? You can't pay him what you was paying the White lobbyist. You can't do that. Naw, you gone get in trouble boy. You, you'll get in trouble if you do that. You gone get in trouble. You trying, you want to do development in South of I-20? Oh, naw, we're going to run your name through the paper. We're going to run your name through the mud. Bull shit. Bull shit. Again--"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "--okay. That's exactly what this is. That is exactly what this is. Targeting people because of their race. Targeting people excuse Mr. Chair, this is not the right time. I've got the floor right now. All that's going to do is make me take a lot longer, it's going to make me take a lot longer. How much time we got? How much time y'all got is how much time I got. I got nowhere to go. I ain't got nowhere to go. I can wait all day and all night. Disparate impact. Unintentional discrimination versus intentional. Because I know Commissioner Morris, I assume that this is unintentional, and not intentional. Because I know him, I don't believe he's doing this on purpose. He just wants to get rid of the whole Development Authority. That's what he wants to do. He don't want to do no deals in Atlanta, nowhere, nowhere else. So, I assume that this is unintentional discrimination. But it's a pattern. Every time we get somewhere they want to move the goalpost. We get in now, we can't do that no more. We get in now, you can't do this no more. How much was Al Nash making? How much was Bob Shaw making? Add that up and then add their per diems, and their extra salaries on top of that. Didn't say a word."

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** "I can tell you those salaries Commissioner--"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Didn't say a word. Not a mumbling word. That is racism and it's racist. And the only way you can devalue someone's time compared to devaluing your own time is if you look at them and see if they are a lesser person than you. We need uniformity. I'm not supporting nothing until there's uniformity in how much we pay these people. The Board of Assessors get 1500 a month. Let's pay everybody \$1500 a month. Or let's pay everybody a hundred and fifty dollars like the Board of Zoning, but no, we're going to pay the Black people a hundred dollars a month. Please. Please. It's racist. Change it now. Change it now. Amend it now. Don't let people walk out of here thinking you're racist because you don't want to pay Black people a hundred dollars, and you'll pay other people 1500, 250 you pay Bob Shaw 250,000 but you don't want somebody else to serve as interim Executive Director. That is racist. Disparate impact. Disparate impact unintentional racism. Make it look like it's not neutral. Make it look like it's not racist. We're going to make it look like it's not racist. We'll just pay a hundred per person. All the Black people and the White people

will get a hundred dollars per person. Look at the impact. And look at the silence for 40 years. Look at the silence for 40 years when White people were in charge. When a White man was the Chair. When a White man was the Executive Director. Let's get it started --y'all want to get it started-- we'll get it started in here. You want to tell the truth; you want to know the truth? We gone get to the truth. We gone get all the way to the truth. And that is racist. Absolutely racist."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Hall, Vice Chair Hall."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Well, that's the reason why it's important to know your history. Because I didn't know all of that Commissioner Arrington so I want to thank you for that information because as you know I like to deal with the truth and the facts. And that is disheartening. I do want to know what the salaries of the previous--"

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** "According to the AJC from 2005 to 2021, Bob Shaw received just under \$1 million dollars."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Excuse me. Wait. Wait. Excuse me, I'm sorry."

**MULTIPLE SPEAKERS:** "—what was the annual salary."

**KYLE LAMONT:** "So, the annual salary was --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—all right, let's do this; Mr. Turpeau, can you get that information forwarded to us so we'll all have it. You all have to go back, do your research so it's accurate."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Okay, that's fine."

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** "You want the annual salary Commissioner Hall."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "I did but now I want to know what the \$1 million was."

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** "That's what you call an accumulation of—"

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "—you're the Treasurer—"

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** "--but I didn't come up with that number. That was determined by the AJC and it's an accumulation over a period of time to make it look rather exaggerated. It's not, we did not, we did not pay Chairman Shaw a million dollars to embarrass the authority."



**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay, now I want some factual reports on what was it, and I want a breakdown of it.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “We can get that to you.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “We can get that, we can get that to you.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Thank you. Because all of this is additional information that I had no idea existed. When I came on board as a new Commissioner, Al Nash and Bob Shaw and they brought along Samir were the people who I met with trying to get an understanding about the Development Authority of Fulton County and Kyle Lamont I want to thank you as my appointee because you’ve been doing an outstanding job of making sure that the communities of color do get affordable housing and everything else they need as far as development. So, I want to thank you for your time on this board. And I want to make it clear that my appointee has not done any of these things. So, his hands are clean. I want to get back to the business at hand because we do have an Item on the floor, 529 and I had a friendly amendment that I wanted to make to the Item because--”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “We’re not at there yet.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “529.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “No, you know Morris is up- that is- we’re just on the discussion.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Oh, okay, look I’m ready to get the business done. I’m sorry. Let me just say this. I don’t know -- I need facts do we have any audits? Of the Development Authority of Fulton County and the per diems and all.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “We, we, we are wrapping up our 2020 audit. We’ll have that presented to our Board so we’ll be able to share that.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** SPEAKING OFF MIC “We spoke to the auditor this morning.”

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** “Beyond a basic audit, I feel that it is the consensus of the Board and it will go into full discussion and our next board member to conduct a full forensic audit on all of the contracts at the Development Authority of Fulton County because much too Commissioner Morris’ point we do need to restore our faith for our community. Whether it was our fault or not that is not the point. The point is that people understand that this Development Authority will move forward in an equitable and just fashion.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Thank you. I look forward to that audit. When can I expect it?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “They haven’t started it yet.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Probably in August, in a couple weeks. It’s going to be presented to our board - we expect to be presented to our board on the 27th, so once we’ve ratified it, reviewed the audit, then we can share with the Board of Commissioners. We’re also working on the time for the EY analysis the Gatsby audits. So, we’re putting all those dates and times together. We’re the Development Authority of Fulton County is leaning into full transparency as hard as we can. We know about the practice of the past, the way things were done previously back in the day. It’s a new day. We’re not clinging to the past. We’re leaning into the future, and look forward to working with the BOC to do it effectively. And look forward to a partnership.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I appreciate that.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** OFF MIC “to have your question answered maybe in – ON MIC Commissioner Khadijah you brought up this about has anyone I’m just thinking about something with the audit as it relates to that; it was my understanding that an audit was presented to the Board of Commissioners each year. Did you all ever not get an audit?”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Well, I’m just going into my fourth year, I was just completing the three years of my bosses term; so, this is going to be my fourth year, so I wasn’t here, so I don’t know.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Okay. All right. That was my understanding again --.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I’m sorry, can you repeat that you say you did what now?”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “It is my understanding that the Board of Commissioners received like a report -- an annual report, an audit, from the development authority each year at least starting maybe a couple of years ago. This would not be the first time I hope that the first time you’ve gotten an annual report or an audit from the development authority of Fulton County. That’s my question, is this the first time you’ve gotten something from us? We’re gonna do it, but I wanted to make sure that I’ve been told that this would not be the first time, is that right Commissioner Hausmann.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “We’ve received a Gatsby report and an annual report, but not an audit.”

**SAMUEUL BACOTE, DAFC:** “Okay, thank you very much. Thank you for clarifying.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “You still have the floor.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Thank you I appreciate that. And I also want to make sure that moving forward that whatever County Attorney is assigned to the Development Authority of Fulton County is a little more engaged, because when I asked the question of how did we get here to a point where the Development Authority approved for themselves to have these per diem’s and everything and they’re so off-balanced. I was told that you didn’t have the authority to approve it for yourself; that it was actually the authority of this Board of Commissioners, and so, my question was well how did they even get that far along if they had a County Attorney assigned to that Board? And so, I would say you need to start utilizing your Attorney more in vetting what you’re doing before you move forward. I know I don’t even half the time write a support letter for anybody without engaging – and Chairman is laughing behind the mask – because they know I send everything to the County Attorney and the Ethics office, and if I have to go outside for some outside advice, I’ll do that as well. But you need to start doing that. It’ll help you out moving forward. And I am looking forward to the great things that this board is going to do. I do not think it makes sense to completely abolish the Development Authority of Fulton County because you do great work. And as Kyle mentioned earlier there is some outstanding projects that have taken place in communities that have needed something for a long, long time. And I have a lot of those legacy communities in my District. So, thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Alright Commissioner Hausmann.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** MIC IS OFF – INAUDIBLE.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “What? I’m sorry, Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Yes, thank you. Okay, so, we’ve identified some big problems. We’ve discussed them at length. I think it’s appropriate to talk about the good things that y’all do and the benefits to having a development authority because they’re quite significant. And I’ll just look at the last year that we’ve got that Gatsby report which was for 2019. After the incentives were given, Fulton County had an additional 16.2 million in tax revenue, the Atlanta public school system after the incentives received an additional \$22.1 million in tax revenue. Most of the projects done in the city of Atlanta, do not produce a lot of students; we both know that. The multifamily housing that is done generally has lofts, or one-bedroom apartments, very little apartments that would be of the size that would have many children living there so that is revenue that should not have a negative impact at all on their operations. Fulton County schools in that same 2019 calendar year received 9.4 million dollars in additional tax revenue after the abatements. Also, in that calendar year, we had 88

projects with the Development Authority. The job commitments associated with those 88 projects produced 31,000 additional jobs for Fulton County. And the capital investment was \$7.3 billion dollars. So, I just want to say to the general public we're not given away the farm. There is a benefit that is derived by your work. It is very meaningful and impactful work. And I think is going to be even more meaningful and impactful in the future as we work through an economic recovery and try and get folks back to work and get our economy stabilized again. So, I just feel like we need to share that. There is good news coming out of the Development Authority of Fulton County. All right. So, I'm very happy to hear that you're going to do a forensic audit. I was going to make that request. So, I'm very pleased to hear that. And I also want to tell you that I've done a little research myself on how other counties operate their development authorities and many other counties in Georgia use the fees that are derived by their development authority to go directly into economic development projects. And while you've done a little of that, and you haven't done a lot of it. And so, I would suggest to you that that is the direction you need to go in and specifically come up with some plans how to utilize that money. I talked to the Chairman of the Bartow County Commission just the other day, and he said that they've used that money to go on economic development trips, and try and lure businesses to their community. So, I think that there is many, many ways that those fees could be used in an area that historically Fulton County has not funded properly. We're competing with Invest Atlanta on some of these deals as we all know. I'm here to tell you that I don't think any of the deals that we do as a County development authority, Atlanta wouldn't do them, either. It's about the fees. That they are very well invested in their development authority, and in their economic development effort far greater than we are. And then the other thing that I want to say is that you know there was a discussion a minute ago and Marty you and I have had this conversation I wholeheartedly think it's inappropriate for you to serve in multiple capacities on the Board and as Interim Director. I don't really care which one you choose to stay in, but I do think you need to pick one. So, if you think it's more important to remain Chairman, I would suggest that you have an interim director named until you find a permanent director or if you are going to stay as the interim director, then you do step aside from the Board. I just think that the appearance right now is not positive, and we need to have a positive outlook for the future."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Thank you, I agree with just about everything that you've said; but let me go ahead and correct and say everything that you said. While the Board asked me to serve as interim director, it was out of the need and I am happy, well, let's put it this way again, I turned in my resignation as of October 31st so that we can have--"

