

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

November 19, 2025  
10:00 AM



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



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**MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: December 17, 2025**

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

**10:01 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

**PRESENT**

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

**PRESENT**

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

**PRESENT**

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

**PRESENT**

Mo Ivory, Commissioner (District 4)

**PRESENT**

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

**PRESENT**

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

**PRESENT**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****25-0848 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 Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**25-0849 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "American Black Film Festival 30th Anniversary Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
November 6, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Hobo Ink Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
November 7, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Library Dads, Inc. Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
November 8, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
November 8, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Q Parker Evolution of Romance Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**  
November 14, 2025

**Open & Responsible Government****25-0850 Finance**

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

**25-0851 Finance**

No action is requested. This reporting is being provided to meet the quarterly reporting requirement for monetary transfers among budget funds per Board resolution #09-1262. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0852 Finance**

Request approval to renew existing contract - Finance Department, 24RFP1336388C-MH, Professional Property & Casualty Broker Services in an amount not to exceed \$94,500.00 with Edgewood Partners Insurance Center (EPIC), (Duluth, GA) to provide professional Property & Casualty brokerage services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0853 Finance**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Finance Department, 24RFP09272431C-MH, Annual Cost Allocation Plan in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00 with Cherry Bekaert LLC, (Atlanta, GA) to prepare the Fulton County Annual Cost Allocation Plan to comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 200. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0854 Finance**

Request renewal of an existing contract - Finance Department, 24RFP1337774C-MH, Financial Advisory Services in an amount not to exceed \$164,000.00 with Raymond James LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide financial advisory services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0855 Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - The Department of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance (DCRC), 24ITB144376B-RT Foreign Language Oral Interpretation and Written Translation Services in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 with Ad Astra, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide qualified foreign language interpreter translation services. This action exercises the first of two renewals. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0856 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of Sanitary Sewer System Ownership, Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Agreement between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Medley Johns Creek Phase 1 Owner, LLC, for the purpose of granting Fulton County legal access to extend and maintain the sanitary sewer system at 11660 Johns Creek Pkwy, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0857 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Medley Johns Creek Phase 1 Owner, LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 11660 Johns Creek Parkway, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097.

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

**25-0858 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution approving a Lease Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Landlord) and the City of Hapeville (Tenant) to lease County-owned real property formerly known as the Hapeville Health Center, located at 3444 Claire Drive, Hapeville, Georgia 30354; authorizing the Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to execute the Lease Agreement and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Lease Agreement and related documents as to form and make necessary modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON**

**ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**25-0859 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Public Library System, 24ITBC141418B-RT, Auburn Avenue Research Library, in an amount not to exceed \$60,858.27 with Yankee Book Peddler Inc., dba Gobi Library Solutions from EBSCO (Contoocook, NH) to provide research material for Auburn Avenue Research Library patrons. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****25-0860 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the Second Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by revising items #25-0862 and #25-0892; moving up items #25-0842, #25-0844, and #25-0890 through #25-0897. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**25-0861 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2025

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 5, 2025

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

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

**25-0862 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Operation Green Light for Veterans."  
**(Thorne/Abdur-Rahman/BOC)**

\* Proclamation recognizing "Native American Heritage Month."  
**(Abdur-Rahman/Pitts/BOC)**

*\*Added during the meeting*

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS****25-0863 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

**21 Speakers: Councilman Antonio Lewis (School Property Tax); Moki Macias (PAD funding); Bam Taylor (PAD funding); Kareem Osborne (PAD funding); Kathi Edwards (PAD funding); Maggie McCullom (Senior Services); Desirrae Thomas (Infant/Maternal Health); Perrin Botic (Senior Tax Relief); Darius Hardy (PAD funding); Jereme Sharpe (#25-0895); Jonathan Holle (PAD funding); Betty Jo Stevens (PAD funding); Stephen Imle (PAD funding); Kristie Lens (#25-0895); Sean Reeves (#25-0895); Kelsea Bond (PAD funding); Michael Posey (PAD funding); Pieter Friedrich (Oppose HB 375); Cat Leatherwood (PAD funding); Reed Stillson (PAD funding); Maria Gaudio (2020 Election)**

**3 Zoom Speakers: Kevin Muldowney (Elections); Robby Caban (Animal Services/Lifeline); Regina Brewer (#25-0895)**

**PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD****Reparations Task Force****25-0864 Board of Commissioners****Reparations Task Force Update (PRESENTED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve all forms of conducting meetings whether in person, via Zoom, or other electronic media and to accept the HARM Report. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**Abstain:** Thorne

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****25-0865 Finance**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Fulton County, 23RFP100423C-MH Annual Audit Services in the amount of \$313,000.00 with PJC Group to provide Annual Audit Services including OMB Uniform Guidance (Single Audit), T-SPLOST and the Fulton County Retirement Systems. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0866 Finance**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Finance, 23RFP060923C-MH, Printing & Mailing Water and Sewer Bills in an amount not to exceed \$491,644.00 with Dove Mailing Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide printing and mailing of Fulton County water and sewer bills. This action exercises the last of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0867 Information Technology**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Information Technology, 23ITB140062B -PS, Cabling and Physical Security in a total amount not to exceed \$6,975,000.00 with (A) GC&E Systems Group, Inc. (Norcross, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$2,475,000.00; and (B) NetPlanner Systems, Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$4,500,000.00 to provide countywide structured cabling services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0868 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 24ITB110124C-MH, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups E, F, G, H & I) in a total amount not to exceed \$1,306,000.00 with (A) QCS Cleaning dba Quality Cleaning Services (Douglasville, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$826,357.00 for Group E (South Fulton Libraries), both Groups F (Other Offices North and Other Offices South), Group G (South Senior Centers), and Group H (Arts Centers); and (B) American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$479,643.00 for Group I (Service Centers), to provide the highest quality cleaning services for selected Fulton County facilities. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0869 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 25ITB1366580C-GS, Modular Workstations and Free Standing Furniture Countywide, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 with (A) Office Design Concepts Georgia, LLC (Atlanta) in an amount not to exceed \$633,340.00, (B) Bright Interiors Group, LLC (Decatur, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$433,330.00, and (C) Corporate Environments of Georgia, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$433,330.00, to provide office modular workstation systems and free standing furniture on an "as needed" basis for Fulton County agencies. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**Justice and Safety****25-0870 Police**

Request approval to renew existing contract - Police, 23RFP139745B-EC, Armed and Unarmed Security Services in an amount not to exceed \$17,375,401.16 with Universal Protection Services dba Allied Universal Services (Atlanta, GA) to provide armed, unarmed and tower security services for various County departments. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****25-0871 County Manager**

Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report. **(PRESENTED)**

**25-0872 Finance**

Presentation of the FY2026 Proposed Operating Budget. **(PRESENTED)**

**25-0873 Finance**

Request approval of a Resolution of Fulton County, Georgia (the "County") hereinafter referred to as the "Pricing Resolution" relating to the issuance of its Water and Sewerage Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2025 (the "Series 2025 Bonds"), supplementing and amending that certain Parity Bond Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County (the "Board of Commissioners") on September 17, 2025 (the "Series 2025 Parity Bond Resolution"), which Series 2025 Parity Bond Resolution supplemented and amended that certain Amended and Restated Master Bond Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 17, 1998 (the "Master Bond Resolution"); confirming and approving the pricing terms and results of the competitive sale relating to the Series 2025 Bonds; ratifying and approving the preparation, distribution and use of a Preliminary Official Statement and a Final Official Statement relating to the Series 2025 Bonds; providing for the execution and delivery of a Continuing Disclosure Certificate; providing for incidental action; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**25-0874 Information Technology**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Information Technology, Sourcewell Contract #010720-AXN, Public Safety Video Surveillance Solutions with Related Equipment, Software and Accessories in an amount not to exceed \$1,310,000.00 for the continuation of digital evidence software and storage services for Fulton County's Justice Partners to include the District Attorney, Solicitor General, Public Defender as well as the expansion of services to include Superior Court, State Court, and the Medical Examiner's Office. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0875 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138741K-JAJ, Task Order Contract for Minor Construction in the total amount not to exceed \$600,000.00 with (B) Hawk Construction Company, LLC (Ellenwood, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$300,000.00, and (C) Complete Contracting Partners, LLC (Powder Springs, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$300,000.00, to cover the costs to complete the on-going replacement/emergency repair projects at the Fulton County Jail Complex (Jail Blitz Program) and to provide continued standby repair, alteration, modernization, maintenance, and rehabilitation construction services for County facilities for the remaining of FY2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0876 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, OMNIA Partners Contract #R240901, HVAC Solutions, Related Products and Services, in the amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 with Daikin Applied Americas, Inc. (Plymouth, MN), to provide HVAC Full-Service Maintenance and Repairs to major HVAC mechanical systems and equipment for five (5) of nine (9) selected Fulton County facilities: East Roswell Library, Juvenile Justice Center, 4700 North Point, Central Library, and Medical Examiners building. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0877 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 25ITB1393177C-JNJ, Testing and Repair of Backflow Devices in the amount of \$200,000.00 with Maxair Mechanical LLC (Marietta, GA), to provide on-site testing and repair of approximately 183 backflow preventive (BFP) devices for required maintenance on an "as-needed" basis for Fulton County facilities. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0878 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, OMNIA Partners Contract #3341, HVAC Products, Installation, Labor Based Solutions and Related Product and Services, in the total amount not to exceed \$130,000.00 with Trane U.S. Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide full-service HVAC maintenance and repairs for four (4) of nine (9) select Fulton County facilities as follows: North Fulton Customer Service Center, Elections Warehouse, North Service Center, and South Service Center. Effective dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0879 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC90816, Motor Vehicle Maintenance & Inventory Management Services, in the amount not to exceed \$955,000.00 with Automotive Rentals, Inc. dba Holman (Mt. Laurel, NJ), to provide maintenance and repair services for specialized heavy equipment and other fleet vehicles for Fulton County. Effective date: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0880 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 24RFP072424K-JA, Program Management and Professional Services for the Fulton County Jail Capital Improvement Program Phase II, in an amount not to exceed \$5,130,235.02 with ACR Partners, a joint venture comprised of AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM), Comprehensive Program Services (CPS) and H.J. Russell & Company (HJR) (Atlanta, GA) to increase the spending authority for Year 2 of the initial 5-Year contract and to amend the original scope of work in Phase II to provide comprehensive program management and professional services for the construction of an interim 600-bed modular housing facility located on the existing Rice St. jail campus. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**Health and Human Services****25-0881 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1420569A-ST, Sewer Line Chemical Root Control Services in the amount of \$350,000.00 with Dukes Root Control, Inc. (Syracuse, NY), to provide sewer line chemical root control services effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0882 Public Works**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Public Works, Sourcewell-Daimler Trucks North America Contract # 032824-DAI, M2 106 Plus Conventional Chassis-5 Yard Dump Truck in the amount not to exceed \$131,927.00 with Peachtree State Trucking Center (Norcross, GA), to transport materials and dump gravel, and debris. This is a one-time procurement. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0883 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 25ITB1420563A-ST, Landscaping Restoration Services in an amount not to exceed \$111,601.80 with Tri Scapes, LLC (Cumming, GA) to provide landscaping restoration services effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0884 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 25ITBC1430608A-ST, Corporation Stops and Brass Fittings in the amount of \$349,862.12 with Fortiline Waterworks (Concord, NC), to provide corporation stops and brass fittings. Effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0885 Public Works**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Public Works, 23ITB139005A-JWT, Standby Utility Pavement Patching & Paving Services in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 with the K&E Group USA, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide standby utility pavement patching and paving services. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0886 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder -Department of Public Works, 25ITBC1422651A-KM, Manholes, Frames, Grates and Accessories in the amount of \$199,452.75 with Ferguson Waterworks (Norcross, GA) to provide manhole, frames, grates, and accessories. Effective: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0887 Public Works**

Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement (CIA) between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the relocation of water facilities associated with the bridge replacement and widening of SR 120 (Old Milton Parkway) from North Point Parkway to Kimball Bridge Road in the City of Alpharetta (Project ID #0017187). The project includes the relocation of approximately 3,188 linear feet of 8-inch, 10-inch, 12-inch, and 16-inch water lines and associated appurtenances within Fulton County. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,768,280.00. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**25-0888 Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Roswell, GA, for water main relocations associated with the road widening improvements on Warsaw Road, from Sway Branch Drive to Worthington Hills Drive, in an estimated amount of \$953,550.00. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

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**Justice and Safety****25-0889 State Court**

Request approval to close out a contract - State Court and Superior Court Administration 22SS049A-KM in the amount not to exceed \$225,000.00. Substance use Disorder ("SUD") monitoring with Avertest, LLC dba Averhealth (Richmond Va.) to cover the cost for final payment for services rendered for providing continued drug testing services and products for the Fulton County DUI treatment court. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Barrett, Ivory, and Abdur-Rahman

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****25-0842 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2 of the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to the Code of Ethics regarding a preliminary process for Commissioners who seek to file ethics complaints against other Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Thorne) (HELD ON 11/5/25) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

**Yea:** Thorne

**Nay:** Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**Abstain:** Abdur-Rahman

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

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

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

**Nay:** Thorne

**Abstain:** Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**25-0844 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to create a Commercial Property Assessment Task Force to provide input to the members of the Board of Commissioners in collaboration with the Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors and its staff on the valuation of commercial properties; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (HELD ON 11/5/25) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

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

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

**Abstain:** Pitts

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

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

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

**Abstain:** Abdur-Rahman

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

**25-0890 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to extend the term of the Fulton County Reparations Task Force for twelve (12) months; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**Abstain:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**25-0891 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to extend the term of the Fulton County Reparations Task Force for two (2) years; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Pitts

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**Abstain:** Thorne

**25-0892 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution directing the County Manager to include on an annual basis funding in an amount not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for the Fulton County Veterans' Community Services Grant Program to support services and programs for veterans residing in Fulton County, Georgia; and for other purposes. **(Arrington/Barrett/Ivory) (MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED FAILED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve as amended by directing the County Manager to dedicate staff to the Veterans Empowerment Committee and to contact the Committee members to request information on how funds will be allocated. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**Abstain:** Pitts

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

**25-0893 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article 2 (County Governing Authority), Division 2 (Rules of Order and Procedure), Section 101-63 (Presiding Officer and Rules for Debate) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances; to clarify procedures for designation of a presiding officer in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

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

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

**25-0894 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 101 (General Provisions and County Governing Authority), Article 2 (County Governing Authority), Division 2 (Rules of Order and Procedure), Section 101-63 (Presiding Officer and Rules for Debate) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances; to clarify procedures for designation of a presiding officer in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman; and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

**25-0895 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners amending policies limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events by members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Ellis/Thorne) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN ELLIS****25-0896 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to address maternal and infant mortality rates with current capital investments and planned initiatives; and for other purposes. **(Ivory/Barrett) (APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**25-0897 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager to work with Select Fulton and the Fulton County Development Authority to develop a Senior Property Tax Relief Program; and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Ellis

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**Abstain:** Thorne

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Thorne to hold.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

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

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

**Nay:** Thorne, and Ellis

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### 25-0898 Board of Commissioners

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

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

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

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the requests for representation in items #4 and #5 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to approve the settlement agreement in the case of Qwayshawn Green vs Fulton County Georgia Sheriff Patrick Labat, John Jackson, and Derrick Singleton, Adam Lee III, and Gloria Franklin in the United States District Court in the Northern District of Georgia Case No. 1:25-CV-01059 in the amount of \$50,000.00. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the payment of a tax refund claim in the case of Emory University vs Fulton County and City of Atlanta Fulton County Superior Court Civil Action file No. 2022CV373176 in the amount of \$32,273.48. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Abdur-Rahman

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
SECOND REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 19, 2025  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC  
***“A Court Reporting Firm”***

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Good morning, everyone and welcome to the Second Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is Wednesday, November 19th; it is 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please, call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

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

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda: **25-0848**, 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 Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. "

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any items? Nothing, Madam Clerk? Commissioners, any items?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** (Inaudible. Commissioner not on the microphone.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What? On the consent agenda? Okay. Nothing on the Consent Agenda? Let's vote, please. Madam Clerk."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4, Second Regular Meeting Agenda, **25-0860**: Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have some amendments to today's agenda. On page 4, 25-0862: Presentation of proclamations and certificates. This item has been revised to include a proclamation recognizing Native American Heritage Month sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and Chairman Pitts. Also on page 10, 25-0892: Request approval of a Resolution directing the County Manager to include on an annual basis funding in an amount of --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- where are you?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which item?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0892. Item has been revised to add cosponsors, Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Ivory. Also, on Page 11, 25-0895, adding a cosponsor; Commissioner Thorne, to Vice Chair Ellis' Resolution amending policies limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, anything else?"