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** "--August 31<sup>st</sup>."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “That’s still a month and a half away.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Well, we’re leaning into transparency. And we’ll consider the suggestion that Commissioner Morris came up with so we can think through our transition.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “Again, I’m not telling you which one to choose, but I think you need to choose one.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Commissioner Hausmann, I’m going to remain Chair. I never intended to be the interim director. I just stepped up because the Development Authority needed someone to step up and take care of operations and lean into it. I did. So as soon as we can get this process going and we’re dealing with the internal processes now, we had our meeting on Monday. Brandon Beach is the Chair of the interim committee, so we’re moving quickly. We’re going to move as quickly as we can, but we got to open it up, and we got to have transparency. We’re not going to be criticized about going through a process of not being transparent.”

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** “You’ve heard my opinion.”

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** “Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commission Abdur-Rahman.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I’ll make this quick.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “I’m sorry, just a minute, just a minute. Alright I skipped over Ellis again.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Okay, I’m going to make this quick. I was the one that was in the forefront asking you all to come and I appreciate that the Chair brought it up; but, I said you all needed to come. It was too much conjecture. It was too much of people putting a narrative out there. Mr. Turpeau, I’ll go on record today saying I have full confidence in your leadership. You and I have met several times, and we have discussed different things. I would just ask going forward and it’s almost sad that I have to ask this, but I have to ask it on the record because for some reason there is this notion that you all are not trying to be transparent. Which the organization was not transparent. You all are putting transparency in place. When I asked you to think about stepping down as the Executive Director you did, and you said why you didn’t hesitate. And so, why I want to commend my colleague Hausmann in what she said because she is correct the Fulton Development Authority needs to stay in place, but what has happened is the sins of the father is on the son; and so now, you’ve got to do double time. And it’s unfair to what Commissioner Arrington is saying. It’s very unfair that you

all have to be questioned for actions of someone else. But moving forward, I need for the Development Authority to stay in place. I need for you -- you've already brought transparency. You've already started some reform. I read something in the paper about some person was going to bring reform to it. Reform is already here. And so, I don't want to be remiss in not saying that you all already reforming. You all are already bringing transparency, but understand we can't do what somebody else does. And when we do it we suffer a higher consequence. And so, I'm not saying that you all will do that I have confidence in you all but understand what we are dealing with here. We are dealing with African-American leadership in place for something that happened in the past and for some reason, you all have to have that Scarlet letter. So please make sure the reforms are in place, please make sure there's transparency, please make sure that the search is open to everyone on the Board. Make sure that the Board has equal access across the board from everyone, so that we will not find ourselves again at this juncture."

**KYLE LAMONT, DAFC:** "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I totally agree with you. And in speaking of, particularly the District in which you represent, I have a letter from the South Fulton Municipal Association. We come together to share our support for the Development Authority of Fulton County and our concern. If the Authority is dissolved, while we do not condone the questionable practices of the past, we are encouraged by the Board's new leadership and the steps they have taken to ensure these practices do not happen in the future. Many of our cities rely on our partnerships with the Development Authority of Fulton County to provide the incentives that can make a difference in whether or not we can attract and retain quality businesses and jobs for our communities. The Authority's ability to work across municipalities to be able to single point, to be the single point of contact and coordination for global corporations, helps us all be competitive when a business is actively evaluating, expanding and existing operation for development and a new one. These projects are mostly positive revenue generators for us bringing with them enhancements to the property that will in year one, significantly increase property taxes collected along with other community benefits like sewer, sidewalks, and road improvements that we do not have the budget to provide otherwise. The Development Authority's new leadership along with its board, wants to enhance our partnership focusing on the needs of South Fulton region. It is no secret that we have been frustrated with the lack of investment in our historically communities. We are excited that the Development Authority wants to help us spur quality development while also focusing on the need for true workforce housing and affordability to attract new residents and help current residents remain in the county. In closing, please take into consideration that the Development Authority of Fulton County is an essential economic development tool for Fulton County. We need to give the authority the chance to move forward with its new leadership, new board members, new



policies, and new focus on intentionally serving South Fulton region. Thank you for your consideration, partnership, and service to Fulton County. Signed the Mayor of Union City, Vince Williams; signed the Mayor of South Fulton, Bill Edwards; signed the Mayor of the City of Palmetto, Clark Boddie; signed the Mayor of Hapeville, Mayor Alan Hallman; the Mayor of Fairburn, Elizabeth Carr-Hurst; signed the Mayor of East Point, Deana Ingraham; signed the Mayor of College Park, Bianca Broom; signed the Mayor of Chattahoochee Hills, Tom Reed."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Thank you Kyle."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Ellis, and that letter should really go to the state and I'll explain why I say that when we all get finished."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis, at last."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right, well we been around the block a few times here haven't we. With just a couple of things couple of observations. Number 1, authorities in general or a sort of them, if you will, they're some of the least in general whether they're development authorities, rec authorities, or airport authorities; a lot of times they are some of the least scrutinized or may be lesser transparent forms of, forms of government because of what they do in the way that they're structured. And that's just sort of by their very nature, right? And you know we've seen things crop up, questionable stuff, things that happen within the scope of different types of authorities in this city and other cities and other counties and we probably always will and the state authorities is the same thing, right? You know because a lot of times there's a lot of money flows through them and so forth, and this won't be the last time it'll be a practice. This will be questioned around an individual authority. You know we've had stuff even you know around the city of Atlanta you know when the rec authority chose to hire you know now mayors, their executive director you know that brought and invited a lot of different questions et cetera right? So, there is that part. I just want to make that sort of general observation as we're here, and I think that you know the also something that's never going to change is people are always going to have opinions about real estate development projects and whether they should take place in their neighborhoods, whether the incentives should be provided or whatever. There's always going to be a debate around that, all right? That's going to be a given. And certainly, you know, kind of the projects you entertain that will continue to be you know a debate about whether or not an incentive should be provided and that is your job to kind of vet through that. And make those decisions about which ones are the right ones in which ones are not, and what sort of condition should be placed on them, et cetera. But within all of that



underlies sort of this piece of which we're all trying to get at today, is how do we be transparent about it so that a discussion like this doesn't recur, right? And I think that this is sort of everybody's aim today. I think it's been fairly well documented that the development authorities play a proper function and are a good tool for economic development and that's been borne out throughout the state, multiple counties, and multiple cities. So, I do believe that you know this is an instrument that we should have at our disposal as a County, all right? And so, I don't, I definitely don't think we should throw the baby out the bathwater, but I want us to be transparent on two ends. On one end I feel like that we have made a tremendous amount of strides, and that is in transparency around the activities of the Development Authority as it relates to the projects that you've chosen to make decisions on. Now, and there's been a focus on this really around the country I think that this Gatsby process was put forth I don't know if you all could help me with this or maybe someone on the managers team or finance team could help me with this when those rules were promulgated four years ago or three years ago?"

**SPEAKERS:** "Three to four."

**COMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Three to four years ago. So, you know for the listening public what that does is that requires the development authorities to actually do a fairly robust disclosure around the projects that they've done and the impact that they have had or haven't had. And while we had smaller audiences when in smaller interest from news publications and so forth when the Development Authority personnel came forth along with, I believe the outside accountants and so forth to make those presentations to us, this Board has been presented to on the activities of the Development Authority not everyone of us fully agree in terms of stuff like what your role is, in terms of residential properties and that sort of stuff, and I get that, right; and I think this stuff needs to continue and you know probably will continue, right; but there has been a deliberate attempt to be more be clearly transparent around the actual activities, the projects and the impact that they have had. You know whether it's on healthcare, whether it's on office or whether it's on whatever the space, and in the areas to the County, impact on the school systems, and the creative nature in terms of what it's provided to the tax base. We have been provided you know individual audits. We've had those and they have been provided to all of us, some of us may have looked at it and some of us may not have. What we have not had transparency around as into the expenses of the authority and that's what we're talking about today. Okay. And I think there are two separate, two separate issues. Unfortunately, they're conflated and they're going to be conflated you know just because of what it is, right? And just like we saw with our discussion around elections you know we because of maybe some mis-performance and stuff, there is a crisis of confidence there in terms of our elections. We

have a crisis of confidence here. You've acknowledged that. We all recognize that. So now sort of collectively what do we do about it? You know, and so I think that's a discussion we'll have. I think you certainly have indicated the certain, some of the mechanisms which you put forth you know in terms of disclosure and so forth, now we need to reach resolution around this per diem piece. And I hope that we can put this to bed. Sounds like whatever we come up with, you're going to accept and you're going to move forward because you do have the objective in mind of sound economic development throughout the County and focused in certain corridors, et cetera, as you've outlined. So, it's my hope that we can get to that point in that we can move forward in a fashion where everybody in this County feels like they may not agree with every project that's done, but that they had transparency around the expenditures that go on with the organization. And it's all out there on the table for everybody to see. You know with this I have not seen any indication that some of the numbers and stuff, certainly are questionable, they occurred over a long period of time, they do add up. I realize there was this debate whether or not people felt like this common practice that you know that was the Chair at some point in time, really also doing some sort of you know employed capacity and so forth, doesn't make it right or wrong, I mean it just sort of is what it is and we are what we hear; we are where we are with it; and it just needs to be set in stone in the way that everybody is clear on and everybody is comfortable with. So, hopefully we can move forward with that here in the next few minutes."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you Commissioner Ellis. Now we will hear from Commissioner Morris who's informed me--"

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Yes, there's nothing -- I informed Commissioner Pitts I have to -- I should have left ten minutes ago—I'm picking up my grandson at the airport and I can't be late. I wish I could stay here for this because we're imminent on it. But I'd ask that we hold -- I got three more Items on the agenda, I ask that we hold them. I have gotta go pick up my grandson at the airport."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I have no objections. Any objections to holding Commissioner Morris's three Items? All right, hearing none, He informed me this morning he had to pick up his grandson. He had a hard stop about this time so no objections continue. Okay, one objection. Mr. Turpeau, have anybody else in the queue; any closing comments that you'd like to make."

**MICHEL TURPEAU, CHAIR, DAFC:** "No, just that we look forward to continuing to work with the Board of Commissioners for the betterment of the Fulton County residents. Thank you for your support to get through this trying time. I will admit that in the past,

things might have been a bit loosey-goosey, but we've got the goose and tamed the goose, and now we just trying not to have the goose cooked. So, thank you very much. I look forward to working with you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Alright thank you for coming before us this afternoon. Madam Clerk, continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** On page 13, **21-0527**, request approval of a resolution by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County to execute the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, local fiscal recovery fund Fulton County rescue implementation plan and for other purposes. Sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now, all right Madam Clerk why is this on the agenda again."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Even though this subject matter has been on the agenda it's three times and failed—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "—actually four; go ahead."

**CLERK GRIER:** "—and failed. It was presented back to me as a different with different content. It has been revised. It is not the same Item. The same subject matter."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well from a policy, we also took action earlier today, but from a policy point of view our internal policies and procedures you are correct. Anytime a matter has been on the agenda three times and failed, it cannot come back, unless it is substantially different. I read this one. I had the County Attorney read it and we both concluded that it is not substantially, this one is not substantially different. The number may have changed, but that's, it does not have anything to do with the content. I'm going to rule that this is improperly before us and therefore out of order. Next Item."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "--now you're welcome to overrule my ruling."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Well, I don't agree with the Chairman, but in the sake of time, but I will submit to you that when we were dealing with the issue with the firing of Richard Barron, and also when we was dealing with the issue of the Board of Registration and Elections, that failed documents -- failed legislation that was submitted from Commissioner Ellis was allowed to be changed very insignificant change and it was brought back to the body. So I would say with me we need to be fair across the

board. I do hear what you're saying, but if you're going to call for that ruling on my legislation, I would say that you need to call for that ruling on everyone's."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now that's one thing that I am is consistent, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So, that's why I'm bringing it to your attention because I think you may have forgotten it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is there a motion to overrule my ruling."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, is there a second? Fails for lack of a second continue, please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Commissioner's presentation and discussion items **21-0417**, discussion jail population review team sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm going to hold."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "The next item is Commissioner Morris--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Morris is hold."

**CLERK GRIER:** "So, the next Item **21-0530** presentation and discussion future of Fulton County Police Department."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We'll hold that until the next meeting."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Mr. Chair, do we have items that were action items that were on the consent agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Board appointments, yes—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "--well two board appointments and another item."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Are there other items?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "And one other."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Action item. Okay. And the next Item is 21-?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I don't know if we're going to lose a quorum, I don't know whether we'll get to that or not."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next discussion Item, Vice Chair Hall—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This is the discussion, are you suggesting taking two action items that's fine any objections to taking the two action items before the discussion regarding the district attorney who I understand is here?"

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "The whole team is here."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The whole crowd, that's all of them. All right go to the action items from the consent agenda."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay, on the bottom of page 2, **21-0483**."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "By the way for the record, just to a little levity had I, we had 58, 59 Items on our Agenda today, and I made my \$200 per Item on the Agenda. I would have made and that's \$11,800 that's even before I sign probably a hundred documents that I have to sign after every meeting, so, I'll be in great shape."

**CLERK GRIER:** "We already have one, but thank you."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 2, **21-0483** Fulton DeKalb hospital authority doing business as Grady Health System. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has nominated Thomas W. Dortch the third for a District appointment to a term ending December 31st, 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. What's your pleasure; what? I'm sorry. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman sorry followed by Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Thank you Chairman, I'm not sure why as a District appointee here we are again at this juncture. I was the duly elected Commissioner of the Mighty Sixth District. And I don't know what's going on at the Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority that my appointee, this is a different appointee, this is a different selection and it seems to be an issue for this Board for me being the newest member to get my district appointee to the Fulton DeKalb authorities so I think at this point we may need a forensic audit or something because in the history I can only think of one other time that a board – a District -- now this is someone from my District -- and so how is it that someone from my District, who is a well-educated, active member of the community that lives in my District had to be moved from the consent Agenda and taken a vote on? And so I would say to this Board, that not only have we set a precedent that is very dangerous because I promise you if this was the other way around, and this is the second time that a board appointment -- a District from my own District, my Mighty Sixth District of the voters of that district voted me in overwhelmingly against an incumbent, still had to go to court, still had to fight for this seat and that's, okay, because like Nancy Pelosi said sometimes in politics you got to give one and take a few. And so, here today I'm giving one. Because I want my colleagues to explain what problem they have with my District appointee to the board. This is to the Board. This is the second time I have put in a different person and I would hope that they would approve it, because it shows that there is something like the old folks say something in the milk ain't cream.

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Clean.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Cream. Clean. Whatever it's mildew. So, I would ask with all due respect that many appointments have come forward and I have voted for them. And so, I think we need to move it forward. I think my District, the Mighty District Six, deserves its' own appointee to the Board and I would appreciate if my colleagues would vote for both my District appointee today. Thank you.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner, I think you're okay, but let's hear from Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Thank you Mr. Chair and Commissioner. I'd encourage you not to necessarily take things so much so personally so often. You won't be the first person and you won't be the last person that's had a board appointment come forth that been voted down. You can join me in that regard because it's happened to me. So, you know it happens that's just sort of the nature of it. The reason I pulled this off the agenda is we generally have a historic practice of and it may be that we've gotten away from it a little bit when folks have brought forth board appointees, they provide us resumes and so forth. I looked at this and I assumed that we had dealt with this before.

And that this was the same person. It was the same name. So, I had nothing to indicate any difference to me so that's the reason that I thought we dealt with this in a prior session, so, that was the reason I pulled it off the consent Agenda for discussion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I'm sorry, you want to speak? Commissioner Hall."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "I know this individual because they live in my District and we've been doing these events called the Indy Market on Cascade in the Cascade Heights community in my District for the past several Saturdays. And right near Barbara King's church, God rest her soul. And this is Trey. So, for anyone who mistook this for Mr. Dortch, the Chair Emeritus of 100 Black Men, this is not who this is. This is his son Trey, who has never been appointed to the FDAJ Board before. This is a good, a very good appointee candidate for this position."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you Commissioner Hall. That's my understanding too that the name before us today is the son of Tommy Dortch and that totally different person although related there is no restriction with respect to that. But with respect to the Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority as an entity, they're going through a lot of reforms as well they've got many, many new members. They have new officers and a lot of good guys on that Board now and so I'm hoping that this person if confirmed and I'm going to second the motion to confirm him, that he will join that group and work to better the goals and objectives of the authority, so I'll second the motion to approve this nomination. Let's vote."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4, **21-0491**, Development Authority of Fulton County. Commissioner Hausmann has nominated Mike Bodker for District appointment to a term ending May 31, 2025."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Would you like for me to go."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Okay. All right. So, we've heard a lot about the Development Authority and the importance of that board, and I'm offering up Mike Bodker for your consideration as my board appointee. I have just passed out some information on Mr. Bodker. He of course is the Mayor of Johns Creek currently, but he is not running for re-election, so, he will not be an elected official as of January 1st of



next year. As he has been mayor he has served as the vice chair of the Tourism Arts and Park and Entertainment Sports Committee of the US Conference of Mayors, the 83rd president of the Georgia Municipal Association, treasurer of the Atlanta Regional Commission, and currently serves as chairman of the North Fulton Municipal Association. In his professional life he's a business owner, a CPA and a very detail oriented, I'm sorry, it's late, and a rule and policy follower. He knows Fulton County extremely well and with his experience his vast experience in community service, his contacts all over our great state and access to many people involved in this work and has access to best practices on this particular development authority program. Though you've gotten some comments, some e-mails asking not to appoint Mayor Bodker because of some previous ethics investigations you know we're all involved in politics I will just tell you as a resident of Johns Creek these ethics investigations were definitely politically motivated. One was pursued by a candidate that was running for mayor. They were all dismissed due to a lack of evidence even the one where a hundred thousand dollars was spent on the investigation. So, I would ask for your favorable consideration to the appointment of Mike Bodker, to the Development Authority of Fulton County."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right the motion to approve is by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman would like to be heard."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you Chairman. I am going to support you in this Liz. Commissioner Liz Hausmann I just want to go on the record that that I did receive quite a bit of phone calls in opposition as well as people that were in support. And what I would say openly to those individuals that decided to send me quite a bit of e-mails, quite a bit of phone calls, I haven't dealt with Mr. Bodker for that long, but in my dealings with him they have been aboveboard. I have not personally had a problem with him. He may have some issues. I don't know. I can only go at this point in time on my own dealings with him. And so, I want to say openly for the record I was concerned about the amount of individuals that reached out to my office, but I just want to openly say just as many people reached out in support of him as well as against him. And I could only at that point take my own dealings and interactions with him and I will be supporting that today."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. And likewise, I'll be supporting Mayor Bodker as well. The ethics issues, we received the same correspondence I assume we all did, but he's a CPA and he's tough. If anybody who knows him, he's tough, he's no-nonsense. I think he's going to be a great addition to that board and the board members need to get ready because he's going to look at every item on that agenda with a fine-toothed comb. So, I'm me happy to support it. Anyone else? If not let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “On page 7, **21-0506**, Community Development. Request approval to amend the coordinated intake assessment system emergency solutions grant an emergency solution grant COVID grant award with sub recipients.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Commissioner Hall? Is that right?”

**CLERK GRIER:** “Yes.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “You have the floor Commissioner.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Thank you. Quick question. It says that Gateway was reducing their funding from \$249,079 to \$176,779. I just wanted to know why this was being reduced because all the other ones were being increased. And we need these services so much I just needed an answer. Thank you.”

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** “Yes, that is a quick request they made. They felt they couldn't expend those dollars, and so they're making them available now so we can provide it for these other agencies and get those dollars spent.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “They felt they couldn't expend these dollars to do what?”