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

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I'm asking for item 25-0896 to be -- I'm sorry."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Not that item, I apologize. Page 11, 25-0894 to be moved up to be heard after public comments."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would ask for some grace today. I may have to leave early to attend to my father's health condition, and so I'm asking if the Commissioner's items on page 10 and 11 starting with 25-0842 through 25-0897 can be all moved up to be heard after the public comment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which ones?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "All of them. The Commissioners -- all the Commissioners' items on page 10 and 11, if they could just be moved up -- that whole section can be moved up after public comments, so that would include -- just the one that Commissioner Abdur-Rahman just asked for."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No, I guess that Commissioner Ivory's motion really addresses mine because we have what I will say are dual or competing things -- items on the agenda for 0893, 0894, and also for 0890, so we move all of them up, then they all can be heard together because, yeah, I don't know how we move one on competing item up and not move all of them up."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm totally fine with moving all of that up. I would just ask that we do it after the Reparations Task Force Report, because there's a lot of folks here from the Reparations Task Force and let's give them an opportunity to do their presentation first, if that's okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any objections to what's been --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- I object to that, Chairman. I've suffered a death in my family, and so it was enough just for me to be able to be possible here today, with all due respect to the Reparations Task Force. And so that is the purpose of me asking for mine. If anybody else want to move theirs up, that's fine. I will stay here long enough for that, but I need to attend to arrangements."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Let me figure out --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- and then I definitely want 0893 moved up, 0891 moved up. But then, you know --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- I think if we just move up the entire action items, we'll get to those rather quickly and then we won't have to come back to Commissioners' items. So I think, you know, in respect of Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and also in respect of my need to leave early for my father's condition, if we could just agree, as a Body, to

move all of the Commissioner action items up to after public comment, that would be advisable for all of us."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, any objections? Commissioner Barrett?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "My only concern is that some of these may take a while, and they are sitting here -- not to be overly complicated, but could we move Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and Commissioner Arrington's competing items first, then do Reparations and then do the rest? Would that work?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I don't know what time everybody has to leave. I'm just trying to be respectful here."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Well, maybe we can ask, do the folks here for the Reparations Task Force, can you hang with us while we get to those items and then go? Okay great. They will."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Did you get all of that, Madam Clerk, because I sure didn't. I don't want this to become a practice, this moving item ups, unless you want to change the agenda and have -- I understand that. I understand that."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, with all due respect, mine, mine -- I would ask the Body, because I have suffered a death in my family."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Right. We got it."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You got it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes. We're moving up Commissioner Action Items after public comment."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Correct."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And Commissioner -- we're doing Commissioner Abdur-Rahman first?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "We've go to do 0893 and 0894 together. They're got to be heard together because they're competing items, 0893 comes before 0894."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "All right, I have a motion for that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. You got it, Madam Clerk? All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion to do so by Commissioner Thorne. It is seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0861**, Ratification of Minutes, Second Regular Meeting Minutes, October 15<sup>th</sup>; First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 5th, 2025."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0862**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Operation Green Light for Veterans' sponsored by Commissioner Thorne and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman with Full Board support."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How many proclamations are there? Two?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "If there any veterans that want to come down here? We welcome you to join us today. If you're a veteran, please feel free to come down here and take a picture with us. Last week, we had the lighting of Project Green Light, which is a NACo event that we want to honor veterans not one day a week but for the entire week, and to signify that by lighting a green light. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to be here, but my fellow Commissioners were here, and I heard from my staff that was there that it was a fabulous event, and thank you for honoring them. Today we want to serve this as a reminder to honor and support our veterans, their service and sacrifice that they've protected our freedoms and we are truly, truly grateful for all that they've done. I want to recognize David Hofstadter who's here from the Veterans Empowerment Commission for his continued dedication and the work he puts in to serving our veteran community not only in Fulton County, but all metro counties pretty much. I also want to thank Bill Williams, cofounder of Vet Buds for joining us today and all that he does for serving our veterans community. So it's my honor to present this proclamation and to express our appreciation for our veterans. WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces has been vital in maintaining the freedoms and the way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as county veterans service officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than 52 billion in federal health, disability, and compensation benefits each year; and WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually, and an estimated

20 percent increase of servicemembers will transition to civilian life in the near future; and WHEREAS, Fulton County government is proud to work with our Veterans Empowerment Commission and others in the community to support the more than 45,000 veterans who call Fulton County home; and WHEREAS, America's counties have a long and proud history of serving our nation's veterans and the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers have invited the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs to join Operation Green Light and show support for veterans by lighting our buildings green from November 4th through the 11th; and WHEREAS, Vet Buds led by Jason Robbins as president, is a nonprofit 501C3 organization where the members are all volunteers and share a common bond of military service, and the desire to provide assistance to veterans directly within the scope of personal resources and indirectly by their combined businesses, social and personal knowledge, and connections. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes our veterans and have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for their service; and does hereby proclaim November 4th through 11th 2025 as 'Operation Green Light for Veteran Appreciation Days' in Fulton County, Georgia."

**BILL WILLIAMS, RECIPIENT:** "I'm Bill Williams. I'm the cofounder of Vet Buds. We're a small group of veterans meeting in North Fulton, and we've been around since 2011. We are an official nonprofit. We have three areas of focus: We have a vehicle for veterans program, student veteran support, and we also provide some assistance to other veterans groups that are helping homeless veterans. Earlier this week or last week -- late last week, we awarded our 54th car since 2021 to a veteran in need of transportation after we've checked out the car, the vehicle and made sure the veteran is well-qualified. We work with the Veterans Outreach Office at Georgia State, and this morning, we awarded a thousand dollar grant to a student veteran in need of some financial assistance. So we're small, but we get things done and we're very grateful for this recognition and to Commissioner Thorne and everyone, you know, as part of this group. Thank you very much."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I certainly just want to say thank you to our veterans for their service. Without their service, we would not have the opportunity to even serve as Commissioners and to do the things that we do. And hopefully, we would not just give them a proclamation, but we would restore the \$1 million in funding to the Veterans Empowerment Commission that they got for the last three years. It was taken out of the budget this year. So, hopefully, we'll back up this proclamation and the green lights with some actual dollars and resources to support, so that great organizations like Vet Buds can give out more vehicles and serve more veterans. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing Native American Heritage Month sponsored by Commissioners Abdur-Rahman and Chairman Pitts."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Arrington, what did you do to my mic? This is a proclamation on behalf of recognizing the Native American Heritage Month. WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first

Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States; and WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month aims to provide a platform for native people in the United States to share their culture, traditions, music, crafts, dance, and ways and concepts of life; and WHEREAS, the customs and traditions of indigenous Americans have persevered due to their resiliency throughout the history of the United States and remain a prominent trademark of their legacy today; and WHEREAS, Native American Awareness Week began in 1976, and United States President George H. W. Bush first declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month in 1990, thereafter referred to as Native American Heritage Month; and WHEREAS, in honor of National American Indian Heritage Month, now more commonly known as Native American Heritage Month, which is preferred amongst indigenous people, community celebrations as well as numerous cultural, artistic, educational, and historical activities have been planned. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the contributions of Native Americans to the fabric of our country; and does hereby proclaim the month of November 2025 as 'Native American Heritage Month' in Fulton County, Georgia with Full Board support. Would you please signal with me a great appreciation for our Native American Heritage Month community here in Fulton County."

**JOSEPH JORDAN, RECIPIENT:** "Joseph Jordan (inaudible). Hello. How are you all doing? My name is Joseph Jordan. I'm Aaron from North Carolina. I come from the Snipe clan. I'm the founder of Metro Atlanta, a Native American organization that I started two years ago, and we're trying to bring community together within the Atlanta area. You know, we're spread all out. In the last few months, the Department of Interior did a survey for places, for a good place to put an Indian Health Service, and it was kind of surprisingly in the Southeast that Atlanta was chosen as one of them for the high number of Native Americans within the Atlanta area. So I started this organization about two years ago to help bring togetherness within the Atlanta area for native people, because a lot of us come from different area; myself, my tribe's in North Carolina. Alyssa, next to me, is Onondaga from New York. And when we get dispersed from our communities and stuff like that, sometimes we will lose our culture in a lot of ways. Our kids aren't taught to do bead work and basket work and be raised in that traditional native community. So we started this organization two years ago to bring people together to give them an opportunity to learn cultural stuff, craft making, dancing, and that fellowship of community. So we truly appreciate y'all for giving us this proclamation and acknowledging Native Americans here in the state of Georgia and the Atlanta area and we truthfully appreciate that, you know."

**ALYSSA, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you, Joey. First, I'd like to begin by extending greetings and thanks to the indigenous people of the land that we are currently on right now, which is the Muscogee Creek and the Cherokee. I would like to thank them and their descendants for maintaining their culture and preserving their identities through time. And I would like to thank everyone today for being open to hearing our proclamation and being able to celebrate this important event amongst many indigenous communities, not only in Georgia, but in the United States as well, and thank you for your time."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 4, Public Hearings, **25-0863**: Public Comment - Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing by registering on the county website, [www.fultoncountyGA.gov](http://www.fultoncountyGA.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 20 speaker cards. Will the first five speakers please come forward: Councilman Antonio Lewis, Kelsea Bond, Moki Macias, Bam Taylor, and Kareem Osborne?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Speakers, as always, when you have 15 seconds left, I'll say 15 seconds, which will be your key to begin to conclude your remarks. Two minutes each."

**ANTONIO LEWIS, COUNCILMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I want to say good morning and thank you, Board of Commissioners and Chairman, for all of the hard work you've been doing for Fulton County. I've had never have come down here to speak in front of you. I rise today for a grave concern. We all know that Fulton County has four hospitals north of I-20; zero below. We need help. There's going to come a plan in front of you in which the city of Atlanta is going to invest. We're going to need you to help us fix this issue that we have south of I-20. Today, I brought my bishop with me because I never wanted to step above and go into a different jurisdictions. I never wanted to walk into a different district, but at my house on Jonesboro Road, if we go to the hospital, I was born at Grady Memorial Hospital. It takes 45 minutes in traffic. Forty-five minutes. My senior executive assistant, Tyrese Miller, was shot. He was on Jonesboro Road and Cleveland Avenue. It takes 45 minutes to get downtown. At that time period, it's right at the time in which the hospital on Cleveland Avenue was closed. He stopped by there. He thought it was still open. He could not use the services. So we almost lost a person who was very dear to me because of this. So I rise and I speak for that. I also rise and I come because Atlanta Public Schools is facing some issues if there're shortfalls in budgets. If the tax assessor, actually, assess some of these properties the right way, we can grow. The commercial properties that we're seeing on the news being sold for \$84 million, \$50 million of coming down here being assessed at five million, we're seeing that. We've seen -- we've seen an amount that can help Atlanta Public Schools with their shortfall. So I'm rising for help with the hospital that will be coming, and we'll be coming to you to ask about."

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

**ANTONIO LEWIS, COUNCILMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I'm rising to make sure that you know that we're coming to you to do your duty, your part, in Fulton County. You have 15 cities, the cities on the Southside, we need help. I represent the folks that I grew up in."

**MOKI MACIAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "He's a little taller than I am. Good morning."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning."

**MOKI MACIAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** Nice to see you all. I'm Moki Macias, Executive Director for Policing Alternatives and Diversion, or PAD. Thank you for considering the renewal of funding for PAD to provide shelter, food, and transportation assistance to the people diverted from jail. This support from Fulton County allows us to provide emergency hotel stays in temporary shelters to hundreds of people every year, along with transportation assistance and direct food aid as we help people secure benefits, supplement the benefits they already receive, or in these extraordinary times, when those benefits are frozen altogether. Between January and October of this year, we provided hotel stays up to seven days to a hundred and forty-one people. We provided temporary shelter for an average of 30 days for a hundred and eighty-five people and food assistance to 718 people. The people we serve are deeply marginalized members of our communities, people who are usually unhoused and struggling with mental health concerns and living with substance use conditions. These are individuals who would otherwise be in jail, but were diverted to us through a variety of needs, right, either through the diversion center and then referred to PAD for case management, housing and direct aid, diverted directly by law enforcement if they requested one of our mobile teams, or diverted after they were arrested, identified as eligible for diversion and then released to us from Fulton County Jail. This year alone, 39 people have been released to us from the jail directly to our care. The ability to provide immediate shelter, food, and transportation assistance to these individuals is critical to beginning to help them regain stability. As you know, we've been in this work now --"

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

**MOKI MACIAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- as you know we've been in this work for almost a decade, and our programs have evolved during that time, but what has not changed is our mission to reduce the arrest and incarceration of people who are struggling on the margins, and to connect these folks to supportive services. Thank you."

**BAM TAYLOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I'm Bam Taylor. I'm representing -- I'm not a number or a data cruncher. I'm not that person. I'm the person in the trenches. I'm a community responder for PAD. I'm born and raised in Atlanta, so we know about the -- I was here during the 1996 Olympics when we had them, and then we've got the World Cup coming next year. I'm here because just like the Commissioner spoke about the naked young lady, we come out and we bring clothes, we bring food. A lot of times, we're the only means of conversation or food that a

person in the streets receive. It's an honor for me to serve my community. I love, I represent my city, but I also want my city to feed the city before we feed the city because we're not doing that. We don't mind doing the hard work, because that's what we're here for. But I'd like to tell people we're here for the human side. I love doing the hard work, and it's not hard work when you're doing from the heart. You know what I'm saying? So, we're missing out on a lot because we're looking over the people and a lot of people treat them like trash being in the city. And you don't know unless you been out here and unless you've been touched. You don't really recognize people just look at the homeless population think it's nobody. But for five years up till March of this year, I was one of those people, and I didn't have anybody to help, but I know PAD has always been around, and I was able to call on them. They were able to give me a hotel room, you know what I'm saying, so they helped me get back upon my feet. And when we throw money around a lot, and I think that's great that we have the money to throw around like that, but we miss the human side when we started looking at all that kind of stuff. So yeah, I just want us to try to look at that part, and my thoughts of leaving because I'm looking at this clock, I'm sorry. But yeah, I really want us to be serious about what PAD do. I want y'all to be understanding of what PAD do. It's not just a matter of keeping people out of jail. Nobody else out on these streets from 7:00 a.m. to midnight looking out for the people, and sometimes on the weekend --"

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

**BAM TAYLOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- while we're out here looking out for our city. So, yeah, I just want y'all to take that into account. Thank you."