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** “Well the dollars were initially going to be for hiring employees they had challenges with those hires because of COVID, so they've asked that we take those dollars to meet our funding commitments and provide them to other groups.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “So they're going to give up on hiring the employees? I mean we're past the worst of COVID, so how were they gonna do their job if they need employees before they don't need them anymore?”

**STAN WILSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** “We're they're feeling where there's a time limit on the dollars and they felt they could meet the time limit in terms of expending the dollars.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Okay. Thank you so much Mr. Wilson.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Cast your vote, please.”

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay, now we had one other Item that we held to the end of the agenda which was the issue on revising the public comments so Madam Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you and your group, you ready?”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Yes.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “Mr. Chair, I'm going to renew my motion to hold that to the next meeting. We have the elected District Attorney over there. She's been waiting for two hours to speak, and y'all talking about some procedural rules. Hold that to the next meeting or I'm getting ready to go home. I'm trying to wait; but if y'all going to go with that, then I'm leaving.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “What's the pleasure of the body.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “If y'all go with the procedural stuff, I'm leaving. Because I'm trying to hear from our District Attorney. If y'all not going to hear from the District Attorney, then I'm leaving.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Well, Vice Chair.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I just, I don't, can we leave it up to the District Attorney does she want to be heard, or does she want to wait until we actually have a full board? I mean, I know they've been waiting for a long time--”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Just a minute.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Can I—”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I would like to hear what she has to say because I put it on here.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “We're going to hear from her and her crowd/team. What were you about to say?”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Yes, Chairman thank you. I think we do a disservice when we come together. I understand your concern Commissioner Arrington but Commissioner Ellis as well as Vice Chair Hall at the last meeting we were tasked with coming together to revise this. We came together, we revised it. We were all in agreement so it will not take that long to decide whether we're going to revise it or not and the problems that we're having continually is that this Board, we keep saying that

we're going to deal with the public comment section and then we don't. And so, I would just say can we deal with that it would take all of five minutes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, y'all can."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Sound it please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On the bottom of page 12, **21-0466** request approval to amend the Board of Commissioners procedural rules for meetings specifically rule six, agenda preparation--"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Clerk, you don't have to speak—"

**CLERK GRIER:** "—and public comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, who's going to, the three of you, who? Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I would say that I'm sorry chairman you know what I am going to yield to Vice Chair Hall because what we did, we came together as you had tasked us to do, and I had no problems I thought it was very seamless how we did it and so I'm going to or either Commissioner Ellis if they would like to say what we did and how we thought it would be better."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, can y'all just summarize what your recommendations are—"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "—quickly. I want them to do it because I already know, what--"

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "I just have one thing I want to add."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, let's not complicate it guys."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "—so you can sum it up and I'll—"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'll sum it up and just you know there's two documents mentioned, just so we're clear about which we're referring to, the first one you'll see that it has some red on it I believe that was the previous one and then the other one has not; has enumerations bullet points as the final one correct? So basically, just to frame out what this is, if you have not had a chance to fully read it, we will allow for public comment be it speakers you know they have to be at Assembly Hall, they can speak live here at the one of the two facilities we have available at North Fulton or South Fulton service center. Comments can be sent via e-mail and provided electronically to

the Board you know and our staff before the meetings, and we ask that all the comments will be included as part of that Board of Commissioners meeting that those get to us as soon as possible preferably right before the meeting and I believe we set a time frame for which those are to be received and comments via e-mail will be categorized and read in the same fashion that they have been grouped together with names et cetera. And the substantive piece would be different, you know a lot of that is sort of the same way that we've been sort of conducting it right now, but the piece that will be different will be the public comment will occur prior to the business portion of the BOC meeting and it'll be strictly limited to 30 minutes. In person comments will be made first followed by written e-mail comments and regardless of the form of public comment, the time limit will be two minutes and no time shall be yield to other speakers just like it is right now. In the event that we reach that time limit and all the public comments have not been completed, the public comment will be suspended, and we'll start the business portion of our meeting, and public comment will resume at the end of the meeting and placed in the same order that it was. Written comments that were not previously read or other public comments. The speaker cards will be provided three options for individuals that were not able to comment during the 30 minutes, if you're not able comment during that 30-minute public comment time at the front end, they can speak at the end of the meeting, they can be placed at the front of the line for public comment at the next meeting or they can provide written comment that can be read at the end of the BOC meeting. If they choose none of those, they'll forfeit their right for public comment. And then in the event there's some sort of pandemic or that sort of stuff of the Board reserve the right to change the procedure, and come up with different public comments. Did I fairly summarize that?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes, you did, I just want to make sure."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Yes you did and—"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Excellent summary and excellent report."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Yes, it was absolutely excellent. And the only thing that I had added that I do not see in here that was removed was for us to continue to do the Zoom and a lot of my constituents have asked that we continue to do the Zoom, because they are seniors, they're still seniors whether you like it or not who do not want to come out. They're still restricting themselves. They're doing their own CDC restriction to not come out, and they like the Zoom. And as we can see by senior services, their continuation of their virtual programming that it is a necessary thing. So, I'd like to make an amendment to add the Zoom to this if my colleagues are, okay, with that?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “So even if they are, they was still that will be a part of the 30 minute limit, right.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Correct.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “That is correct.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right is that a motion to amend?”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Yes Sir, that is a motion to amend.”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I have no problem.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. All right. On the motion to approve as amended. Let's vote.”

**JEROLYN FERRARI, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Mr. Chairman?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yes.”

**JEROLYN FERRARI, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “If I may.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yes.”

**JEROLYN FERRARI, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Yes. What I have here is a report and recommendation which is excellent that needs to be codified. The Board's rules are reflected in the code of ordinances; and so, your report that you've given today, Vice Chair Hall needs to be reflected in the form of an ordinance, which I recommend be brought forward at the next meeting.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. So do we need to approve this today or wait until the next meeting?”

**JEROLYN FERRARI, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “It's not in the format for your usual legislation. What you've done is you've just heard the report and recommendation.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. I understand.”

**JEROLYN FERRARI, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “So now what needs to happen is the legislation to effectuate that needs to be prepared.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “I understand. Can you have it prepared for us at our next meeting? However, I mean, legislative intent is clear.”

**JEROLYN FERRARI, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Yes, Will do.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “We can operate under these new rules at our next meeting. All right. So it’s not necessary for a vote on this then, correct?”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “So I guess, what are you -- are you saying ---”

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “I think we need to vote on I, don’t we?”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Let’s do it.”

**JEROLYN FERRARI, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “You can accept the report, but what I’m saying is it’s not -- the comments are read into the record, so your intent is clear. But what I’m saying is the Board’s rules of procedure are codified in the code of ordinance.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “I Understand.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Just a point of order, Mr. Chair.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yes, sir, Commissioner Ellis.”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Just a question for our attorney. The document, I guess, I’m looking at, I guess, where this, maybe this is where the confusion lies. You know state said, it request adoption of the motion to amend the Board of Commissioners procedural rules for meetings, specifically, rules six, agenda preparation for public comment. And then there’s an annotation that several highlights in which I just shared. Are you stating that the reason you’re bringing this up is because it wasn’t received in the same format as other items, or you not have record of this what I was just referring to?”

**JEROLYN FERRARI, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY:** “Thank you, Commissioner Ellis. Yes, the document that you’re referring to, I believe, it’s the agenda item summary with the attachment behind it. And what I’m recommending is that the code itself be amended because that’s the foundational document for your rules and procedure. It will be less clear --”

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Okay. Maybe we can vote on it and then -- vote on the intent, and then it can be codified at the next meeting.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Yes. Motion is to approve.”

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** “Last item on page 13, **21-0531**, Discussion, District Attorney, ORCA Funding and backlog, sponsored by Vice Chair Hall.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “Okay. You want to introduce this, or hear from the Manager and his team? Or how do you want to do it?”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I didn’t know that the Manager had anything to present.”

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “There’s nothing to present. Madam District Attorney, where are you? Where is she? Oh, here she is.”

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** “Good evening, Chairman. Commissioner Arrington, I see you’re here. I appreciate the desolate. I want to show you some [Inaudible.] if you would take your seat. What we have to discuss today is too important to not have you in your seat. I did provide a PowerPoint –“

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** “Madam DA, can you turn on your mic, please?”

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** “I’m going to speak in my outside voice, but one way or the other I’ll make sure you hear me. I do appreciate it, and I thank you. Does the Clerk have the PowerPoint? There it goes; magic. First of all, I want to give my sincerest thanks to Commissioner Natalie Hall. We attempted to get on this agenda and without you that would not be a reality. And I just want to thank you, not just from me personally, but from my team, but more importantly, from the people that each of you were elected to serve. We have a public safety crises going on. And Commissioner Ellis, it affects your jurisdiction in the same way it does all of your colleagues. I learned something as I met with each of you this week, and that was kind of what makes you tick, what information do you need to make decisions. And so, one thing that you said was you wanted specifics. So I made sure that my staff pulled out specifics just for you. And as we go through this, we’re going to talk about them. I have watched the entire day, so it has not been hours that I’ve been waiting; it’s been an entire day. But I’m like Commissioner Arrington, I got all night to deal with these issues. I am sorry that Commissioner Morris left because I wanted to tell him by example that we are in a crisis. In his very district today, there was a shooting in Buckhead at the Toast of Lenox. Commissioner Hall, you know what I found really interesting today, you all were talking about the Hammonds House, that’s in your district. I have some murder numbers in here, but their already wrong. Last night two blocks from the Hammonds House, there is yet another murder. So if there's anyone in here confused, and thinks I'm here to talk about widgets, I'm here to talk about human life. So why am I here with you today? Well, I promised transparency, and that I would bring integrity to this office. And that I was going to be open and honest with the public. When it was working well,