**KAREEM OSBORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, everyone. My name is Kareem Osborne. I'm a clinical advisor for PAD, I'm sorry. I've been working with PAD for over five years, half a decade and I have to say that was probably the best decision I've made in my career as a clinician. They understand the same values that I have and they give the support to the community that I look for as a case manager. With that being said, there's so many different stories, successful stories I can share with you guys; one in particular, when as a caseworker was, a 26-year-old person, we'll say her name is Ms. Boykin. I interviewed her while she was in Fulton County arrested. She was also six months pregnant at the time. Wanted to see if she qualified for PAD services, and she did. She said she's a broken female and she's scared that she's going to have a child in jail. When she accepted PAD and services, I was able to advocate for her in court, let the court know what plan that we have in place for her, and to how we can drastically stop the occurrence of her being rearrested. The court listened to us and was able to grant PAD the services of Kiara [Phonetic.] Boykin. I immediately began harm reduction side of that, we got her in a hotel, got her food, clothing, a shower, you know, peace of mind. There we were able to go over goals that she wanted to accomplish, simple goals, housing. She wanted to work, she wanted to have a successful healthy child, and she wanted to find a career. We provided transportation so that she could find a primary care doctor. She got good prenatal care, we linked her to Nicole's House, which is a program for women who are expecting or have kids, so she now has her own apartment. We collaborated with her. Now she has a job at Wendy's."

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

**KAREEM OSBORNE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "She wanted to be here, but she didn't want to take off work because she's going to apply for the assistant manager at Wendy's right now. She also has school, being a forklift operator. And this is what PAD does."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come forward: Kathi Edwards, Maggie McCullom, Desirrae Thomas, Perrin Botic, and Darius Hardy."

**KATHI EDWARDS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "How, y'all doing? My name is Kathi Edwards. Let me ask the panel a question first. Have any of you guys ever been homeless or lived on the streets and been on drugs? Well let me -- I am a product of what PAD stands for. I've been almost 30 years without being on drugs. I've been shot two different times, stabbed 17 times, been to the penitentiary twice, and been homeless numerous of times. I am a production of what PAD stands for. This program work. They make suggestions. They don't tell you what to do or try to make you do anything. I'm a volunteer for PAD trying to get a petition to work for PAD. I do security, but my enjoyment and my passion and my life dream is to be working with a community organization like PAD. This program work. This program work. Programs like PAD work. I'm a production of one of these programs. I'm not from here; I'm from Dayton, Ohio. I moved here in 2019, and like I said, I haven't been on drugs for almost 30 years. You know, I can't tell you the worse position you can be in being homeless, you know. Some of you need to come out to Cleveland Avenue and just spend the night out there with me and you will see and know. This program needs to continuously be funded. Any kind of way, they need money or help and programs like PAD."

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

**KATHI EDWARDS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "These are some wonderful people. You need to get to know them. Y'all need to come out in the community. You know, it's going take longer than 15 seconds to see what's going on. So I appreciate them, and programs like them. Thank you."

**MAGGIE MCCULLOM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Maggie McCullom. I want speak to you about home repairs today. In Luke 14:13-14, "but when you give a banquet and invite the poor, the cripple, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed." It's no accident that hospitality and hospital come from the same Latin word. They both lead to the same results: healing. When you open your doors to someone you were sending a message, you matter to me and to God. Do you know people who need this message? Seniors no longer drive, no increases, now stagnated, and can't move. Lonely, can't speak. Your hospitality can be their hospital. The issue is an invitation to make a big deal for each one of us. Address our needs. Send them out with a blessing. Home repairs has touched some of us including me. Thank you for opening your hearts to the seniors. HVAC, I can be warm; the roof, I won't be wet; plumbing, the water can steady run; this was and is significant for the seniors, and thank

you for another job well done. We can stay warm, stay dry, and stay focused. Fulton County Senior Services, thank you. Meals on Wheels, home repairs --"

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

**MAGGIE MCCULLOM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- thank you. And thanks to this Body because you all are listening. We all need to hear the goodness that comes forth from every one of us. Thank you."

**DESIRRAE THOMAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Desirrae Thomas. I am the local campaign manager at the Amplified Georgia Collaborative, a reproductive justice org that's based here in Atlanta. This summer I shared with you via e-mail our local RJ policy agenda, which is a slate of policy proposals that we're hoping that localities can implement to advance reproductive justice and abortion access within the bounds of the state law in their localities. This is not my first time at the Commission. I come here -- I have not been here in a while. I had a baby last year. And so part of while I'm here, not only to speak about the policy agenda, but to also talk about Item 25-098 or 0896, from Commissioners Ivory and Barrett calling upon the county to work to address maternal and infant mortality rates here in Fulton County. I gave birth in Fulton County, I live in South Fulton with my family, and I would like to do that again, but as a black woman, I am all too aware of the fact that when I walk into a hospital there is not zero chance that I would not walk out with my baby. I face the complication when I gave birth last year; I got postpartum preeclampsia while my baby was in the NICU, and so for over 24 hours, I could not see him because I was back in a hospital room. I was in the ER/Emory Midtown for about 18 hours, and then I was sent back to the mother/baby unit. And so, I know that this is a real issue. I know that the only reason that I left with my life is because I know some of these things. I read the paperwork that says, you know, when you leave the hospital if you feel these symptoms to come back, it's an emergency. And so, I know that there's so many people that don't get that. There are people who fall into the Medicaid gap who are not able to get prenatal care."

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

**DESIRRAE THOMAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "And so, the county can do lots of things to protect reproductive justice, and maternal mortality definitely falls within that. I would love to talk with you more about our policy agenda and some these items. And so, I'll e-mail you again today, and I look forward to speaking with y'all soon. Thank you so much."

**PERRIN BOSIC, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Perrin Botic and I'm a Fulton County resident. And I'm here this morning to speak in support of the Resolution before you to provide property tax relief for seniors. Displacement is a very real issue with many of our seniors, as you know, are on fixed incomes and with due to rising costs, they just needed little additional assistance. And so I'm asking this morning that you support this Resolution. And I'll just leave you with this that it's one thing to know the statistics of displacement, it's another to hear the

stories, but it's also another to experience it real time, and a few months ago, I got a call from a senior in my community in need of help. And when I arrived, I saw all of his belongings on the front of the lawn, Mr. Mohammed, who is 80 years old, in front of the house that he had lived in for more than 20 years. And so, I rise to say that our seniors need a little help, and so I ask that you will provide as displacement is real, especially on the west side in Atlanta. So today, I ask that you support the Resolution. Thank you so much. Have a good day."

**DARIUS HARDY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Darius Hardy. I am a care navigation specialist with Atlanta PAD. And as a representation of PAD, I am reminded of how we're able to serve these individuals effectively and efficiently. Currently, I'm working with a 67-year-old male who was released from prison and became homeless. Currently, with working with this individual, I found out how his current case of homelessness could have possibly ended his life. Now with him being diverted into Atlanta PAD, we were able to -- I was able to connect him with services which included -- which included getting him into emergency housing. Also, he suffered with mobility issues. I was able to connect him with MARTA mobility. Now of course, I was able to connect him with other resources as well such as food stamps and things of that nature. However, with the government shutdown and the things being on pause, Atlanta PAD still had to step in and be the liaison to ensure that this individual's life -- this individual's life is, you know, comes up to par. Now in this case, locating food resources and receiving care -- receiving linkage to care for him was a bit problematic. However, as a PAD care navigation specialist, successfully I was able to have him placed into emergency shelter, once again with Salvation Army, in addition to signing him up with MARTA Mobility to target his accessibility needs. Of course, he sends his gratitude to PAD --"

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

**DARIUS HARDY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- but of course, he sends his gratitude to PAD, but I just want to inform you all that your funding may -- your funding made our support possible. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come forward: Jereme Sharpe, Sean Reeves, Jonathan Holle, Betty Jo Stevens, and Stephen Imle."

**JEREME SHARPE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Jereme Sharpe. I live right down the street in the Castleberry Hill arts district; some may better know it as Peter Street. There I serve as the Executive Director of the Arts District Development Corporation. I want to begin with something that I think we can all agree on here; we're living in a moment where democracy feels fragile. No matter where you turn, everywhere we go, it feels like our institutions are being tested. In the moments like this, the one thing that actually strengthens democracy is more connection between people and their government, not less. That's why town halls matter. They're one of the few places where everyday people can show up, ask questions, receive vital information and get clarity directly from their elected officials. And I want to highlight something that is often overlooked. Renters are not reached in the same way that homeowners are."

Homeowners have HOAs and official e-mail lists that are often -- and they're often well-connected with their neighborhood association. Renters often have none of that. While it's not intentional, it's structural, and the system was designed around homeowners. And I must emphasize how the stakes are very real. For some people, receiving information is not just important; it can be life or death. Information is the difference between staying in your home or facing eviction. It's the difference between a senior receiving a tax exemption on time or losing stability. It's the difference between knowing about rental assistance or falling through the cracks, simply because you never receive that information. So when we talk about limiting town halls or restricting where they can be held or how the county can support these information sessions. We're not just talking about meeting logistics; we're talking about limiting communication. We're talking about limiting information and we're talking about limiting resources --"

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

**JEREME SHARPE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and because of that, and I want to be fair and say that I believe that no one is here to block information from getting out to people. But it is to say that we should be looking at this in a different way, looking at expanding our public engagement for Fulton County residents. Thank you."

**JONATHAN HOLLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Jonathan Holle, I'm a Fulton County resident. I'm also here as a volunteer with the Justice for Cornelius Taylor Coalition. I wanted to talk about PAD. PAD and JCT are different things, but we're all part of the same movement. PAD is an excellent idea. It is probably one of Atlanta's best ideas right up there with the tree canopy and the Beltline. PAD has done amazing work in the last couple of years, and what we do wouldn't be possible without what they do. It's also an excellent use of public resources. If PAD is not doing its job, then the police have to do it. And if the police are doing it, then those people's needs are not going to be met, and they're going to end up in jail and that's going to take up resources that should be going towards rehabilitating people who are actually guilty of crimes, not people who are simply existing in public spaces. The mayor of Atlanta has proposed a plan to eliminate -- excuse me, homelessness in downtown Atlanta, which is very ambitious and could be done in a way that's efficient and compassionate, or could be done in a way that is expedient and cruel. And last January, we saw that take place with the killing of Cornelius Taylor when he was run over by a bulldozer simply for sleeping in a tent. Now that is what happens when you don't allocate public resources in a way that is compassionate and helpful. People are literally killed. Downtown rising can happen that way, it can happen by simply arresting all the people in downtown, that is a great way to end homelessness if you are just looking at the numbers, but if you wanted to do things decently and correctly, please continue to fund PAD. Thank you."

**BETTY JO STEVENS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. I'm Betty Jo Stevens and I've never spoken to a group like this before. But I am a volunteer with Justice for Cornelius Taylor Coalition. I always believed in all this kind of stuff, but I've seen it so much first hand with this group, and I know that we really need programs like PAD that can help

people's lives rather than just putting them in jail or off the streets, so I'm just here to ask you to fund them -- yeah. Thank you."

**STEPHEN IMLE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Stephen Imle. I'm a Fulton County resident, and I'm here to speak on behalf of PAD, or in favor of funding PAD, I should say. I would like to thank all of you for paying as much attention as you have this morning, for the most part. I think that -- I'm not somebody who's ever had to interact with PAD. I've had that privilege in my life that PAD has not ever had to come help me in a situation. I was born in a relatively well-off family, as I know most people who experience homelessness are not. And I benefited from a system that raised me up with very little effort on my part throughout most of my life, and I know that if you are born into poverty, you are far more likely to experience homelessness than anybody born with even a small amount of wealth. I think that it's incredibly important that people like myself rise up to speak and say that the privilege that I have had and the taxes that I've pay to Fulton County should be used in some, at least some small part, to help people who are not born with the same privilege that I was and born into the same, you know, functioning system that I was. To help them in a way that is not just throwing them in jail and a way that it is not making their lives worse simply to benefit people who don't want to see them on streets. PAD is a system and a group of people that have greatly benefited our community. They have helped countless people experiencing homelessness and mental health crisis, and it would be unbelievable to not continue to fund PAD. Thank you."

**KRISTIE LENS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, I'm Kristie Lens and I live in Midtown, and I also want to support PAD, though that's not why I'm standing before you today. I'm standing before you because I want to voice my opposition -- strong opposition to this new apparently bill that would limit town halls to only four per year, restrict town halls to weekdays only, require that they be held only in county buildings, ban partnerships with small businesses, community theaters and neighborhood hubs, and new procedural barriers that will undermined transparency. I got to tell you as a small businessowner in this city, when I heard about this, what I had to do to change my morning to already come to a meeting that's held during work days when people have to work and change my morning to come down here to have this comment to stand before you to oppose this, making it harder to meet with constituents by putting these barriers, it's like you do not want to talk to your constituents, and if you pass this bill, each and every one of you should be ashamed, because what we need is more public engagement. We need to make it easier for your constituents to come to these meetings. Why do they have to be three hours on a Wednesday morning? I mean, I might not even be able to have to stay through the whole meeting. I mean, we need to be engaged. At this part of our democracy, when see it being eroded -- and I see you, Bridget, you're one of these that don't want these meetings because you don't want to hear from people like me. You don't want to hear from your constituents. You just want to do what you want to do. But we like to be engaged and we like to know what's happening. This is our government and we deserve a place in it, we deserve a voice, and we deserve to be able to meet with you whenever we need to."

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

**KRISTIE LENS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "If a big issue comes up, we need to have a town hall. You can't say well, I've already had my three town halls this year. It's ridiculous. I oppose this and anyone who votes for this should be ashamed. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Last five speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: Michael Posey, Peter Friedrich, Cat Leatherwood, Reed Stillson, and Maria Gaudio."

**SEAN REEVES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. My name is Sean Reeves, and I'm a new resident to Fulton County, and I'm here also to say I'm against any restriction of the Board meeting more than four times a year. I think that would be a travesty for the Board to restrict the amount of times that you meet before citizens, and that citizens can have an opportunity to talk to you and hear the issues that the county has going. So I don't have a lot of information to share today. I just wanted to come and say I don't believe that you should restrict the amount of times that Commissioners can meet with their community. Thank you very much."

**KELSEA BOND, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. My name is Kelsea Bond. I'm the Councilmember-elect for Atlanta City Council District 2. I'm here today to speak in support of continued funding for PAD. There has never been a more essential moment to make sure that PAD is fully funded and empowered to do the work that it needs that is so essential in our communities. Right now, Atlanta has the highest wealth gap in the nation and we are planning right now for the World Cup upcoming in summer 2026. In 1996, our city held the Olympics and during that time criminalized, you know, thousands of homeless people through the mini Atlanta City Detention Center. We need to make sure we do not repeat these same mistakes. We need comprehensive wraparound services and needing -- we need to meet our communities where they're at in making sure that, you know, we are taking care of our houseless neighbors and not criminalizing them during this time. PAD is so essential to fund and so many -- so many issues in our communities like mental illness, drug addiction, homelessness should not be met with armed police officers, and this is why PAD is so essential. So I urge you to please continue supporting their operations and fund them again for the New Year."

**MICHAEL POSEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, kings and queens, gods and goddesses. This is real life. I'm back on my square like (inaudible) (inaudible) hit in the head with a rule square 20/20 gauge. You know what I'm saying, I'm corrected. I've cleaned up my cases, thousands of them, (inaudible) very divine, to every guy that PAD saved me, and I messed with them the long way. Okay? I know who you all are. I see you, Pitts. I don't need to talk too much. My name is Michael Posey, very rare, and I love y'all. All of y'all that way. No games. I don't play no more. I get my own nonprofit 501CE VIA (inaudible) to watch out from there. That's right. And I love you. I appreciate you. That's all I'm saying. PAD is real, it ain't fake. If they can save me, they worth it."

**PETER DRIEDRICH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Senator Shawn Still Wright, SB-375, the coalition of Hindus of North America CoHNA. Still admits it on camera, his bill resulted from ongoing conversations with CoHNA and the Hindus of Georgia PAC. Still received

\$10,800 from this network. The donors include activists with the overseas friends of the BJB, a registered foreign agent for India's ruling party. Federal prosecutors charge that Indian intelligence directed assassination plots against critics of Hindu Nationalism on American soil. When murder fails, law fair works better and SB-375 is the weapon. This bill forces your HR to investigate whether discussing Kaczmarek's occupation violates religious rights when they're criticizing Hindu Nationalists (inaudible) against Christians and Muslims and India creates a hostile work environment where they're exposing cast discrimination becomes actionable religious bias, where they're exposing intimidation campaigns against Sikh or Muslim Americans is prejudice, where they're documenting Hindu Nationalists 'interference in Georgia politics is discriminatory. Staff times outside counsel liability insurance, Fulton taxpayers fund it. But that's not the danger. Constitutional precedent is. Georgia passes this, other states copy. Beijing weaponizes xenophobia definitions, (inaudible) files anti-Turkish bias. Tehran, Riyadh, Budapest, authoritarian regimes get a playbook for criminalizing American descent using American civil rights law. Civil rights law built by people who look like your constituents weaponized against the communities it was designed to protect. Foreign governments are colonizing civil rights law; still admits the bill's origin. His donors include activists with a registered foreign agent, the murder plots are federal indictments. This is transnational repression outsourced to Georgia taxpayers. You're asked to fund dismantling civil rights protections. Tell the senate kill Still's bill."

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

**PETER DRIEDRICH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you."

**CAT LEATHERWOOD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay. My name is Cat Leatherwood. I'm a resident of Atlanta and I'm a member of the Justice for Cornelius Taylor taskforce. I'm here today. My cohort had mentioned how Cornelius Taylor was killed. As a friend says, policy drove that back loader. After years of failed policy addressing homelessness, I think that, you know, groups like PAD, it's amazing to watch actual government entities work and actually do good things. A lot of the members in the encampment that Cornelius Taylor lived in have become members of our coalition, and that's something that we've found really important was to make sure they have an opportunity and a voice, and I'm really excited to see so many formally unhoused folks advocating for PAD. The members of those encampments can't be here today, they're in Ohio for a lived experience conference. They're now, you know, months ago addicted to drugs, living in a tent. Some were not addicted to drugs, but you know there's a variation of becoming clean and actually becoming leaders and advocates. They have housing. The transformation has been incredible. And so, I just want emphasize that as we look at this funding and how we do it, I don't even ask just to fund PAD. I think it should be funded as much as we fund our police. So as we, you know, move forward with the World Cup and everything, I just -- you know, we have this opportunity to do better than the previous, you know, administrations and groups before us. And if you decide you don't want to fund PAD, I would make a recommendation that you remove prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, because I don't know what good it does if we don't want to try to advocate for those who are vulnerable and take care of them as a

community, because I know we have the money and I know we have the ability to do so. Thank you. Also keep the town halls open, because I'll come see y'all anyway."

**REED STILLSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning y'all. My name is Reed Stillson. I'm a Fulton resident. I'm a renter. I'm also a candidate for County Commissioner. I live and work in the Buckhead area where I'm the leader of a local coffee shop and community hub. Most of you know me. I'm here as often as my work allows me to be, but being many of the one of the many working-class residents who needs every dollar we can afford just to get by with the rising costs in our county, it's not easy to make it here. But I do what I can when I can't because it's important. I'm fortunate. My partner and I together were able to keep a roof over our heads, food in our fridge, and yet we still, like many of our neighbors, are one emergency away from that no longer being true. I say all of this to emphasize that any one of us can and we will find ourselves in a position where we need help. And when we are in the wealthiest county in the state, in the wealthiest nation in the world, it's time we truly put our resources where they can be most effective. Services like Atlanta's Policing Alternatives and Diversion Services or PAD funding, as many have spoke about today, as well as our own Fulton County Diversion Center, services that actually give the people resources to get back upon their feet when they need help. I understand that we have a consent decree requiring that we rectify the horrendous situation at our Rice Street jail, and that it's absolutely needed. But perhaps we wouldn't have 66 people sleeping on the floor in a dilapidated jail in the first place if instead of spending over \$150 million on our Sheriff's department, we put even just a fraction of that money on providing resources like food, housing, and health care that actually keep our public safe. So please, as you consider next year's over \$1.5 billion budget and decide where we are putting our hard-earned tax dollars --"

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

**REED STILLSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I urge you to spend them on helping pick people up and not throw them in jail. And if you don't keep those town halls open, I will find another way to keep spreading this message as well. Thank y'all."

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Maria Gaudio. Not why I'm here, but since we're talking about town halls, Bridget has some of the most organized and most informative town halls I've ever been to, and if anybody wants to access those, thankfully, they are available at Fulton Government TV, FGTV. I'm here because I was dismayed when I saw on Fox 5, Deirdre Dukes interviewed you, Chairman Pitts, and you said that we have complied with the DOJ's request for records of the 2020 election. I don't see any evidence of that, sir. There are still, according to Voter GA, over one million electronic ballot records are still missing from the 2020 election. Fulton County in the 2020 election had 58,000 votes that have no source code and they're not recorded on tabulation tape. Where did they come from? That's enough to flip the election. Chairman Pitts, we need to know where the 2020 and 2021 runoff ballots are. Did you order the 2020 and 2021 ballots to be destroyed? We are concerned that they no longer exist. I'm asking that you comply with the DO -- you have the BRE comply

with the Department of Justice's subpoena. We did not get a clean bill of health as you stated on --"

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

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- they haven't even been reviewed by the DOJ yet. Please comply. Thank you."

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

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

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. To follow up what Maria just speaking about, Chairman Pitts, you recently gave that interview on Fox 5 explaining a resistance to release the 2020 presidential election ballots to the DOJ. You claimed it's ancient history, it's been fully audited, nothing to see; however, the facts tell a different story. November 4, 2021 report by the Governor's office confirms the hand count audit did not match the election results. The audit results found 60 percent of tally sheets did not match the actual count. Over 4,000 ballots were double reported. Multiple falsified tally sheets were created containing only democrat votes. The audit included thousands of double scan and double-counted ballots; 58,000 certified Fulton votes had no source. This is all corroborated by three expert witnesses, Clay Parik, Ben Cotton, and Darlen Favorito. The SEB recently reopened case 2325 and found over 17,000 missing ballot images were certified votes; 20,000 plus in person ballots with certified votes had no source tabulated tape. And to top it off, 17,000 plus unsourced ballots were batched uploaded and backfilled into election results by Zuckerberg CTCL to reconcile the unexplained errors. This may all sound tedious, but it amounts to a ton of electronic ballot records that are missing in action."

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

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- Chairman Pitts, these are more than enough questions based on solid research to cast real doubt on Fulton's handling of the 2020 election. We're told the ballots are sequestered and exist. What are you afraid of? What are you hiding? This can all be cleared up quickly by complying with the federal subpoena. It's in your hands. Show us the ballots. Thank you, sir."

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

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. Can you hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Great. Just like the lady said regarding PAD and prevention, this is no different with animal control. I run an online form as you

know; we continue to receive multiple comments from residents across Fulton County who are raising serious concerns regarding animal control and the lack of proper oversight by you all. Animal control was moved under the Fulton County Police Department enforcement alone, yet the same issues persist in largely DeKalb where the contractor interfered. It's contractor Lifeline, Lifeline, Lifeline. The county animal control contractor continues to affect enforcement and intake with the managed intake policy that you all have allowed that is not disclosed. That is why animals were left roaming. That is why they made packs. That is why they attacked people. The lack of TNR is what brought coyotes as a food source. Sheriff Patrick Labat and this board have been repeatedly notified whistleblowers, former staff, volunteers, mismanagement, unsafe practices. And failure to protect Public Safety, yet no forensic audit, no forensic audit, no forensic audit of Lifeline has occurred. Residents are reporting concerns including wrongful arrest, retaliation and failure to uphold county laws were told by some Commissioners that their personal legal firms, personal legal firms, could assist with legal claims. This appears highly unethical, highly unethical, highly unethical. The Animal Welfare Board is compromised. Compromised. Members do not attend or engage, and Commissioners have not replaced them -- have not replaced their appointees. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has acknowledged the serious lack of medical across the southside combined with insufficient enforcement and animal control under Lifeline whose --"

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

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- who still places this place as residence at risk when dangerous concerns occurred, a forensic audit is needed, 24-hour live streams, a public animal control tracking app and an independent reform task force is needed now. Residents and animals are being harmed while warnings go unanswered. We urge you to act now. Public Safety, and accountability, transparency cannot wait."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Regina Brewer. Regina Brewer."

**REGINA BREWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Can you hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**REGINA BREWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay. Thank you. My name is Regina Brewer, and I've been a resident of Fulton County for 30 years, and I am speaking in opposition to the Resolution being introduced by one of the Commissioner's regarding town hall meetings being limited to a certain number a year, limited to only being at the Fulton County Office Building, to not have partnerships with theaters, neighborhood groups, anyone else who can be part of the American process of transparency and communication between the elected official and their constituents. From the earliest days of our government when it was created, the representatives would go to Washington, do their job, and then come back to their constituents and hold town hall meetings to tell them what was going on, how things were going, to get their concerns. Yes, we're in a different day and age now with electronic means of communication and virtual meetings, but that doesn't change -- that doesn't even come close to being as

important as being in person. My Commissioner, Mo Ivory, holds her town halls at various locations to make it convenient to all of her constituents. I recently attended one at the Plaza Theater, which was great for the Plaza Theater, it's a historic building. Anytime you can bring people into a building that's a small business and introduce them to that, that's a great thing. And the meeting was incredibly informative. I learned things that I had no idea was going on in Fulton County and gave me a sense of a true drive to take action, and I'm actually meeting with Commissioner Ivory to talk about those actions."

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

**REGINA BREWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I implore every single one of you do not support this Resolution. It's unamerican, and that's not who we are."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Gregory Henley. Gregory Henley. The next person to speak is Mark Zamora. Mark Zamora. Next person to speak is Natalie Pilgram. Natalie Pilgram. Next person to speak is Olga Medina. Olga Medina. The next person to speak is Trudye Nesbit. Trudye Nesbit. And this concludes your Zoom public comments."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Items moved up on today's agenda starting on page 11, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, 24-0894, and Commissioner Arrington's Resolution 25-**0893:** Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 101, Article II, Division II, Rules of Order and Procedure, Section 101-63, of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to clarify procedures for designation of proceeding officer -- presiding officer in the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman and for other purposes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So what's before us, 0894?"

**CLERK GRIER:** (Whereupon, Clerk Grier nods head in the affirmative.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis. Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "A point of order, Mr. Chair. I thought we were bringing up 0893 and 0894. And I don't know how 0894 gets ahead of 0893."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to approve -- Clerk sounded 0894, if I recall correctly. Was that the first one that was requested to be moved up?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes. And then Commissioner Arrington requested they be heard together."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Just sound them together, but what's before us will be 0894, and they've been described as competing -- I think that's the word I heard. They're competing Resolutions, so we could dispose of one or the other. So what's before us right now will be 0894. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I yield."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I yield."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there someone else? All right --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I still have my point of order. I don't understand how 0894 gets ahead of 0893."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "If I understood the previous discussion and response from the Clerk to the Commission, the order was reset by the order of the request to move the item up. She did also indicate that the request was to have the items heard together, so I think the other solution to this is to discuss the items together and then to vote on them in sequence."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The question is what is the sequence? Because they're trying to take 0894 before 0893. I also requested to have my item, 0893, moved up as well."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Point of order. I requested for mine to be heard first.""

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Commissioners, please. Let's do this. It really doesn't matter. Let's take -- let's take 0893 and vote it up or down and then we go to the next one. Commissioner Arrington, you want yours heard first. You have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, I don't want mine heard first. It's the order that's printed on the agenda, sir. This is the order that the item --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- but she asked -- she asked that hers be heard first --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- and I asked that mine be heard first as well. So what's the difference? Why is hers --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- Chairman, with all due respect --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Wait a minute. I'm talking. I have the mic."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I can wait."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "This can wait, Chairman."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I can wait, Chairman."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "This is ridiculous. This is a waste of taxpayers' money."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I will wait."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I have the floor."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have the floor, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Yes. So I asked that my item be moved up. So what's the difference between her request first and my request?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "There is no difference."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, just a minute. Let me finish. She asked that hers be heard first."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And I asked that mine be heard first. And I told you they -- the order of mine is listed in the order first."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "If you want yours heard first, we're going to let yours be heard first. You have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. We had a situation a few meetings back where the Chair and the Vice Chair were both absent, and there was a question as to who was going to preside over the meetings, and there were people that self-appointed themselves to preside over the meeting. And so, we need a written policy which addresses what happens when the Chair and the Vice Chair are not present and who

the presiding officer is. So I drafted and submitted this policy that will allow us to have an order and to know who will be the presiding officer in the absence of the Chair and the Vice Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else? Motion to approve by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Let's vote. You want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So I'm sorry. I just want to understand, we are now back to voting on 893 first; is that correct?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I just want to briefly say that I -- this is a whole lot of to do about nothing. And my recollection is in the entire three years I've been here, it happened one time, and it would have been easily solved if the presiding officer had just said, I'm leaving and I'm asking so-and-so to, you know, run the rest of the meeting. So I think it's just part and parcel for the way we've been operating with so much chaos, that's completely unnecessary. That said, I do think Commissioner Arrington's interpretation of what we should do is a little bit more simple, and that's why I'm supporting that version."

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0894**: Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 101, Rules of Order and Procedure of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to clarify procedures and designation of a presiding officer in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman; and for other purposes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** (Whereupon, Commissioner Barrett shakes head in denial.)