Commissioner Hausmann, and when it wasn't. And so, I'm here today, so there are not backdoor meetings, there's not secret conversations, but the public knows what I'm doing, and when those efforts are frustrated. When I took office in January, there was already a problem. Will you give me the next, please. The next one. The next slide, please. The problem that this County is facing -- each of you have heard me say it -- is the great trifecta that puts us in the predicament that we are in today. One, I took over an office that was mismanaged. Now, that just sounds like fancy words, or I'm trying to bash the last elected, but we're going to talk about what the effects of that mismanagement were. We going to talk about the fact that my brother stands here as another person trying to seek justice, and that before me and him took office, there was zero relationship between the Sheriff and the DA. We're going to talk about an historic backlog from 2016 to 19 that doesn't have a damn thing to do with COVID. We're going to talk about staff that was not what the staff is today; qualified to handle this level of cases. We're going to talk about a crisis that's going on in each and every one of your districts. None of your constituents are safe. Not yours, Mr. Pitts, Chairman Pitts; not yours, Commissioner Hall; not yours Commissioner Ellis. Not yours. And we're going to get to how do we fix it. On top of the historic backlog, then came COVID, creating other issues, and then the rise to crime. Will you take me to the next slide? Historical mismanagement; what does it mean? It means I walked into an office that had 6,085 cases unindicted, uncharged felonies. That's what it means. It means that I had 51,000 cases going back to the late nineties that had not been appropriately closed. It meant I was seating with 11,000 cases indicted in the pipeline, but not reserved. And it means I was faced with unqualified staff. Take me to the next slide, please. Then COVID hits, so we make a problem worst. I shared with Commissioner Hausmann, and she was just in shock not only did COVID hit, but there was an office that went home March of last year, and didn't return till the new DA came. That's a reality. You had about ten to 12 percent of dedicated staff there, and you had cases and crime going on and nothing was happening. Take me to the next slide, please. What does this rise in crime mean? What does it really mean? It just sounds cute, right? What it means is last year at this time, there were 51 rapes in Atlanta. This year there's 95. It's an 86 percent increase. What does it mean about rapes? It means last year at this time, Commissioner Hall, there were 61 cases, now there's 76. Those aren't just widgets or numbers; and I need you to tell your staff that. That's 15 more of your constituents dead. Go to the next slide, please. And we're in a crises. Recently, the Supreme Court issued an order there's a rule within the law that defendants have to be indicted within 90 days. It had been put on pause, but on May 13th, the Honorable Justices decided that that rule had to go back into effect. And so, we had over a thousand defendants sitting that either needed to be indicted, or they were going to get a bond and be released. It's real simple. The Honorable Judge Brasher, because the court gave him authority, said that

well I'm going to give a little breathing room, and he extended that 90 days, 30; and we begged, but he said I can do it no further, I have no authority. Prior to COVID, what the DAs office was given was 0.01 -- somebody write that down -- percentage of the money to deal with this unprecedented problem. Can you take me to the next slide? So maybe you thinking well, this really ain't my issue, not in my district; but no, the murderers are occurring everywhere. There is a hundred and 54 -- although the slide represents a hundred and 50 -- coming from each and every one of your districts, suspects that may get out of jail on September the 13th. Write it down. There are another 78 rapists, and there are 1433 violent offenders. Let me tell you how violent the offenders are: My brother here, he shared a story with me. See he's trying to deal with this problem of jail overcrowding, and so, he went to sheriffs in other counties to see if we could get some relief, and they looked at our defendants, and said oh, no. I'm going to leave that with you because those folks are too violent. That's other law enforcement. That's what kind of crises we're in. Can you please take me to the next slide? So maybe people are confused, and they think that once again I'm just talking about widgets. No. I'm talking about human life. I wish I could give you all a hundred and 54. And I wish I could give you all a hundred and 54, but let me talk to you a little while about these victims from your district Mr. Ellis. This young lady, she was in her 70s my mama would say that's young. Her tenant bludgeoned her to death. That's one of the hundred and 53. Take me to the next slide. What about this beautiful baby from District 2? Femur broke, dead. Can you take me to the next slide? What about this handsome young man. He moved here from Pennsylvania. He's an high exec at UPS. After a hard work week, he went to have a drink -- I think that's his right. He walked up and became a victim to gang violence. He's dead. I'm the one who talks to his mama. Next slide. What about this beautiful young lady? She's not even from our County. She's from Cobb. Her and her mama, and auntie shopping at Christmas; anybody here that don't go to the mall around Christmas? How about dead. How about this is part of the 153. Next slide, please. How about this person driving on our interstate. Anybody in here drive on your interstate? Anybody? Young man driving reckless speed -- maybe you think from District 4 this was the only victim; no. There was also 3-month-old baby killed, and three others seriously injured in your district. Next slide. He's a famous actor, well-known goes to the convenience store; I'm wondering if anyone around here ever goes to a convenience store. Gets in a verbal dispute, is followed home, and shot in the back multiple times. Your district. Next slide. What about this beautiful young lady? Ever pulled off a interstate? Oh, and what about coincidences? And how I know it's a God. I saw all of y'all this morning stand up here and cry with the young lady who had loss someone. Guess what? Same day, hours after, some of the same people at both scenes and both suspects are in the 153 days. Excuse me. The 153 murder suspects both the victim of that moment that you stood up here with, and

the suspect in this one. What's next? Can you take me to the next slide? This gentleman -- with acquaintances -- District 6. They in a dispute with a shooter. Now, Commissioner Pitts, each of them has a percentage, but you and I know one thing, hundred percent fall on you because you represent all these districts. And a hundred percent falls on me. Next slide. What does justice require? Hey, here's the cold truth. Resources. Resources. So you wanted specifics, so I want to give them to you. And me and Commissioner Hausmann, I shared with her -- she was one of the last I spoke to because she had been traveling, but she truly asked some of the most poignant question, so no criticism, it's is just a reality. And so, she wanted specifically to know about the homicides. She wanted know how many we're face here; 665. I heard you on the news talk about reasonableness. Let's talk about what's reasonable to successfully do 665. Those aren't widgets by the way people; those are lives. Of those 313 are indicted. That means they're a part of that 11,000 in process. A hundred and 53, they may get out on September 13th. You have another 187 that are in various stages; each represent a life from your district. Each of them. Can you take me to the next slide? To the next one, madam. So you want to know what I need? You want me to be specific? For that historical backlog 2016 to 2019; I want 2.7 million. That translates into 23 employees that will focus on those cases getting them charged and processed. Newsflash: Before COVID it took two years to get through the system. By the way, when we charge those 153, each of your superior court judges will get over ten murders. Some of them got 40 right now. It takes a week at leased to try the average murder. You do the math. And those are just the murderers. The COVID backlog -- I've been promised, but I'm like Commissioner Hall, I want receipts. I want it on the record. They say I get 2.46 million to help, and I do appreciate the work of Alton Adams and Shay Alexander; you all should give them a hand clap for all the work that they've done; the listening, the hours. But let me tell you what I'm faced with. We come to commitments, I have documents on paper -- we do this -- did you hear what they said? I listened all day to y'all. Since December, we've been doing this. Now, last week when I'm trying to get employees hired because everything working so well. See that ain't transparency. That's what we call a lie. And all of a sudden everything we've been agreeing on for six months is no longer so. So I would like a vote when the whole Board is here. The list -- I was sitting here by your representatives at those rates. I'd like you to enforce your staff to keep their commitment. So that's my ask one; just you do what you said you were going to do on paper, in writing. What about crime on the rise? I'm asking for 2.5 -- but the truth of it is 641 is already mine, but I'm tired of the games that keep getting played. Am I'm I going to be able to use it to hire staff or not? Next slide, please. Next year -- because I don't want to surprise anybody. You can write the numbers down. You know we'll have to flush this out, but if anybody thinks with what is going on with this trifecta we can do what was done last year when we both

and everyone in this room knows the DA did not even allow the current DA to participate; that's a joke. And the No. 1 issue for the mayor's race and for each of your races is going to be crime. You want to know why; because you can't even go to the gas station in our County anymore. So this is what I'm asking. I'm being transparent, and not one dime of this is going to me. I haven't asked for a raise, a car, or anything. That is investigators, and that is lawyers. You're people who gave me COVID money just so that everybody's clear, so we can make it make since they figured by September that there are 10,000 cases; they are probably right since we're at 78 hundred now. They're giving me ten investigators that's a thousand cases per investigator. Commissioner Arrington you've practice criminal law; it's a joke, exactly. It's not reasonable Commissioner. Let me tell you what's reasonable because this is what the County now has the benefit of Ms. Willis is a murder prosecutor. And Ms. Willis is one of the best murder prosecutors in this country. I've tried over a hundred cases. In case you don't know, Commissioner, I've tried one of the longest case in George's history, and the third longest in the history of the United States. I know a little something about a trial. What is reasonable is it will take someone with my level of experience -- and it ain't many. At most, they can indict five murders a month, and do it the right way, so that your family or your constituent's family could get justice. At most, when I was a superstar prosecutor, I was trying 12 to 13 a year. There are people that are going to fallout in shock because most lawyers don't try 13 murders a year because a murder takes a week, and months of preparation. We need resources. We need to stop being treated like this is a game. I've heard a lot of people say stuff about Mr. Hermon today. But it ain't always on HR because often times I hear y'all talk about 300 transactions; I've got to tell y'all I've done 90 over the last couple months; it's been a nightmare. Every transaction been a headache and a problem, and it ain't always on HR. Sometimes it's on finance. So we gone tell the truth today. Just like I got a list approved from you all's representatives, so you know what, the first thing I'm asking for, I want to come back for a vote. I want you all to tell the public. See I don't like all this, oh, when lights, camera, action; we serious about crime; but when the DA and the Sheriff come ask you for resources, oh, wait a minute now. You tell me how we supposed to get these cases indicted without lawyers, and investigators, and legal assistance to do it? Tell me. How are we supposed to get them tried? And how am I supposed to tell their mamas we gone to do the very best job possible. So, here today, on the record, I'm asking for you all to approve the resources that we get. Finance needs to look at them. They can't tell me how to try a case. They treat me like I'm talking about library books. I'm talking about lives. Sexual assault victims -- and Mr. Ellis, one more specifics for you: In the last month I've opened up 11 human trafficking investigations, and please understand, when I say 11, I don't mean 11 victims; I mean, 11 cases with multiple victims. Seven are from your jurisdiction. Why do I tell you that?