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Next, Commissioner's Action Item on page 10, **25-0842**: Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2 of the Code of Laws of Fulton County relating to the Code of Ethics regarding a preliminary process for Commissioners who seek to file ethics complaints against other Commissioners; and for other purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a motion? Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Ivory, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start by saying that our ethics process is one of the most important safeguards we have as a governing Body. It exists to protect the public's trust to ensure fairness and to hold all of us regardless of position or majority to the same standards of accountability. This proposal would significantly change that balance. By adding a requirement that Commissioners meet among themselves before a complaint can even be filed, would be inserting the Board of Commissioners directly into a process that is intentionally designed to be independent of us. That's a serious concern. If an ethics process is supposed to not involve us, why would we then need to rule on whether an ethics process moves forward? That's what this is asking for. The moment elected officials begin determining when or whether an ethics complaint is allowed to move forward, we risk eroding the very independence that gives our ethics process credibility. Beyond that, this language would, in effect, allow a four-person majority of this Board, a four-person majority of this Board, which I think we're aware of, to insulate itself from potential ethics complaints by another Commissioner. That is not how accountability is supposed to work. The public expects transparency and fairness, not an internal gatekeeping process that could prevent legitimate concerns from ever reaching the Board of Ethics. I want to be clear; every Commissioner here should remain steadfast in upholding our Code of Ethics. If any of us truly believe that our actions are consistent with that code, then there should be no hesitation in allowing the independent ethics board to review and affirm that. Independence doesn't threaten integrity, it protects it. The existing ethics structure already provides due process, already ensures fairness and already allows for resolution based on facts rather than politics. Altering that system would send the wrong message to our constituents and undermine the trust we work so hard to maintain. So while I always welcome efforts to improve our governance, this particular change would weaken a system that is working as it should. We should be very careful not to blur the lines between those who are governed by the ethics code and those who are charged with enforcing it. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The Fulton County Code of Ethics has no integrity. The Fulton County Board of Ethics have no ethics. They are the most

unethical people in Fulton County. They do not follow their own rules. They violate state law, they violate --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- point of order. Point of order."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- they violate Fulton County codes, they violate --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner, hold on. What's your point of order?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "This has nothing to do with the actual Board of Ethics. We're not here to litigate if it's --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I'll accept your point of order. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Yes, the Fulton County Board of Ethics has no integrity. They are the most unethical people in Fulton County. They do not follow the Fulton County Ethics Code --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- all right, Commissioner Arrington --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- point of order."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- Commissioner Arrington --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- they are horrible. As a whole, Fulton County Ethics Code --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, please, you're out of order. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I will continue to be out of order."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor. Motion on the floor is to approve."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "This Resolution, there's some misinformation. This says nothing. Everybody has a right to file an ethics complaint, but it cost money. It costs the taxpayers money when two Commissioners file complaint against themselves. It costs thousands of dollars; it's hard to find attorneys to represent the Commissioners. It's at a cost. So this is just a basic Resolution that before you file a complaint that you actually talk to the Commissioner and see if you can reconcile it before you make the county pay for litigation; before you make the county pay the Board of Ethics members to meet to talk about your litigation. This is not holding anybody up. You can have a two-minute conversation on the phone and say, okay, I disagree with you. Check. I talked with the Commissioner, they're aware that I'm filing an ethics complaint. And if you can't resolve that, then you bring a third Commissioner in on it to see if maybe somebody could help you guys come to a conclusion before you decide to spend the

taxpayer dollars to litigate -- and the time involved to litigate it. And to keep away from doing the business that we're here to do by filing an ethics complaint. So it's cost, it's time, it's county resources that are being spent when we should be able to work together. We should be able to talk to each other. We should be able to call, and if you have a complaint, talk to that person. I know you're probably not Christian or anything, but that's kind of the Christian thing to do. It's something that I believe in. We need to be civil; we need to show you guys that we can work together instead of launching a complaint right away, so that's just the gist of it. It's not cutting out anything. You can still file the complaint. It could be a two-minute complaint with a Commissioner and then a two-minute complaint, and then you can go ahead and file your one-page complaint."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every single time I think the bar couldn't go lower, there it goes lower and lower and lower. This is not about anybody's religious beliefs. This is not about talking to each other. We're all adults. Some of us talk to each other, some of us do not. This is a Resolution to change the way Commissioners can file ethics complaints against other Commissioners. Let's be clear like I said before in my comments, there is a four majority that is trying to change the rule in order that before a Commissioner can bring an ethics charge against another Commissioner and have that due process to go through the process of the Ethics Board, they would like it first to be voted on by other Commissioners. I've never in my life had one of my children in a fight and allowed them to decide which one should do what. It just doesn't make any sense, and it's taking away the people's power. This is coming off of an ethical charge from Commissioner Thorne that she had to go through the due process of it and then it was dismissed because the Ethics Board decided there was not sufficient evidence to dismiss it. That is what due process is. I know there is a movement in this country to get rid of due process, to not abide by any laws and to make up your own as we go, but that should not be what we do here. And believe me, if you do not want to take responsibility for taking away the people's right to have Commissioners be held to ethical standards, you will feel that later on. And that is what you are trying to do here and it is wrong. This shouldn't be political, actually. This should just be about due process and someone having the ability to file on me, file on Commissioner Ellis, file on Commissioner Arrington, and everybody down the board without it having to first come here and then all the politics being added to it and then four people deciding what should happen. So please don't put this forward as we should just get along because we don't. That is the truth. And the truth is that we should not weaken the due process of citizens."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let's just talk about what this really is. This is about Commissioner Thorne being annoyed with me for filing an ethics complaint against her and not coming to her first before I filed the paperwork and put out a press release. That's what this is about. Apparently, she somehow thinks this is about the fact that I'm Jewish, which I don't quite understand, but the legislation itself solves for what? What was the problem? The process was followed exactly as it was

intended and as Commissioner Ivory pointed out, the Ethics Board decided not to move to a full hearing after hearing the preliminary information. That's the way the process is supposed to work. This legislation calls complaints and refers to, alludes to my complaint as being frivolous and baseless. The vote was three to four. It was not unanimous not to proceed. It was three to four. If it's a three to four vote, it's not baseless and it's not frivolous, and it's not up to us to be the arbiters of what kind of a complaint is baseless or frivolous. That's up to the Ethics Board."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Point of order. Point of order --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- that's the point. I have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Point of order, Chair."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We're not here to litigate --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- I have the floor"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Point of order, we're not here to litigate."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold it. Hold it. What's your point of order?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We're not here to litigate an ethics complaint. We're here to put forward the Resolution."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Stick to the Resolution."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I am sticking to the Resolution which describes this law as necessary to prevent frivolous and baseless claims -- complaints. I'm talking about the fact that we should not be inserting ourselves to be the arbiters of what is frivolous and baseless. Because I gave an example to make my point, I believe I have the right to do that. Please don't interrupt me again. This proposed amendment creates a process that is not clearly defined, includes no time constraints, no official notifications, and no written documentation. It inserts political actors, the Chair, the Vice Chair or another Commissioner into complaint initiation, compromising neutrality, and violating best practice requirements for independent ethics enforcement Bodies. This legislation disadvantages any complainant not in the voting majority, especially if that majority includes the Chair and the Vice Chair which everybody knows is exactly the situation on this Board right now. This legislation says that if I as an individual Commissioner want to file a complaint, I have to first talk to the person who I think may have done something wrong, but they don't have to take the meeting. So how long does the process go on? How long do I have to wait before I have that conversation? There's no time limit. So if they just refuse to have a meeting with me, then what? I'm stuck and I

can't bring my complaint? Okay. Let's say that doesn't happen. We have the conversation and as the legislation indicates, we weren't able to come to a conclusion, which I guess means that the person is not going to file the complaint. Then they bring it to the Chair and the Vice Chair who are in the same voting block, what if they don't take the meeting? Where's the documentation? Where's the timeline on when they must respond? When you file an ethics complaint, there is a -- I believe it's what, a 30-day window, a 60-day window in which they have to respond and schedule a hearing. None of that exists in this process. This is trying to hide something under the covers, and we have so little accountability in this government already and particularly at the county level. Most people are not paying attention to what we do, and the real accountability is voters. But if they're not paying attention and they don't know what's going on, they can't even really hold us accountable. We're sitting here today on this agenda with item after item after item to change the rules, and all of these items have no enforcement whatsoever. The only enforcement we have, when we think somebody has violated, by the way, a very narrow ethics code, very, very narrow, we have this option available. To insert ourselves in the middle is not the way this government was intended to work, and it's solving a problem that doesn't exist."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I think you are mistaken. That thing with, if you can't resolve it in your phone call or whatever with the other Commissioner, that's your good faith attempt. You called, you tried to talk to them, they didn't talk to you, that's your good faith attempt. It doesn't have to be an official meeting. Then we wanted you to bring a third person in, but your complaint might be against the Chair. So that's why we put if you -- you have the option for the Vice Chair, or if the complaint's against them, you can do it against -- bring anybody else in. Just bringing a third person in before we incur costs to the county; time, costs, and resources that is all I'm trying to prevent is the unnecessary litigation. And probably with your ethics complaint against me since you're going to bring that up, if we had talked, you probably would have disagreed. If you brought it forward, you probably still wanted to bring it forward. Because for some reason, the fact that I said if our Board of Elections members ever bring --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- point of order, Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute, just a minute, point of order."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, I'm using an example because you used my example that I would correct them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute, just a minute. Commissioner Thorne, please. What's your point of order?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "The Commissioner is not talking about the legislation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "But you brought up the -- that you -- yours probably would have gone through --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- you would have disagreed with me. I'm just saying in her example --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- Commissioner Thorne, please. The legislation, please."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I know that she would have disagreed with me and we would have had that third person brought in to try to save the people money, time, and resources. It could've been a phone call with three of us. That's any three Commissioners you want. There's no voting involved. We're not voting. There is no voting involved before you file an ethics complaint, so I don't want that to get across. It is simply that us, as Commissioners, before filing an ethics complaint, that we least have to talk about it. Not go file a press release right away and then you have journalists calling you and you're like, I have no idea what it's about. It's good for us to be respectful as governing Bodies that we talk and that we can respond to our constituents, we can respond to reporters when they call and ask instead of getting blindsided by an attack. That's not how a governing Body should work together. Unfortunately, yes, we don't all agree, we fall on the different political lines; but we shouldn't be so divided. We should have commonsense procedures. We should be able to talk to each other. We should be able to call each other. Personally, I know I need to do a better job. I try. I try to talk to everybody. Everybody calls, I take their call. I try to call them back, but this is just a method of showing that we can work together across party lines and across different districts."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. So we are on item 25-0842, which talks about the Code of Ethics and the Board of Ethics. Madam County Attorney, how many times has the Board of Ethics violated the Code of Ethics?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I don't believe that's the subject of this particular discussion."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Ma'am, I didn't ask you if it was the subject. I asked you how many times have we violated the Code of Ethics."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Point of order."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute, Commissioner, please. What's your point of order, Commissioner Barrett?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Not relevant."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Madam Attorney, I'm waiting for an answer to my question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, I'll accept Commissioner Barrett's point of order; that's not relevant to the legislation that's before us."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. I will get out of the queue and I will get back in."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Call the question, please."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The question's been called. Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Second."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Properly moved and seconded. Let's vote on the call of the question."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on call of the question. And the motion passes: four yeas, one nay, one abstention."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Back to the main motion. Let's vote."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm going to make a motion to hold."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, we've got to vote on it."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion fails; one yea, three nays, one abstention."

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Next item. Actually, there was an item that's on page -- what page is it on?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Seven."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Page 7?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Item number 25-0873, we're in the process of refinancing our water and sewer bond. This is time sensitive. The pricing is in, so we need to take action on this immediately, so without objection, we'll move that up. We'll take that item right now. Can you post that, please?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0873, Finance: Request approval of a Resolution of Fulton County Georgia relating to the issuance of its water and sewage revenue refunding bonds Series 2025."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Madam County Attorney -- strike that. Madam CFO."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The interim finance director, Ray Turner, has the results. He's going to share those."

**RAY TURNER, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Thank you, Sharon, Ray Turner, Finance Department. This morning Fulton County received eight bidders for refunding the 2013 water and sewer refunding bonds. The low bidder with a 2.631 percent, which is a great rate, was Bank of America. Initially, I sent a memo; we expected the debt service savings on this refunding to approximately net present value, 17 million. With that rate bid this morning, those savings will now be 21.6 million. We certainly recommend Board approval for the item and we look forward to any questions you may have."

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor -- motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote, please."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 10, Commissioner's Action Items, 25-0844: Request approval of a Resolution to create a commercial property assessment task force to provide input to the members of the Board of Commissioners in collaboration with the Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors and its staff on the valuation of commercial properties; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ivory."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yes. I just am putting this forward again at the request of my constituents to put together a task force to discuss tax appraisals to make it easier for constituents to understand how we are assessing our taxes -- appraising and assessing our taxes, and so I hope my colleagues will support that to move forward."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Call the question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On the call of the question, let's vote, please. Is there a second on the call of the question? Seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Let's vote, please."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on call of the question. And the motion passes: four yeas, one abstention."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On the main motion, 0844, let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion fails: three yeas, two nays, one abstention."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** **"25-0890:** Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton Board of Commissioners to extend the term of the Fulton County Reparations Task Force for 12 months; and for other purposes, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioners, I don't recall what the exact order was. Does it make sense to hear from the task force before we -- any objections to that?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No objection to hearing from the task force on their report."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Sound the -- where is that? That's it, on page 5?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "0864. Sound that, Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** **"25-0864,** Reparations Task Force Update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Come on down. So I received a copy of their report of their findings, not recommendations, just the findings, which I've forwarded to each of you, and each of you received a copy of that. When I attended the meeting, we agreed that they would have 15 minutes to do a summary of their findings today, and then we'd reserve another 15 minutes for any questions on their findings; not recommendations today, just the findings."

**RODNEY LITTLES, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Thank you, sir. My name is Rodney Littles, I'm the appointee for District 6 for the task force. I'll be introducing the members. The additional district six appointee is Dr. Michael Simanga; District 5, Greg Fann; District 3, Elon Butts Osby; District 1, Donte Thompson, Michael Russell, at-large Carole Sykes. The officers of the task force are as follows: Secretary, Dr. Amanda Meng; from District 3, Marcus Coleman; Vice Chair, from District 5, and our chair, Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado from District 4. Thank you."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Good morning, everyone. This is been a long anticipated day, and I thank you, Chairman Pitts, for granting us the opportunity to present our findings, and Members of the Board of Commission. The task force was actually created four years ago. I had not -- I guess it's all a big blur. I did not realize I've been serving for almost four years now. But we are happy today in order to present our findings in the report in which you received. It's actually about 650 single-spaced pages of documentation, and we were just really scratching the surface here. With the 210,000 of the \$250,000 that was allocated in order for us to perform the study, we are happy to present our findings today. So the name of the report is called the Fulton County Reparations Task Force Harm Report, and what will follow, after we present this to the public will be a Repair Report, which would consist of recommendations and how it's feasible to actually achieve the goals that's recommended. So we will begin today with our findings. Using Fulton County's own tax digest, court files, and other archival documents, this report reveals how county government, state institutions, private enterprises, and individual residents built and sustained wealth through slavery, racialized taxation, convict labor, land dispossession, segregation, and the denial of public services and fundamental civil and human rights. We actually have a report from USC that is a thank you, just to give you an idea of how the report is designed, if you'll go to the next slide. The framework of the study is based around those areas that falls under the purview of the county. So we're examining property taxes, courts, records, the jail, voting, libraries, parks which was once under the purview of the county, schools, health and most importantly, human services. Can you go to the next slide? So there's 21 chapters here, and they fall under a number of six things, the profiteers of slavery. We see how the county were profiteers, as well as individuals, who reside in the county. We examined convict labor, the jails, chain-gangs. We examined property taxes, social, political and economic domination of the county, racial tariffs, segregation and inferior county services. Next slide, please. So the first chapter actually begins to examine the profiteers of slavery. Who are they? And so, when we begin to compile a number of tabular data sets that you see in the report, and it's a large number of them. No tabular data set ever existed before on this matter. We had to comb through property records, we had to look through the comptroller reports, and what we begin to see in this data is that the information just does not jump out at you in regards to the inequity that exists. And one of the things that's apparent is like, well, how much did the county benefit from owning individuals? And how did the county were able to build itself from 1853 to becoming this economic powerhouse within ten years? It sets the stage of how Atlanta becomes the commercial epicenter of the American South. And what we see when we began to look at the county property tax records are the names of individuals who actually owned human beings. What we were able to see is that from the ad valorem tax that was actually created in 1851 and in

1852, it allowed the state to allow counties to begin collecting taxes on property, and that includes human beings. When you begin to look at the property tax records, you will see that in the first column, the most important column, the most valuable column, consists of those who were enslaved. So from 1854 to 1864, the county own records show that \$75,000 were collected from taxation on the enslaved's property. Now those numbers seemed really small, but we have to remember that the county consisted of only a small number of individuals who are residents. And we received that the state was able to -- there's actually in number one that's missing here, in the state of Georgia -- the state collected -- doubled that amount, which was actually \$1,000 --\$149,316. Now I'll get to what these numbers mean on the right in just a second. This money was used as seed money in order to finance the county's infrastructure. And that included building the county roads, the courthouse, the jail. It paid for salaries of commissioners, judges, the sheriff. It paid for public services that even nonproperty owners, non-landowners, and non-slaveholding plots were able to benefit from. And in exchange, slaveholders were allowed to evade; paying nearly \$9 million in wages, which is the number that you see in green, the \$8,955,093. So that same money has gone into -- half that money that \$9 million had gone into the local economy, it actually could've benefited the county because individual could've earned wages. They could've have acquired property, and that money could in turn gone into the coffers of the county in order to build it and make it stronger. So what is due to the enslaved? When you begin to look at the right, that seed money of \$75,000 with the conservative interest rate of 7 percent is now valued at nearly \$675 million. For the state, it's \$1.3 billion. In regards to stolen wages, had the enslaved been paid wages, this is what could have gone into the county, but instead we have to take compound interest into consideration, a wage denied since 1854. That labor stolen at 7 percent interest is now \$675 billion. Next slide, please. So we see that slaveholders, when they paid an ad valorem tax for every one dollar they paid to the county, they pocketed \$120 in stolen wages. Next slide. So who were the enslaved and who were the profiteers of slavery? In one of our chapters, we see -- we have the names of over 160 pages of slaveholders, and some of these individuals consisted of mayors, commissioners, judges, slave brokers; we see their names all over the streets. And so, what we find is that 55 percent of the enslaved population were under 25 years of age, 18 percent were between the ages of 17 to 25 years old; 37 percent were children and adolescents, and children under six could be sold and forced to work as full grown adults. From our tax -- from our tax datasets, we were able to see that 20 percent of the revenue generated from taxation on the enslaved -- let me say that again, because these numbers are so overwhelming. I find myself when I'm telling them I get emotional. Twenty percent of the county's revenue came from taxation on the enslaved. So it paid for county services that even non-slaveholders were able to benefit from. Enslaved people were worth 127 percent of all land combined. Enslaved people were 30 percent of slaveowners' total wealth. And the enslaved value increased by tenfold by the close of the Civil War. So when we think about the Emancipation Proclamation, we think that slavery ends in the South in 1863; it did not. People continue to be sold in the South. And by 1864, enslavers possess 70 percent of the county's total wealth. Again, I'm trying to maintain my emotions sharing this information. One of the things that we found in our study was that there was a court case that could have made it possible for reparations to be granted to a family. In the famous case of the American Colonization Society versus Gartrell, a slaveowner

actually attempted to grant recompense to those he enslaved. And he decided to free them, give them transportation to return back to Africa, and they would receive an almost \$2 million worth of wealth today. If these individuals had received their freedom, acquired their inheritance, they would have become one of the wealthiest families in Fulton County; but instead, the Fulton County Superior Court decided to rule against them to prevent them from actually receiving freedom and wealth, and a gentleman, the son-in-law of the will actually -- the wealth of these individuals were actually stolen by a son-in-law. His name was Lucius Gartrell. Lucius Gartrell actually sees these individuals, stole their wealth, and become the largest and the wealthy slaveholder in Fulton County. And today, we actually have a descendent of one of the benefactors that were -- that ordered to receive that wealth, and I would like to introduce her today. And if she's in the audience still, if Ms. Danika [Phonetic.] Mobley would please stand. Thank you, ma'am. Thank you. If you look at the next picture, thank you. If you look at the next picture, we actually see Danika Mobley's grandmother who was actually two generations removed from those enslaved by Lucius Gartrell, whose wealth was actually stolen. And so, she cannot live her life as a wealthy black woman in Fulton County, instead she lived her life as a maid. She did not leave the county until 1966, which her family moved to Michigan. I'm going to move on now to let my other colleagues speak, and we have John Wright who will focus on convict labor. John Wright has been with us since day one, and he's the library for Fulton County. He will share his findings."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. About five more minutes."

**JOHN WRIGHT, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Thank you. I will be addressing the convict leasing period of the convict labor. Convict leasing in Georgia began in 1868, when the then provisional governor of Georgia, General Thomas Ruger, lend the first convict lease. It was a practice that continued until 1909. The motivation for convict leasing initially was to save the expense of having to build a new convict -- a new state penitentiary. The motivation morphed from that into a steady revenue stream for the state. Those who were leasing convicts viewed it from a different perspective. They mainly saw it as a way to replace slave labor with free convict labor, cheap convict labor. Treatment of convicts was horrific. Punishment for convicts had been derived from punishments that had been used for slaves during -- or previous to the war. Opposition to convict leasing began as early as 1870. Two years after the leasing began, attempts in the legislature to abolish it began in 1871 and continued until 1909 -- or 1907, I'm sorry, when the legislature finally voted to abolish leasing. The effective end of convict leasing happened April 1, 1909. I think to save time I will leave it at that, and thank you for listening."

**DR. AMANDA MENG, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Could you go to the next slide, please. I'll be speaking on the chain-gang. Ten years after the practice of convict leasing began, Fulton County judges established Georgia's first county chain-gang in 1876. The Board of Commissioner's received regular reports on their work. A statement January 3rd, 1912, Fulton County Board of Commissioners noted the wisdom of using the convicts for public work and other public improvements compared to what would have been a cost at contract prices."

At the same time, numerous cases of negligence and mistreatment of black prisoners were presented to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Fulton County officials were aware of the substandard care and conditions experienced by black inmates, but failed to implement meaningful quality-of-life improvements for those forced to work on the chain-gang. Our findings showed in the slide shows that 86 percent of incarcerated individuals whose race was recorded black -- 86 percent of inmates whose race was recorded were black in Fulton County system. Additionally, the incarcerated black citizens were -- sentences were nearly three times longer than those served by incarcerated white citizens. The lost wages of these incarcerated individuals working for free on the chain-gang totaled 240 million when converted to 2024 dollars. That does not even represent the opportunity lost of -- that would include the annual interest rate. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. How much more?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "If you can give us like three minutes that would be great."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "If we could go to the next slide. Okay. So this particular section on property taxes allowed us to create a mathematic theorem, to see exactly to which degree black property owners in Fulton County were actually overtaxed. So there's this myth that black people do not pay taxes, that is far from the truth. When we look at the chart here, you see that little brown dot that is in the crescent, the yellow crescent that actually represents all the land that black residents of Fulton County own, from 1865 to 1937, barely one percent. But yet, over this entire period, they actually carried a tax burden of 209 percent; whereas, white property owners own 99.19 percent of all available land and every year receive a tax credit. During the one year that we see white taxpayers pay across the state more than one cent that African-Americans was actually the year of the 1906 race riot. The other thing that we see is that during the worst economic recession in American history in 1931, Fulton County residents who owned only 0.007 percent of all available land in the state carried a tax burden of 22,377 percent. And we were able to do this by putting together all these tabular datasets. Next slide. Next, we have Bagley Park, which I will allow Ms. Osby to take it away."

**ELON BUTTS OSBY, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "I am Elon Butts Osby, granddaughter of William Bagley. The first theft of land from the Bagley family occurred during the 1912 racial cleansing of Forsyth County, Georgia where my grandfather, his wife and children were forced to leave 60 acres of land with no compensation. Fleeing to the big city of Atlanta for safety and a new start, William Bagley began buying property on Old Decatur Road in Buckhead. When John Owens developed the black subdivision of Macedonia Park on Pharr Road, which my grandfather helped to build and settled, he and his wife eventually purchased ten lots where he built homes for his families. In the late 1940s, a different form of racial cleansing occurred along with the landgrab of what had become known as Bagley Park. This time they were not run out in

the night by the Knight Riders. This time the loss was felt by William Bagley's children and other residents of Bagley Park. Their property was snatched either by offers equivalent to pennies on the dollar or by eminent domain so that Fulton County and later the city of Atlanta could develop a park for the rich white residents of the adjacent newly built subdivision of Garden Hills. Fulton County was responsible for the generational loss of wealth for my family and others. It's time for Fulton County government to right the wrongs of its former fellow commissioners. I ask you and I beg you to make this happen. Thank you."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "And just one final remark before we conclude, when you look at this parcel of land from the Fulton County Board of Assessors' records, the area that you see outlined in blue consisted of about 60 lots owned by residents of Bagley Park. They were only paid \$35,000 in total in order to -- in order to remove off this property, which was actually \$350,000 total in value years ago. Now you think about that \$35,000 for just a second, and according to the Fulton County Board of Assessors records today, the assessed value of that land is \$60 million, which is only 40 percent of the fair market value. So I want you to think about the opportunities and wealth lost to these individuals that resided in that area. We are going to allow this to be our final slide and hopefully you have questions for us, and we can answer questions regarding the other -- the other chapters that we concluded within the study. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank you for the report. We have about 15 minutes for questions. Again, this is just the findings, not recommendations, just findings. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you all so much for the work that you've done over the last four years. I want to apologize for the Chair rushing you through your presentation. We've been waiting for this information for over 200 years, and for the last four years that you're working, so I want to apologize for him rushing you through your presentation. He doesn't do that to MARTA. He doesn't do that to any of the other people that come to present before us, so I apologize for him doing that. I'm happy to receive this information, and it looks like you guys have done an extremely thorough job of researching the information, digging through the records, combing through the files, and putting together the facts. We do know that our Chair on the day that he voted to approve the \$250,000, said to the news, and we have it on record, that he fundamentally disagrees with reparations. So that's probably why he's rushing you through your presentation. It is just amazing -- and I guess that the first question that I have, is there any other information that you want to present?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Let's see. I'm going to ask my colleagues. There was a report on health, if you go to the next slide; I think it's important, and brings everything home today. Oh, this report. Let me just share this right quick. So it was very challenging to put together this report. As you can see, I'm emotional and I rarely get emotional, and I rarely am nervous; but this was extremely hard work to do. Part of the challenge was actually accessing those records, and it's so emotional when you look at this photograph. I'm trying to compose myself

here. Thank you. It has been extremely challenging to try to access these records, and when we went to the probate records, here we are seeking justice for people who were voiceless; and if you look at this photograph, you see in print how the records were segregated and the data is segregated. So here we see in ink the color line written in black and white and in this data in looking at marriage records, the image -- the data about blacks and whites are segregated. And you think about the symbolism of it. Here you see these records where people came together, they fell in love, they formed a union, and they would create families. And at no point could families who were black and white could marry. And so, it's kind of -- it is kind of laughable in a sense, that people was so nervous about having blacks and whites to live in a world together, that even the data had to be segregated. Here we have marriage records bound for white marriages, and records bound for black marriages, and at no point did could they intersect. This is the proof of the world in which blacks and whites were living in, and it's so absurd that even data about blacks and whites could be integrated. But from this chapter that we wrote on interracial marriages, we see where a cast is created, races assigned at birth by the Board of Regents, and cast will follow you from birth to death. People could not be born in integrated hospitals. They could not be buried in integrated cemeteries. So from birth to death, these individuals lived in a segregated world. And it was so challenging just to get that photograph because these are the challenges that we were faced with every single day we worked on this. Next slide. This is an image of Angelo Herndon, a young man who is documented as the youngest labor organizer in the state of Georgia and in the United States. He put together -- he organized a group of blacks and whites in Fulton County because they were experiencing hunger in 1931. And subsidies were supposed to be disbursed to the residents, and they were denied. He organized both blacks and whites, and he was arrested, and he was going to be sentenced to the electric chair for organizing blacks and whites. And this is an image of him in the Fulton County Jail. He was eventually released from jail. He had his day in court, and this is where blacks and whites as labor organizers were actually separated. Next slide, and I'll make this really quick. Here we see the history of African-Americans being overtaxed. We see a free black woman who is a laundress. She was a washer woman. And as a free black woman, she was actually forced to pay a poll tax of \$5 compared to white men who only had to pay 25 cents. And so in looking at the symbolism, here you have blacks who are shouldering the tax burden. Next slide. In looking at voting, we see that African-Americans have a long history of being disenfranchised in the county. In 1843, the first year that African-American men are allowed to vote in Fulton County, 43 percent of -- there were 43 percent of black voters in Fulton County in 1867. To this day, we have not reached those numbers because of disenfranchisement. So there were more people who were newly freed, and more of them voted in 1867 than today. Next slide. Libraries: In this study we learned that racism is expensive because you had to create two of everything even though one thing was actually inequitable. Racism is expensive. It doesn't profit us to live in a racist society, so we see in 1930 when African-Americans are given the first library they had one library compared to whites who actually had eight. In 1942, 1953, and you see the inequity in library resources. The year that the central library becomes integrated in 1959, the first black library is torn down during the same year that the central library becomes integrated, but what we've learned from all of this is that when Fulton County makes an attempt to correct past wrongs. It actually benefits the county, and I think

what we see from this study that whenever the recommendations are made, it's going to be beneficial for the county. Investing in people, correcting past wrongs is actually profitable. These are the things that we saw. Next slide. And I'm going to let Dr. Amanda Meng close us out."

**DR. AMANDA MENG, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Thank you, Chair. People like to talk about how these harms were done in the past and no longer are a responsibility, and we fundamentally disagree with that; and a lot of our data in the study shows that these inequities are still visible today, and we're still responsible for them. In this slide, we show county data from last year, and what I'd like to point out is that the ER visits and the years of potential life lost are three times higher for your black population than your white population."