Because crime is in your colleague to the left jurisdiction, it's in your colleague to your right jurisdiction, and it's in yours. This problem affects all of us. It doesn't matter if you're black, if you white, if you young, if your old, if you're poor, if you're rich; if you're educated, if you uneducated. They don't care. They will take what is most precious to you: your child, your life. Next slide, please. Next slide, please. Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are is outraged as those who are. So what do I want? I want on you next month's agenda. What do I want? I want a vote? What do I want? I want resources, so I can hire the staff that we deserve to have, so that we can get this job done right. Commissioner Hall let me thank you, again. They tried to keep me off the agenda, and you didn't let it be so. I want you to know, I will always appreciate you for that. And that I can't be quieted, so I'll be back. And as I told Commissioner Ellis, oh no, I'm going to speak to you all as the elected and I'm gone speak to the public because that's my boss. Thank you. If there are any questions I will take them now."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's see, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman followed by Vice Chair Hall followed by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Madam DA, you know, you're so passionate, but it doesn't come as a surprise to me. I remember us all going to each other's swearing-in because all three of us unseated incumbents, and we swore to each other then to keep each other abreast, anyway that we could help out, get the information out. I was one of the first people to bring to the news media about the jail. I took heat for that. I was one of the first people to get out here in the streets and let people know that business as usual at Fulton County is over with. First of all, I want to do two things I want to commend Vice Chair Natalie Hall for getting you on the agenda, but I apologize that you had to go through that because crime affects us all. And when we have a sitting DA that has to beg to come in front of us, this is the climate and the culture that I have to work in. See, I'm not a Junior Commissioner; I'm not an intern. I'm not somebody who has on training wheels. I'm someone who can speak with authority because of my work ethic, and I know our work ethics mirror all three of us. You all don't work 9-to-5. You all take calls 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning. You have very early mornings and very late-nights. The issue I have with this, going on record, the crime issue has to be more than an election tagline. We got to stop playing this game. Oh, I'm against crime, I'm against crime, I'm against crime for elections, and then when it's the time to put the resources in place, oh, Madam DA you got to choose with this, or you got to choose -- we got to stop playing if we want to do something about crime in Fulton County. We've got to give you the resources you need. We've got to give the Sheriff the resources he needs. When are we going to stop dealing with this petty politicking? And telling our Sheriff one thing, and our Madam DA another thing; and

then I have a conversation with them on the phone, and it's totally different from what's been told to me."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "And Commissioner that brings me to a really good point: The Sheriff and I were told today that we would be on the agenda, about an evidence facility I spoke to each of you about in January."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "We've got to stop it. This is the thing and I'm not going to belabor the point. I want to make a motion to give them the resources they need because this is ridiculous. Crime is all-time high. We're getting ready to be in a position where we may have to release murders. This is not a third-world country. This is Fulton County. We got inmates sleeping on floors. We got inmates waiting to be charged, waiting to get a bond. We've got people that are getting arrested that are very dangerous, and we're making you jump through hoops. Shame on Fulton County. You can get mad with me all you want to, but we should be ashamed that you have to come here and beg for resources first of all. And I want to go on record knowing that as an unelected official, I knew the problems in the DA's office before I took the oath of office here. So, as an unelected official, and I knew the problems in the DA office. You can't tell me that this Body didn't know. And it was unfair for you to walk into that situation with no resources. I remember the first meeting begging for just vest. The same thing with the Sheriff. The Sheriff and you both weren't allowed to even transition. And then we want to get up here and say that we are tough on crime. No, what you are doing; you're playing with folks lives. So, as much as I thank Vice Chair Hall, this whole culture of blocking resources; this whole culture of lying to elected officials, and going back and telling the DA one thing, telling the Sheriff one thing, and then coming to the Commissioner telling them something totally different needs to stop. Give our elected official the resources they need because the next death may be at your door. We should be ashamed of ourselves."

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

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Thank you. This information is horrendous. When we met, and I ask you for the numbers of cases, I did not expect this. And, you know, this is a lifestyle for me, and I tell every member of my team that you live this job. You don't punch out from 9-to-5. So if anybody that interviews with me, if they think they're punching in and punching out keep it moving because you can't be on this team. This is a lifestyle. Its heart work. When I say heart, I mean it comes from your heart. And I see your passion. And I understand what you're dealing with just by looking at these numbers. And I just want to say, I don't know who was trying to block you, but shame on them. Shame on them because not one member of this Board of Commissioners, I can guarantee you, was trying to block you. Now, outside of this, I would like to find out, if



we can, who was actually trying to keep you from speaking because that should never happen. Now, I want to address a couple of things that you said. You said that you're supposed to get \$2.46 million you were told that from this project call ORCA. I've never heard of ORCA. What does the acronym stand for?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "I actually learned the other day after you asked me that question is that ORCA is actually not an acronym. It's actually what they have referred to for this COVID backlog. ORCA -- and I can't make this up is a big whale. I guess they thought since this was a big problem, they would call it that. I didn't make it up, but we need those funds."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** Okay. Okay. And so, Mr. County Manager, Madam CFO, and COO, can you speak to this funding? And what is the situation with this \$2.46 million dollars that the DA is saying she was supposed to receive? Is she going to receive it? Is there -- I mean, explain if you can, please."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "And I would ask another question, respectively?"

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Yes, ma'am."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "I'd ask that the chart that was sent by your representative, at those rates, and at those positions, are we actually going to get that, or are we going to keep going through this song and dance?"

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "I don't know the chart, so you're going to tell us about that because I don't know about a chart. Has anyone on this Board received a chart of positions or something?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "I'm sure they're aware of the chart."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Is there a chart Mr. County Manager that she's talking about that you can share with us?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I'm not sure exactly what chart she's referring to, but, you know, as we presented today the budget for the court backlog reduction is now at 75 million versus 61. So it is fully allocated in terms of the resources that we have from the American Rescue Act. So now, I guess, from a does she get it, I'll turn to Sharon; but now the process is that it's fully funded; the positions are allocated, and she has the ability to hire. But let me defer to Sharon."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Is this the sheet you're speaking of; is it coming?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "Vice Chair Hall that is the chart. These are the positions, those were the rates of pay we were told, that was agreed upon. As you can see, it's in writing, and I just want to make sure that it is honored because I did two transactions and already there were problems."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "So who told you that this was approved because I don't see -- I'm looking for the County Manager, the Chief Financial Officer, and the COO at least be on here, and Hakeem, our Director of Finance, but I don't see any of them on here -- on this e-mail. It's coming directly from Shay Alexander. Isn't Shay still just a contractor?"

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

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "So she told you this was approved?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "Yes. We met with Mr. Adams and Ms. Alexander. We did that for months. We wrote out the positions. They met not only with my office; they met with every justice partner. We worked out the things, and then we were sent that that this is a list of how you are to do things. And so, we began to do things in that order, and as I told you, transaction one and two problems already. And so, those immediate one and two have been resolved, but I can't do that for transactions. I've heard you all today talk about hiring for different projects, and what I have to tell you is that I've been hiring for the last six months, and every time it is difficult. And so, I want to assure that what we said was going to be done is going to be done the way it was outlined for us."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Mr. County Manager, did you know about this document that was given to the DA and said it was approved?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. We met with the DA and discussed it with her recently. I think it was Friday."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Okay. So it was approved then?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, you know, fundamentally with the disconnect, I guess, if you will, was Shay -- don't let me speak for you -- where did Alton, go; but Shay and Alton we're working with all the justice partners to outline the plan for court backlog reduction. When this document was put together, to the best of my knowledge, and you can look at this and somewhat surmised this. These salaries are rounded number is 75,000, 53,000, 80,000 they are not precise numbers. So as the DA went forward to hire, based on this, which was essentially a consultant working document from Shay Alexander, as it so happened, the first two that went forward, did not have a good coordination with HR and an offer was made to two people that's slightly above the authorized salary grade -- higher limit of the salary grade. So we did

have to get together, and either do one or two things; change the offer letter back to the lower number, which I think, I don't remember Ken exactly what the number was -- but it looks like \$15 less; it was certainly a small number. Or change the position title to a higher title. And that was the decision that we collectively made."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "And so, are you currently working on moving forward with completing this list of hires?"

**DICK ANDERSON:** "Yes. So, let me ask Sharon to speak to the plan that we gave to the DA. What I think will facilitate not only better working, but elimination of any miss cues."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Vice Chair Hall one thing that we -- after the meeting with the district attorney we have the HR staff reviewing the list to validate that the grades, and the salary ranges all are in line with what our grades and salary ranges are and that we don't have any more issues relative to that process. We've also shared with the DA from a procedures perspective, you know, the timeframe and the timeline for offers to be made to make sure that the offer letter itself is reviewed by HR to ensure that it has all the correct language that these are going to be time-limited positions, and that the title and the grade and the pay on the letter all agreed to what's in the list and so there were a few, I think issues that needed to be corrected on the list which HR, and Shay Alexander, and the finance department have been working on the last couple days. It's not just the list for the district attorney, but we're reviewing the entire list of all 300 plus positions for the backlog project in general just to make sure that we don't have any other issues pop up like this. The DA just happened to be out in front on this, so we are trying to work through these issues and get her where she needs to be relative to continuing to move forward. The positions are staggered by month, and in addition to these positions we are also working with the DA so that she can utilize her salary savings that she's accrued this year to be able to hire some additional temporary positions through the end-of-the-year to help meet part of the need that she identified in her slide."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "Commissioner Hall, so I want to say a couple of things right there. My brother in crime said, hey, they told me they were taking my salary savings. I said, they told me the same thing to, until I had the pleasure of seeing County Manager Anderson in the parking lot, and told him that when I spoke to the Commissioners, they all said that wasn't right Commissioner from the mighty District 6. And so, after I can get to you, then things change. And so, I want speak because I want the Sheriff to be able to utilize some of my time and speak. And I want to make sure you know that this is the struggle that we are going through; and quite frankly, Commissioner Hall, I've told this -- I don't say anything behind someone's back I don't say to their face. And what I

have told your County Manager, your employee is that I don't have the bandwidth anymore for these games. I need to get to the business of solving crime. And I believe the Sheriff wants to address you.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Sheriff Labat.”

**PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** “I want to do everything in proper order. Let me be clear. First of all, thank you Madam DA. And I said this repeatedly, we got the baddest DA in the country.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “Yes, indeed.”

**PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** “I didn’t just come up here to be cute in this vest, and this vest is for a reason because I had a County Commissioner say that sometimes Sheriff’s talk big. So, I don’t play one of TV. I am the Sheriff of Fulton County. I’ll be on the street tonight fighting crime. We started putting people on the street long before tonight working with APD, working with Georgia State patrol, creating a Scorpion team that’s gonna fight crime. We gone get -- I told Madam DA, we’re going to fill your desk up. We’re going to fight crime, and we’re going after these bad guys. Some of y’all thought I was playing. I don’t have a fancy PowerPoint. I will ask for permission to be on the next Board meeting. Can y’all put that in a note, or whatever the 28 day cycle is because when I first started I said I learned that I had to be 40 days ahead of the conversation to even come speak to y’all, so I’m not use to that. Let me back up and say thank y’all for coming to visit. Thank you for having the conversations. Thank you for the \$6.8 million. Let me be clear that I had to get four votes on, right? I can do the math; only to find out later that it wasn’t pay raise it’s a salary adjustment. Let me be clear. We’re underpaid and overworked. I had 15 people in the last 30 days leave the Fulton County jail as detention officers to go work somewhere else. I’ve texted you every time I see. Every time I see Sandy Springs offering \$7000 to come work for us, and a \$3000 relocation fee; Cobb County offering \$5000, and a \$2000 relocation fee. It’s a tough time to be in law enforcement. But each and every one of you call me when we’re going up Bankhead Highway and it’s nothing, but ATVs blocking the street. But, I can’t get a BearCat after I work -- go through the process – Mr. Davis, thank you, I appreciate that – of playing you all’s games in finance because that’s all they are. Everybody wants to move the goalposts when we get to the end. It ain’t your money. It’s been approved here and I’m gone spend it accordingly. And the next time Ms. Whitmore -- and I sent you an email; I appreciate you responding. Eventually, and let me be clear, when I signed my name as the Sheriff -- which one of y’all, when you sign something or your staff write a check, Ms. Whitmore, and her team rejects? Because we just haven’t done it that way. When I work a deal to get a BearCat, so that I don’t have an MRAP break down on Georgia 400, on the way to a SWAT call where a guy

has been charged with killing 28 people; ends up killing himself; my MRAP sitting on the side of the road but I put a plan together following the rule. Mr. County Manager, I appreciate it. We have a relationship. That's what this County is not used to. We talked two, three times a week. We talk and I appreciate that, but what we have is a bad culture. And we need to figure out how to fix it. When I signed something I was elected to do it. I'm gone manage my budget I promise you, but don't tell me that these salary savings I can't use to do other things proactively. When I've heard for two years - I ran for two years, and what you heard was, the Sheriff just didn't really come to the Board. He didn't talk. I would encourage you to understand this and this is not you all's fault; let me be clear because as I churned and overturned Plymouth Rock, what I found is the rock landed on you. You didn't land on Plymouth Rock, and so, what you were getting was bad information. And so, when I come to you and tell you that I got a K9 unit that in the middle of a search, the unit goes bad we got to borrow one from Clayton County because it doesn't have air conditioning. My dogs deserve better. When I tell you, again, thank you, I appreciate the conversations around the jail, and I appreciate the passion in which the County commission has said to the city we got to do better; and we will. And we absolutely will. But let me tell you about the equipment. I ordered rifles the SWAT team hadn't had in years. And somewhere along the process be it my folks, be it finance; we ordered \$90,000 worth of rifles the best equipment you could get. Oh, I'm sorry. Somebody in Finance said we had to send the sites out for the rifle. Let me put that in perspective -- you look through a site to make sure you can hit the target downrange, but because of our processes, 30 days later the sites are approved; and guess what, they are approved by the same vendor. We have a flawed culture. It is time we fix it. And if you don't believe we're out here fighting crime, come meet me at Metropolitan tonight, right? You don't believe we out here fighting crime; meet me out at Fulton Industrial. We put the necessary resources in place, but it's like pulling teeth. It is absolutely absurd I do want to give a shout out to the County attorney and her team ant the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit ruling in our favor today. Hopefully, you can give the Board some update on that because it's good news about how we treat people. See I just didn't get in here to walk around; we are going to handle our business. I am going to bring you the facts, and Commissioner Hausmann I appreciate you asking for the facts. But we are going to bring you what you need in the next Board meeting, right? That will show you that we are 20 to \$30 million under staffed, if you want to have a true Sheriff's office in your county. We are partnering with all 15 cities to include colleges to get the best training we can get to give our citizens what they need and deserve. See, what I've come to learn is that you -- you being plural in many instances -- didn't understand the breath and aspect of what the Sheriff's office actually does on a daily basis. I appreciate the additional conversations, so that we can -- but now, we're six months in; the education is gone and we need your help. So I wasn't privy and I appreciate Alton

and Shay in the conversations around this Rescue money, but when I said I needed 50 deputies and it comes back on the chart that I'm getting 15, somebody didn't hear me. Or the allocation of funds simply was not done appropriately. I don't get it. I come from good government, and I'll tell you publicly what I've said, the city is behind five years behind the rest of the world; the county is ten years behind that. You don't get it because you breathe verified air, right? Everything you get in here, from this Board over, right, outside personal meetings is, yes, Commissioner. Yes, Commissioner. This is what will do to fix it Commissioner. And so, we thought it, my sister and I, thought it our duty to give you what we honestly said what we were giving you at the beginning of taking offices is the hard facts the truth. I appreciate the time; I do indeed. I appreciate you taking my call Commissioner Hall every time. I appreciate Chairman every meeting we had. No one has not been responsive to the call, it's time to vote. It's time to put the rubber on the road. It is time to invest in public safety and not just on the telephone. It is time for us to really show the citizens of Fulton County what a Sheriff's office can be, what a DAs office can be if properly resourced. It's simple as that. It's simple as that. And so, while the notion was, not notion; the facts were we didn't get a chance to transition, but you didn't either believe in us when we said that the fat meat was greasy, or you wanted to give a test of time with six months in. And it is time for us to look beyond where we are. I was so happy the other day; I printed it off and sent it to your office, and I'll make sure everyone has a copy, when the President said that we could use this Rescue money to fight crime. Let me give you an example of what this looks like. We got the largest Sheriff office in the southeast. We use these things called tag readers. We mount on the cars, \$17,000 apiece, right? For the whole setup. We have the sum total of one vehicle that can read tags, and it's broken down. So, when I work with Joe, the Director, I'm sorry. When I work with a director to put together the equipment I needed, we got women and men out here protecting the best we can and we not resourcing them. You heard the DA early on, and you mentioned it, Madam Commissioner about vest, right? I got vest that are expiring. The expiration date long gone. And maybe some of y'all thought this was for show, but I can't go to a funeral because of a vest. I refuse, too. And maybe it's a culture that you just weren't informed. I don't know what the answer is, but what you will get is transparency. What you will get is honesty, but we need, somewhere along the lines, Mr. County Manager the understanding when the DA and the Sheriff -- we're elected just like you, right? See, some of y'all are confused, and maybe this is for the audience because every time you say Sheriff's Department the hair on the back of my neck stands up. I don't run a Department, I run a Sheriff's office. And it's insulting to say otherwise. So, I say that to say -- here's the good news in all of this; we're on the way up. We on the way up. We all have nowhere else to go but up; let me be clear. Let me be clear with my choices, right? But the DA laid out for you. My heart breaks every time you see someone get



killed in Fulton County. But let me take a step further, and I'm going to wrap this up. I got a secondary phone. That phone is tied into 911. That 911 system goes off every night, every night. In Atlanta alone -- and the DA can give you the rest of the 14 cities - in Atlanta alone somebody is either shot or stabbed, carjacked, or robbed; every night. Or trafficked; every night. And we have an obligation to do better. We took a duty, we took an oath to do better. And we want to be good partners in doing it, but I'm afraid sometimes you all don't get the whole story, and so, we thought it necessary to come and have that conversation. And so, I'm gone get out the way."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Sheriff."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "Commissioner Hall, I know you said you like receipts, and I've been watching you all day."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "Yes, ma'am."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "When the DA has assistant Chief Clark stand up please, that spends a thousand plus hours and 28 meetings to try to get an evidence facility straight to do the architect to work with who are supposed to be our partners, and does it along with a thousand hours with the Sheriff in also the attendance of 28 meetings; and we are guaranteed to be on this agenda for the 14th because if we don't get this facility cases are going to get overturned. And then no one even gives us the respect to call and say it's not on the agenda, we're not going to deal with it although when I met with Commissioner Morris and Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Hausmann, they all said, but you told us about this in January. Exactly. And since January, we've been doing the work. See if my people treat anyone of you like this, this is what they each can tell you, that will be fired; that day. I'll deal with the consequences later. So, I'm asking you to get your staff together, so me, and my brother can stop being treated like this."

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** "I'm so sorry because I didn't see anything about an evidence facility on this agenda. I told you, I didn't see anything. I didn't know anything about it. And so, I just want to make sure that I get all my answers. I did hear Madam CFO say that the salary savings that you have would be used. That you will be able to use them and I just want to make sure this amount on here is correct; this \$641,000 in salary savings, Madam CFO?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We calculated 617 for the salary savings."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "I'll take the 617 because I was told I can't use anything."



**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “All right. So, 617 it is. Going once, going twice. All right. And – so you’re going to move forward with these positions to help the District Attorney try these cases. Because I heard you loud and clear when you said that over a thousand people could bond out, and get back in the streets and these are serious crimes. These are not just, you know I J-walked, or I spit on the ground, I’m loitering; these are serious crimes. And I don’t want to see not one of those people get released out just because we didn’t do what we needed to do financially for your office. That makes no since whatsoever.”

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** “Commissioner Hall, I would ask with my brother that I could be on the next agenda, so that the other pot that I want to deal with because we have been strictly told that money is for COVID, and that’s all right because I have enough to do with COVID that we can ask for the other 2.5 that I referenced in the PowerPoint to deal with the rest of the cases. And so, I would ask to be on your agenda.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “So let me ask this: Alton never came back. Well, let me ask this question Mr. County Manager. In the COVID-19 plan that we just passed, it says that there’s a court backlog -- court case backlog line item, but it’s only speaking to cases. Is there -- can we add a line that specifically addresses these areas for the Sheriff and Madame DA? And can someone confirm if we can use whether, or not we can use ARPA funds for what they’re looking for because as I stated at the last meeting in June, reading the ARPA website information it said specifically that President Joe Biden set aside these funds that are going to -- that can be used toward law enforcement, and can be used toward preventing violence and funding peace. And so, I would like to see that you go back and add a line for these things and let us know what can we fund through ARPA, so that we can at least have something to move forward.”