**RODNEY LITTLES, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "In closing, first, I'd like to thank the Commission, the county staff who worked hard with us to get to this point. I'm humbly grateful for that opportunity. Many of you don't know me as well as you may think you do. I am a third generation descendent of the Tulsa Race Massacre. I have no benefit for whatever comes out of this report for me or my family. But I think it's important that you understand, on behalf of the task force, this is not a partisan issue. This is a human rights issue, and the way you deal with reparations is you deal with the truth first, which we've attempted to do to the best of our ability with the resources that we had access to. The next part of the process is reconciliation. We look to all seven of you County Commissioners to handle the reconciliation in a nonpartisan way. This is a human rights issue. And the last part is the repair: That's where the research has to be done to determine what's feasible based upon economics and that's not part of our current responsibility. So as you debate and think about the extension of the task force, that would be the next phase to determine the repair. Thank you. God bless you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. So thank you for that additional information as the Commissioner that was responsible for authoring and drafting, and creating the Reparations Task Force. I'm happy to receive that information. Thank you so much, Ms. Osby, for being here and telling your story about Bagley Park and the land that was stolen from your family. You know, we're going to have to talk about this as we continue to go forward. There are going to be a lot of different discussions, and I guess I'll wait until we get to the next agenda item. But I did -- I authored the legislation to create the task force after seeing what was done in Evanston, Illinois, right? And so, I saw what they did there, and I said hey, I'm a legislature. I can do the same thing here. So again, I want to thank all of you for your hard work, dedication, Madam Chair. I know you've been working hard in leading the research effort, and so glad that we had you in place as a professor at Spelman to lead that research effort. And thank you to all of you for your part, your contributions, and meeting; and frankly, I just -- you know it took us four years to get here. Heck, it took us six months to 12 months to even get Commissioners to appoint people, right? We couldn't even get people to appoint people. I had to come back and do a new Resolution six months later to add two appointees per Commissioner so we could just get a quorum, okay? So thank you

again for all your work, but I don't know how it gets done in 12 months -- I don't know how extending for 12 months gets us to where we need to be, and it took us four years to get here. But if y'all want to -- if y'all want to extend it in 12 months, let's do it before May 19th. That's when I know we'll really get the votes. Do it before May 19th."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Commissioner Arrington, for allowing the team to finish their presentation. I think it was really helpful to hear the rest of it, so I appreciate that. I want to first of all say thank you for the hard work. I don't think I could do any kind of a 636 page anything, so I know that was -- you know, really a huge task and a huge undertaking, and I look forward to some light reading over Thanksgiving. But also I want to say I think, you know, we're living in a moment, as you all know, where there are many who would like to erase history altogether. So continuing to highlight the stories that you've highlighted today, you're going to make me cry now and the stories that are in the report along with the information and the data, I think is super important. And the photos are really impactful, and I feel the emotion from all of you, and I'm grateful for you continuing to do this work. I also really appreciate that you brought it back to today, Dr. Meng, and I love that both of my appointees are here. But I think bringing it back today is really important because sometimes, even myself, we get marred in the stories of the past and we don't really pull that data up to what it looks like today. And the healthcare outcomes in particular, something we've talked about on this Body numerous times, and you know, and we have it on the agenda today to talk about maternal mortality rates, in particular in Fulton County, and to talk about the disparities between those rates for white women versus black women. I mean, we talk all the time about the lack of hospitals in South Fulton, which is more adversely affecting the black community than the white community. So it really does reach right into today. So I just really appreciate that and I do want to ask very specifically about the next steps, because I understand the concept of what's next, but what is the timeline that you guys feel like you would need, because we are -- I think everybody knows, we're debating between one year or two years. Those are the two pieces of legislation that are up next, so I would just like to hear from you all on what would best for you."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "That's a very, very good question. For many of us, we will roll off the task force unless we are reappointed and, as Chairman Arrington actually pointed out, I mean, it took a while for people to get appointed, and then in regards to the money that we've received, it took an entire year for us to receive that money before we could even really get into the work. And so, what is needed now is that our next step is once the report is available to the public, which will be in December, we would disperse that information to everyone until the end of the year and what will happen next is that we begin convening again, sharing that information, getting feedback from the community, and then begin making recommendations. But our time period really depends on you all. What we recommend. We hope that we're able to work in concert with members of the Board of Commission to see if those recommendations are actually achievable, if it's feasible to do, to look at what length of time it would take in order to repair harm, to show how it's

beneficial for the county, and that depends on us working collectively. It would depend on whether or not we remain on the task force, if we had to roll off, and so all those things matter. So it could happen in 12 months, it could take place in 24 months, but it really depends on how we work with you all. So it really comes down to you. We can do the work. We can get it rocking and rolling soon; it depends on you all."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I was really hoping you just pick one, but cool."

**JOHN WRIGHT, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "If I might, the work of the task force if you'll extend it for a year, if you extend it for two years, the work of the task force might end, but the work that needs to be done is going to need to go on for decades. What the task force is doing is setting the groundwork for work that hopefully can continue beyond the expiration of the task force and continue forward for people in Fulton County and around the country beyond that point as well."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner, for your information at the last meeting of the Commission, they voted publicly to ask this Board to extend their work for 12 months. That's why I'm introducing legislation to do so for 12 months. Commissioner Ivory, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you, Chairman. I don't want to get emotional either at first, because when you started to tear up, I was like, oh Lord, here I go. I first wanted to say how proud I am of you all. I know this could have not been easy work, and I know that this type of research is intense, and it takes a level of fortitude and a level of analysis, and I wanted to thank you for doing that. I'm really proud of you, and I wanted to say that. And to Dr. Sims-Alvarado, your leadership is impeccable. I know the generous that you are. I'm glad to claim you as my appointee. I would appoint you over and over and over again, so you do not have to worry about that seat, and I would hope that the other Commissioners would consider appointing their appointee as well, and so that that continuity can continue in the report that you are going to put out. I was struck by your presentation because I was looking at this picture of the young man in the jail and it doesn't look that different from what our jail looks like right now. And that is really troubling to me, 90 percent of the inmates at the Fulton County jail then, I'm sure, were African-American, and they still remain that today in 2025. So that was really painful for me to see this picture and feel like not much process has been made. And then I flip to the last page where you talked about the infant mortality rates, you know, the difference in the infant mortality rates which is significant between white and black population, and today I'm introducing a Resolution about us putting a focus on maternal and infant mortality and health here in Fulton County, which it's a crisis in Fulton County. It's a crisis in Georgia, so a crisis in the years that you've been studying in the 1800s, a crisis in 2025. So your research is so important, and I just wanted to say congratulations, and I, a person who loves to read will read the entire report. And I know it will be hard to read the report, but I will do that because not only of the work that you put in it, but the importance for us as elected officials to understand what it is, and also to have the context of your next report, which will be the repair, and I look forward to -- really look forward to understanding how you think that we could do some repair. Because if anything that we owe to our citizens is to provide services and repair what is

broken; like fix the jail, and fix the things that need to be repaired in Fulton County. So thank you so much."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, thank you for coming down here today. I hope you felt like you had enough time. I kind of followed your meetings and you haven't, besides last week, when was the last time you had a meeting?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "We voted in September 2025 to postpone the meeting until the report was done, and we wanted to meet earlier. We actually created an agenda multiple times in order to meet - one of the challenges of actually meeting is actually being here physically, is the challenge for many of our task force members to get through traffic during the 5 o'clock hour in order to be here by 6:00, to be here for two hours and then to leave. So it made it extremely challenging for members of the task force. We actually could have met more frequently had we had the ability to meet virtually. We would like to have that, if that's possible. I'm not sure if you're able to add this to the agenda, but if we were able to do so, we would be able to meet more frequently. If you remember that in September of last year when we last met, I gave a detailed report of how many times we met; in one year, we actually met 21 or 23 times within one year which far exceeds the amount of time that we were able to meet. If you were to take into consideration the meetings that we had in order to put together this report that could count. So it's not like we're sitting idly by not meeting at all otherwise for -- nothing could have actually gotten done. But in regards to us meeting, the last time we met was actually in September of 2024, of last year, and we convened again just recently, but we made plans to meet before, but it just became challenging to do so."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah, I think it would be better if you try to overcome those challenges, because it's kind of a lack of transparency for not meeting almost for a year and then all of a sudden coming with the 636 page report."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "I think our report speaks for itself."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, and I, too, I haven't had time to read it, but I hope to comb through it. Dr. Meng, you know, you use Georgia Tech Resources, DataWorks, is my understanding. I tried to meet with you, and you decline to meet with me. But as a fellow -- as a Georgia Tech grad and masters in data analytics, I would love to meet some time if that is possible. I don't know why you would refuse to meet."

**DR. AMANDA MENG, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Thank you for that question. The DataWorks is a really great initiative. It's a data service group out of the College of Computing, and their effort on this, their labor, was paid for by the AIAI initiative. It's Atlanta Initiative for Artificial Intelligence. It's got folks from Emory, Georgia Tech, and HBCUs. So we were really grateful, and you can read that in the acknowledgement

section, that that was what funded them. And yeah, I really appreciate you reaching out to meet with me and happy to talk more about that. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. You did do harm report. Is there any benefit report? Did Fulton County do anything? I know you're not studying the last 50 years, where taxpayers have done things. Is there any benefits that were looked at to see that -- I know, like, my studies, I was recently in an ROI leadership, so I had to learn a lot of history of Atlanta, and I --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Benefits of slave labor? Is that what you're asking?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, no --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Come on."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- benefits that were provided to the Black community to try to help repair the harms. Those are the benefits that I'm talking about."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "You mean benefits in the past?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Um-hmm."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Oh, no. That data does not exist because the act has not occurred, which is what we're asking for now. There no benefits --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "The acts have not occurred or what --"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "You mean repair, or you mean --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well, attempts to help, actually anybody in the -- whether you're Black, White, whatever, in the lower socioeconomic. Were there any studies done to see if there were any -- I know there were benefactors that tried to help, and put money and resources to try to help. I mean, you called out the -- the owner. I think it was the owner who said he'd pay \$100 to all of his slaves in his will. I think our Probate Court Judge found that."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "So for the record, let me correct that. The Probate Judge did not find that data. That data has existed within those records, and were once made accessible to the public. Those records, those wills, were actually on the shelves for county -- first, for anyone really to be able to have access to. So they were made available even during my years, almost 20 years now, of me actually studying the Back to Africa Movement in Georgia. And though -- that will was actually made accessible to the public. It was taken away and

actually placed behind the shelves and actually has remained inaccessible for the public to be able to receive. The way that that data was actually retrieved was actually from a film maker, who's actually present here today, who's beginning to do work, also on the American Colonization versus Gartrell case. And he was able to find that information in looking at Findagrave.com. And a family member actually digitized and transcribed that will and became accessible to the public. And so it wasn't found by the Probate Judge, just for the record. But in regards to an individual, a benefactor who actually made an attempt to grant a recompense to the enslaved was actually in the case of American Colonization versus Gartrell in 1854. And as I stated in the Francis Gideon, who was actually the person who actually owned the Black Gideon family, and as I stayed, one of the descendants are here in the audience with us today. He actually made an attempt to atone. He actually made an attempt to grant recompense to those whose labor and freedom he stole. But that was actually denied by a Fulton County Superior Court Judge, Supreme Court -- Superior Court Judge. And so what was stolen from them was what would be equivalent to almost \$2 million today."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, you mentioned that previously."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "So that's just one --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And I didn't -- I didn't say she found it. I just know we have an article on our website about those wills, which I found that were very interesting that are held in our Probate Court. I'm not claiming that Kenya, Judge Kenya Johnson is saying she found them. But she would like to publicize them and get them where people can look at them."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "And I guess maybe the short answer to your question, if there was something in place in order to grant benefits or recompense to the formerly slaved, the short answer is no."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And I know Atlanta has recently formed a Reparations. Are you working with their task force?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "No, I'm not."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And in their task force, it mentioned that with the gratuities clause in Georgia that individuals cannot be paid money directly when they set up their task force. So can you give us some ideas of what you're thinking for repair?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Well, first of all, in regards to individuals not being able to receive an individual check from the

state, I would have to say, what are income taxes? Those are checks actually pay to individuals. But in regards to recompense, to recompense, there is already a case where the state has actually granted recompense to a former slave and actually gave him money. His name is actually Ransom Montgomery. If you're familiar with Georgia's history, particularly in Atlanta, Ransom Montgomery was actually granted his -- he was received what we would call quasi freedom, a nominal slave, if you will. He actually prevented -- he put out a fire of a -- at a railroad bridge near the Chattahoochee River. And because he worked tirelessly the entire day in order to try to put out that fire and save the lives of hundreds of White passengers who were going to cross it, the state, the railroad was actually owned by the state. And what happened was that the state of Georgia actually purchased his freedom for almost about \$1200. And so in 1868, upon his -- three years after he was a free man, he actually petitioned the state of Georgia and had a Representative to work on his behalf in order to grant him the money that the state actually promised for his freedom. They granted him recompense of about almost \$600. And then they gave him a stipend of \$15 every month. But that was cut off two months after he passed away. So that is an example. So that was --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "But that was a direct payment to a direct individual that was directly harmed."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Yes, and so we --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So you're asking for indirect payments for --"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- oh, okay. You're not --"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "I never -  
- I never said those words."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, okay."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "We don't know --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I just want to clarify, because I get a lot of people who reach out to me. And the common theme is, why should we be responsible for a crime that we never committed? Slavery, all of that, it's horrific. It's in a horrific past --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Mr. Chair, I'm going to say point of order for you to please end this ridiculous conversation."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's your point of order?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "My point of order is that this has nothing -- her lack of understanding of slavery and history is not what we're here for. We're here for the presentation of this Reparations Report."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Excuse me. Excuse me. I have the floor, and I --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "My constituents --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne, hold on a second, please. What's your point of order, Commissioner?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "My point of order is that if she would like to have a town hall on the history of slavery and African Americans in America, she should -- she should go ahead and schedule that, and they can come and speak to it and be their guest. Right now, we're not talking about that. We're talking about the Reparations Report, which this --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- panel has presented."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I accept your point of order. Commissioners, these are the findings today."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Not recommendations, findings."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So what would you say to those people that -- I mean, because you just talked about how the state paying somebody directly. So how do you pay relatives, somebody like, I'm a product of immigrants --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. You just ruled --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- you just ruled that --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm sorry."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Hold on, wait a minute."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm with you, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "You just ruled --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "These are my constituents concerns, I --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Wait a minute --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I get emails on this --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- when this came up."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne, please. The point of -- if you got other questions, these are just the findings, not recommendations. Let's stick to the findings reports."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, I'll go to the findings. Dr. Meng, can come back up again, please?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "And I'm going to answer that question for you."

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

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "If they want to know --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "-- they could come to our meeting. But as everyone has expressed again and again, this is the harm report. I mean, we've barely had 24 hours to even be free of releasing the report. Give us time to catch our breath and the next phase. If you vote in support of this, if you're so excited to know about what is the next phase and how we will answer those questions, I ask that you support the Resolution for us to continue to do this work so we can produce the Repair Report."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And Dr. Meng, when you looked at the Harm Report, could I -- I did you ever look at what we've done, what Fulton County citizens have as it pertains to MARTA, MARTA, the amount we spend with MARTA, with Grady, we talked about PAD, where we're funding an emergency ER room to address healthcare, and we hope to have a hospital in South Fulton."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. This has nothing to do with the topic."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "The federal -- no, I'm asking in her --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- research, did she --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "She's talking about MARTA."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "They --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne, please, please. Stick to the -- this is --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "This is about harm when they do their --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- the findings."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- findings. I mean, I -- I've done Georgia Tech research. And when you do research you look at benefits, you look at harms, and then you try to see how things might offset each other. There isn't all harm. We've had HCBUs that have been funded. We're funding a clinic for Morehouse --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- School of Medicine."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I -- Title I --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Point of order."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "They want interrupt me because --"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- these are concerns that I have that I --"

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

**DR. AMANDA MENG, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "I can -- if I provide a response, could we move forward? So when you're doing economic analysis or data analysis, you do have to lay out your assumptions. And I think your assumption is, is just incorrect, in that what has been done in the past few decades is repair, because it's not repair unless the people who have experienced the harm, who are descendants of people who have experienced the harm, have laid it out as this is what repair is. So until we have that from these people from Fulton County doing -- by doing our town halls and bringing out the Repair Report, we just can't answer that question. Your assumption that those things have been repaired is just --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, I'm not saying they're repaired. I've just quantified if those things are quantified. Because certainly in the past 50 years, Atlanta has had Black leadership. So what have Fulton County residents done? What have we -- we tried to do? Because as a Commissioner, if there's something more we could do, I would love to know what that could be."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just listen, these are the findings, once again, colleagues and members of the task force. If we have questions about the methodology that was used, I'd suggest that you meet with the task force, the Chair and work that out, and be very specific about what you disagree with. But then again, this -- these are just the findings that they're presenting today."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. And I did try to meet with them, sorry, but I was denied that opportunity."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I'll arrange it, I'll arrange for a meeting, anybody wants to meet with them, that can happen. All right. Commissioner Arrington. Let's -- we've gone over here."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. When you try to get someone fired from their job, it's obvious that they're not going to meet with you. So let's be clear about what's going on and what happened here and what you did. I'm going to make a motion, number one -- first of all, before I make my motion, I want to know who told y'all, y'all couldn't meet via Zoom. Because that's ridiculous and preposterous. So I'm going to make a motion, number one, that you all be allowed to meet via Zoom, telecommunication, three-way call, or how -- text message, however, y'all need to meet in order to get this work done. And number two, that we accept your Harm Report that you worked so hard on the last four years. That is my motion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's don't fall over us, trying to second it, now. Commissioner Arrington made a motion to -- that we accept it and that we accept the findings today, and that you allowed to -- allowed to meet, what's it? Zoom. That's the motion. I think I heard you --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Zoom, carrier pigeon, however, whatever means --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's fine."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- necessary for them to meet."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's vote on getting on there."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Next item. Now, let's deal with the -- just a minute, before you leave."