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “I would love to hear Mr. Hermon, and Ms. Whitmore; why they are here right now. I would love to know why we are here at this hour. Why are they frustrated? Why would you tell them they can’t get their salary savings? Why would you not expedite their hires? She said coming in she was gone get rid of 70 people, and hire a hundred and 30 people. We been knowing that for nine months. So how do we get to this point where she’s out trying to hire people and we having hiccups? I want to say it’s unintentional, but then when I look on the agenda and I see Commissioner Hausmann talking about, oh, we passing the lowest millage rate ever. Fuck the lowest millage rate. We got to get these people locked up. They got to be arrested. I don’t give a darn about no damn low millage rate. Where is the money that the DAs office needs? Where is the money that the Sheriff’s office need? Where is the cooperation that they need? It’s not even really the money. Where is the

cooperation? They got to come -- they got to spend a thousand hours to negotiate a damn, lease? And then, got to come down here, and wait ten hours to fucking speak? And y'all want --

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- Marvin?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- won't give them the money that they need. You won't cooperate with them to give them to be able to hire the people that they need? That's preposterous Mr. County Manager. Please make sure that this never happens again. But when somebody sneaks the lowest millage rate ever on the agenda, now I really start to question motives and intentions. This is not -- I said this for the last four or five years, this is not how you set a budget; you don't set a millage rate, and then you find out how much you got to use first you find out how much the DA's office needs, how much the Sheriff's office needs, how much these other departments need, and then set the budget. You set your budget based off of needs. Oh, this is what we had last year. Oh, we trying to get the millage rate low again; oh, we don't care if 1500 rapist and murderers go running free. We want to have the lowest millage rate ever. Let all the rapist out. Let all the murderers out. We want to have a low millage rate. That doesn't make any sense. Cooperate with these people. They shouldn't have to come here Mr. Hermon, Ms. Whitmore. They should not have to come here, and beg for money. Can somebody, anybody tell me why this, evidence building is not on the agenda today? No, one? No one. Has anyone ever heard of the building before?"

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "So, Commissioner Arrington, I'm not sure why the original -- Madam DA, I'll address you as well, Commissioner. I'm not sure why the original evidence facility was not on the agenda today. We met with your staff not a week ago to view the consolidated warehouse."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "I don't know anything about a consolidated warehouse; my brother doesn't know anything about a consolidated warehouse. I'm not sure that I would approve a warehouse with departments I'm investigating, but when you don't consult the DA, and you have her staff spend a thousand hours and 28 meetings, and his staff spent a thousand hours and 28 meetings on the warehouse where we were told would be on the agenda; and Madam, I want to be really respectful; we were asked in June to be on the agenda. And we listened and deferred to your staff, who said what the County what these people will want is not just the warehouse, but also they're going to want to know about how much money is on improvements, and so me, and the Sheriff agreed, okay, we'll wait till the July 14th meeting so we can give these people the full picture, and then I got to go meet with Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Hausmann, Commissioner Pitts, Commissioner Ellis, and they're all saying, what are

you talking about? It's not on the agenda. It's disingenuous, and it makes me not trust you and it makes me talk to them and that's the truth."

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "And I understand that DA Willis and I apologize for not -- there was a clear lack of communication because I believe, from the presence of your staff that you were aware about the consolidated warehouse."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "I never agreed to a consolidated warehouse, nor did the Sheriff; he can speak for himself."

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** "I understand. We will revisit that discussion, and bring the item forward for the evidence facility we were previously discussing."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right. You finished Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I'm finished."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "The same reason -- when we can pass an agenda item in March, and the County Manager can bring it back -- a plan that does not have it on it. I've been talking about this culture since day one. I've been ridiculed about it. I've been said, I'm loud and wrong, you know, but this culture we have; we can't get mortgage assistance, we can't get nonprofit assistance, we can't get all these things; the DAs office can't get what she needs, the Sheriff can't get what he needs, but more importantly this culture -- this culture of lying to elected officials when they are telling you what their needs are, and you're blowing smoke. Now, I know we don't want to hear that, and I know here, I supposed to be loud and wrong, but I'm loud and right. Because the culture I walked into here is one of tell them anything to get them out your face. Point blank. And this is where the rubber hits the road because welcome to Fulton County, where we're not going to give you help with mortgage; we're not going to give you nonprofit assistance; we're not going to take crime seriously; we're not going to take crime -- and I commend you, Sheriff because you're trying to do criminal justice reform. You're a cutting edge. Welcome to Fulton County where we can't do any of the things to make the County better, but we can give the County Manager an \$11,000 bonus. Shame on Fulton County. This is where the rubber hits the road. You are lying to these elected officials. You are not holding your colleagues accountable, and then we come down here every meeting, get a check for coming down here lying to the public, lying to the elected officials, and they can't do their job, but we can get \$11,000 bonus. Shame on you. Welcome to Fulton County."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** “All right. Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Ellis. It’s 8:40, it’s 8 o’clock. We’ve heard a lot today. And we got a lot to talk about prior to that next meeting. Let’s get it all on the table; Vice Chair.”

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “I just want to make sure that the County Manager and County executives are going to provide us with the information that I requested because before I could even finish, or they didn’t even respond, we had moved on to the next speaker. So, I’d like to get an acknowledgment of at least if you can take care of that. No one said anything before Commissioner Arrington spoke. Are you going to be able to provide that information?”

**ANNA ROACH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** “I can respond. Whatever you’re requesting Commissioner Hall we will provide you before the next meeting.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** Bring the millage rate back after you provide the information”.

**VICE CHAIR HALL:** “We already voted on that.”

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** “We gone vote on it again.”

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** “Just sort of two or three question. Well, first off, I just want to say this, thanks for coming down. I appreciate the remarks. I do think we can – need to reach a point where we have conversations that don’t look like this, that allows things to get facilitated, and works get done. I’m not going to point fingers at anybody in terms of where the break-down lies in this. I think it’s important that we move ahead, and move ahead in that spirit. We’re not each other’s enemies. I think we’re all fully aware of all the crime issues certainly. You deal with them, see them day-to day, and have a different viewpoint on those than each of us. And I get that, but we all recognize where we are with it, and are fully intent on doing something about it. From our management team, to this Board, and certainly to you all. Yeah, we did just approved today, you know, \$75 million of expenditures, you know that will be spent over the next two and a half years, I guess, two and a quarter. I guess is that it? Right. I guess my ask in terms of our staff it would be to ensure that all of the justice partners, not just our Sheriff, and our DA understand what that means for them; and that we’re all on the same page with that. Hopefully, that’s the case, but it seems to me like there’s some disconnects with that. Maybe some of that means because we’ve just been trying to get this thing fully assimilated, and numbers down on paper, and didn’t get it approved by us. It was approved today. You know, nobody was holding that up. Everybody wanted to do it; we wanted to do it at the last meeting. We wanted to ensure that it fell under

these guidelines and it does, and we [Inaudible.] ahead of this as smoothly as possible. So my ask of the management team certainly is to ensure that everybody understands, kind of what their components -- individual components of this are. I know this issue of salary savings I hope that that was never was communicated that to any department that they can't use salary savings, but and, you know, may be it was, or maybe it wasn't. Maybe there was miscommunication around it, but I do think whether it's our Sheriff's office, or other departments that everybody have a full understanding of what the rules are around using salary savings because you know that's been a breakdown at different points in time, so I do think if we could have those guidelines spelled out for everybody it's the same, they understand it; they understand what the rules are, right? So that there's not any confusion around that. And then, you know, and I think it's we move forward with all of this, you know, it's what are the numbers in front of us? Anecdotes, I think are important. The emotion of it behind us is fine, but really the hard data is important, too. We've talked about efficiency of our court system, you know, our Sheriff, and DA; and this is stuff that we've had conversations around before. And the courts got shutdown and we realized that all that changed. We get in a pattern of looking at that, and looking at that data over, and over, and over, and over, so that we are making the right investments, in making the right resource allocation. It's needed, and we're not dealing in the anecdotal, that we're dealing in the facts. And we're dealing in the facts of making a difference in the lives of our citizens."

**PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Mr. Chair, can I ask a quick request while we're asking, right? And this is not fault of anyone here. Our radio system -- and I just learned this today, Mr. County Manger, when we send people to go pickup extradited inmates -- or go do extraditions -- outside of Fulton County, we can't even communicate. Only to be held hostage to a Motorola contract that says, in order for it to work, it's going to cost us another four or five hundred thousand dollars. So, if we could look into that, I certainly would love to have that conversation. And, Ms. Whitmore, I'd love -- to publicly ask for our teams to be able to meet in person, so that we can, too drill down on these cost savings -- the salary savings, and use that accordingly. So, thank you, all for your time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Sheriff. Let's sum up here now, Commissioner Hausmann wants to be recognized, and then we'll -- "

**COMMISSIONER HAUSMANN:** "Just briefly. First of all, I appreciate very much, you coming and communicating. And I, again, also really regret that we're having this conversation. And I can feel your passion, and your frustration; and, you know, it's contagious, if you will. And honestly, the break-down with Finance, I think we've all experienced it. You know, sometimes we can't understand why a contract approved for

a partner in January doesn't get paid until June because they called a Commissioner's office and ask why it hadn't been paid. It should be paid automatically. You shouldn't have these problems. We've got to fix this. We have to do better than this. It's just -- you can't work in that environment; we don't need to hear this; the public certainly, doesn't need to hear this. You've asked for things that are COVID related that are non-COVID related. I think, you know, we've talked for years about getting a mid-year budget review; we haven't seen that in a while. I would like to know where we are with our spending versus what we budgeted. Where our revenues are, so that we can have a clear idea when these specifics are presented to us, hopefully next month, on what we can, and cannot do at this point because we hear you.

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you, Commissioners. Madam DA, Mr. Sheriff, thank y'all for coming here. We've heard a lot, and we got a lot of work to do. We'll be back in touch. And Commissioners, thank y'all for your patience in being with us this evening. Any other matters to come before, Madam Clerk?"

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "Are we on the agenda for next month?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We can put you on there. That's not a problem. That's not a problem."

**FANI WILLIS, FC DA:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Now, let's be clear about being on the agenda. We have a lot of work to do between now and then; so, being on the agenda is one thing, solving the problem is something entirely different. Okay. Thank y'all for coming. Anything else to come before us, Madam Clerk?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Without objection, we are adjourned."

(Whereupon, the meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.)