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**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute, just a minute. We got two other this term, competing resolutions is before us again. I introduced the resolution, what is it? 0890, to extend the Task Force's work up to, not up to, for 12 months, which is the resolution that y'all passed at that meeting. That's what you asked for, and that's what I would hope that you would support. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. I do not believe that 12 months is enough time for the recommendation at -- I mean, look -- you know, as you can see from today, this is about to be the most important part and the hardest work, and it's going to take the longest time to get to recommendations, right? Commissioner Thorne is trying to y'all's recommendations today. She want to know them today. But guess what? If y'all want to do it in 12 months, that's fine. In fact, let's get it done in six months. Let's get it done by May 19th. Let's get it done by May 19th, because then I -- then I know we're going to get the votes. You do it after May 19th, you're not going to get the votes. But being serious, you know, there are discussions that have to take place and allowing the time -- we could do up to 24 months, right? We could do up to 24 months, and if it gets done in 12 months, then it gets done in 12 months. Or if it gets done in six months, it can be done in six months, because I guarantee you, you're going to get a different vote in six months than you get in 12. I guarantee you you're going to get a different vote if you bring back a recommendation before May 19th. If you bring it back before May 19th, I guarantee you, you're going to get a different vote than what you get if you bring it back after May 19th."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you. I just wanted to -- I had my -- my name was in the queue in the -- before the report ended up. So I did just want to respond to Commissioner Ivory's -- I'm sorry, Commissioner Thorne's discussion about not being able to speak to my appointee on the Board. And I would just want to point out that we all have our own appointees on the Board. So if you need information, you can get that from your own appointee, if for some reason, the Chair or Vice Chair not available to speak with you. So I just wanted to mention that. There's -- my appointee is under no obligation to have a meeting with you if -- if that's not convenient for her. Thank you for allowing me that, Mr. Chairman. And did just one also say, I'm going to be a yes vote

on both resolutions because I'm -- I'm fine with you having as much time as you need, and so I'm, just so you understand, I'm going to be a yes on both."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, and --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Yeah, the -- it's funny to me that the same person that on the same day he voted for the 250 said he fundamentally disagrees in reparations is the one that's recommending 12 months versus the person who created and authored the resolution, is saying up to 24 months, right? So you -- you could do the math on that if you want to, but I guess you -- I guess what? You do it in 12, and I bet you I'm going to get it back in six. I'm going to get back before May 19th."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion is -- I'll make a motion to approve the -- we extend the Task Force work for purposes of the findings, not findings, what's the term? Repair, for 12 months, which is the resolution that was voted on publicly at their last meeting. So I'll move approval on that. Need a second, please. All right, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Can we vote, please?"

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. It's 12:40 -- thank y'all very much."

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Wait, we need to vote on the next one. We need to vote on the next one."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sound the next one."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0891**, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to extend the term of the Fulton County Reparations Task Force for two years; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just a question for the Task Force. Do you have a preference of 24 versus 12 as a body?"

**DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO, CHAIR, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "I'm going to let you all decide."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I mean, your other members, any other members want to speak? I mean, you've all committed a lot of time to it."

**RODNEY LITTLES, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Timing is relative to the appropriation of funds to get the job done. I'm a businessman. We all donate our time. We don't get a penny for that. 24 months, up to 24 months, doesn't matter whether it's 12 or 24 months. If you don't have the appropriation to do the job, it doesn't matter how much time we have. Two, and last comment on regarding the amount of time. The corporation that we get that we need to get the job done will determine how fast we can get it done. So if you go up to 24 months, fine, if we can get it done in six, we'll get it done in six. The deal is we need to have the funds to do the job."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve up to 24 months."

**GREG FANN, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**GREG FANN, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "I know I'm out of order. But if we're going to do the 24 months or whatever, we need to make -- have the money to do it, as just said. So it needs to be in the motion that we would get the funding to do the study, because the repair, we talking about the repair now, we're going to have people coming down here making all kind of suggestions as to what we ought to do and all -- how we ought to do the repair. Because we been hearing from citizens. Citizens going to be talking to us about it. So we need the monies to be able to go along with the time, because without the money, we can't do the work."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Do we know how much money is needed? I mean, because -- why can't even -- we can't say the money, we know that there's roughly 40,000 left over. But we don't even know what the money is, and so if we need the money, then that would be an argument for why we need more than 24 months, because it might take some -- it might take three to six months to find out how much money is needed."

**GREG FANN, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "And that's -- that is a question, Commissioner Arrington, is that we're going to have to come back to talk about the money based on the need and the time. We're going to have to come back, which going to be, have to have more discussion about that. Because when the citizens come, and they're coming, because they're, some of are here now. They're coming, and they're going to make suggestions that they have at our meetings in terms of what they'd like to see, to your point, the citizens, the citizens, those people who are

concerned, who were harmed want to have a say in terms of what they feel the reparation should be. So I think that you need to look at in terms of us coming back with a dollar amount, because we can't do it today. There's no way possible we can do it today. We're just asking for the time extension. But we'll have to come back to ask for the money. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "So -- thank you. And for clarity, so that people are following this, I would advise that, you know, whatever happens in this 24-month vote, you have the 12 months now. And so I would advise that if you could as soon as possible, begin to focus on the dollar amount that you need to continue into the repair process so that it -- even if in 60 to 90 days from now, you could bring that back to us while we're in our budget considerations preferably. If you could do it before our January 2nd meeting of 2026 when we will be approving the budget, that way we can allocate those resources for your next phase, which is the repair phase."

**GREG FANN, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "Thank you so much."

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

**GREG FANN, REPARATIONS TASK FORCE:** "And my name is Greg Fann. Everybody know it but you, but I'm a big fan."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "We know."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve 20 -- up to 24 months."

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. It's 12:51. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session, with items of real estate, litigation, and personnel."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The vote is open. I need one more. Thank you. And the motion passes; four yeas, zero nays."

**Recessed for Executive Session at 12:51 p.m.**

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**Resumed Regular Session at 1:53 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection, we'll resume the regular order of business. Madam County Attorney, items from Executive Session."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the requests for representation in items 4 and 5 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Cast your vote, please."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the settlement agreement in the case of Qwayshaw Green versus Fulton County, Georgia, Sheriff Patrick Labat, John Jackson, Derrick Singleton, Adam Lee III, and Gloria Franklin in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia Case Number 1:25-CV-01059 in the amount of \$50,000?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the payment of a tax refund claim in the case of Emory University versus Fulton County and city of Atlanta, Fulton County Superior Court Civil Action File Number 2022CV37316 in the amount of \$32,273.48?"

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

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 10, Commissioners' Action Items --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, sir, Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah. Thank you for recognizing me. I'd like to make a request to reconsider the agenda, and go back to our regular order, starting with 25-0865, given that we've got a number of voting items, plus a budgetary presentation that's required, and we're at --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, what page?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- later in the afternoon. Just beginning at the regular part, going back and resume our regular meeting agenda, starting at two -- the beginning of 25-0865."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any objections? Commissioner Ivory."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yeah, I have an objection to that, just because I asked for grace at the beginning of this meeting so that I might have to leave in order to tend to my father, which is why I asked for all of the Commissioner items to be moved up. So if we could just complete the Commissioner items, that would work. Like we originally voted on."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Is there any reason why -- and I would -- I have a Commissioner item too, and I am perfectly happy to hold it, that we couldn't hold, if people aren't here, we can just hold the items and take them up at the next meeting?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "I mean, no. I'd like to just move forward with the agenda as -- as we approved earlier, when we voted to move all of the Commissioner items up to after public comment. We only have five or six more, if we could just run through them, then we can get back to the regular agenda."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "My concern is that, our running through these has been -- we weren't exactly running through them is my concern."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay. Well, we can just try to get through this expeditiously."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I would -- if we're going to discuss them, I would prefer - today, I would prefer that we do it sooner, because -- then later, to honor Commissioner Ivory's request, but also any Commissioner who wants to hold theirs so that we don't have to spend the time on it today, that, I think that would be great."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I would object to do redoing the agenda. We've already voted on the agenda. It is what it is at this point, and so we need to complete it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, continue."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 10, **25-0892**, Request approval of a resolution directing the County Manager to include, on an annual basis, funding in amount not to

exceed \$1 million for the Fulton County Veterans community Services Grant Program to support services and programs for veterans residing in Fulton County, Georgia; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Arrington, Barrett, and Ivory."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you. Yes, colleagues, I hope that we would vote to approve this is agenda item, and make our veterans, once again, a priority, and to restore the \$1 million in funding that was allocated previously over the '22, '23, and '24 to the Veterans Empowerment Committee. I did, Madam CFO, want to get some information for you. The -- when the million dollars was previously allocated towards veterans, did that come from some type of federal grant, or did that come out of our Fulton County budget?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I think it was always out of the general fund, Commissioner Arrington. But I would want to go back and look at that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, that was my understanding as well, but there was some misinformation put in the news last night by someone on this Commission that that money was -- came from federal grant money. And I know -- I knew that that was wrong. I just wanted to confirm it through you, Madam CFO."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "My apologies, Commissioner Arrington, I didn't see the story last night. To the best of my knowledge, veterans was funded out of the general fund."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, colleagues. So I hope that, you know, that we don't just turn on the green lights and we don't just give our veterans proclamations, but that we let them know that they are a priority in Fulton County as we set our budgets. Our -- when we set the budget, we are setting the priorities of this county. I've spoken with the County Manager. He said that he can put the million dollars into budget with no problem. So hopefully you guys will support, not only this resolution, but our veterans, and make sure that we are allocating the money. And it's up to 1 million, so if they don't use -- if they only use 500,000 or they only use 250, then it's no problem, right? So hopefully you guys will support our veterans today."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, one of the biggest failures in modern politics is equating spending money on state of attention, as though were the same as results. And I am in fully support of veterans efforts. I personally spend money on them. I've served on boards of veterans causes, and will continue to do so. One of the issues when we put this thing forward is it didn't work. And we were left with

funds that weren't spent. I think there were some structural problems with the way the whole thing was set up. And one of the purposes of having a Commission is to come back in to recommend where there are gaps, that sort of stuff. Those are the things that we've not heard. These are all great folks on this Commission. I have nominees on there too. But one of the things we've not heard from is specifically what those needs are, and then working in fashioning a plan around those. And I think that's what needs to be done. I'm not -- we have a lot of different, you know, worthwhile, you know, types of things that we can consider funding. We have a lot of things that we have to turn down that are basically in our core services. So I'm not in support of just going back and doing something and putting money to it, you know, just to, you know, signal that you're either in support of our veterans if you do this, or you're not if you don't. I don't view that way. I think there are a lot of -- and think one of the challenges that we learn from this is that we've got many programs which we financially support, where those organizations, a component of who they serve are veterans. So you know, doing this in an exclusive fashion as a community services type program might not necessarily work. I mean, I know one of the organizations that is a specific recipient of our CSP program and it has for a while, they do transitional housing, and its focus largely on veterans, I'd say 95 percent of what they do is that. So I think we need to come back with some -- hear from this group, have some intentionality around the programs that we have right now, and have those sort of be -- have veterans components focused within those. It could be in the area of CFS, it could be in the area of CSP. I think there are other things that we need to think about in terms of organizationally, how do we -- how do we approach hiring of veterans, bringing them into the workforce, employee resource groups, those sorts of things. So I think if we want to have a meaningful conversation around this, that's the kind of thing we need to have, and have some focus funding that's actually going to get at and generate and meet real specific needs where there are gaps. And that -- this, what is proposed today, to me, does not do that. And therefore, I'm not going to be in support of it today. But it will be some stuff that I will be looking for some specifics to be done within the 2020 -- 2026 budgets, with some specific action things built into some of our existing programs or expanding some of our additional programs."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that because we had problems, according to Commissioner Ellis -- or Vice Chair Ellis, sorry, that's not the reason you stop working on a particular problem or a program. And because we serve veterans as a part of other programs is also not a reason not to prioritize veterans. We serve seniors in a lot of programs that are not labeled for seniors, and we also have senior programming. And there are -- we do a lot of different things for a lot of different vulnerable populations. If -- and I -- if the administration of the Veterans CSP needs to be different or better, that can certainly be worked on. But it can't be worked on if we

discontinue it. It is 1 million percent clear that veterans, many veterans, are in need of services of a variety of different kinds. And the model of using the Veteran Services Grant Fund is to make sure we identify the right ones through the grant process. And while I know we had some difficulty on the first time, I think we did it separately this way, in getting respondents, and I'm looking at you, Dr. Roshell, because I'm about to ask you a question. But I think once we put it back out, we did succeed with that program; is that, would you say that's correct?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "Yes, Commissioner Barrett. The first administration was a separate RFP process for veterans. There was some confusion among the agencies that served believing that they needed to choose between CSP or Veterans. So that did cause some confusion. We were able to get the funding into the right organization's hands. And in this year, we identified organizations that serve veterans, but it's not an exclusive category."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Right. And so the decision making this year was the normal CSP decision making, and not through the Veterans Commission, correct?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah. So I think, you know, that there's no, as I said, I think there's no -- there is no issue in doing a separate Veterans Services Program Grant. We've proven we can do it. I don't think that's a valid reason not to do it. And you know, I also think we a variety of legacy partners that we support in, as the County Commission and with the county tax dollars. And it just seems really obvious to me that of all the populations, veterans is certainly one that deserves to be an ongoing partner. I think the idea that they have to worry and wait every year to see if that funding is going to come through is -- really does them a disservice. And I would be for really disappointed if didn't go ahead with Commissioner Arrington's legislation here. It's -- we're not asking for any more money. I guess it's Commissioner Arrington's and mine and Commissioner Ivory's now since we joined on as cosponsors. But we're not asking for any more money than was given to the program in prior years. And we're not asking to stand up a new program. It's a program that we already know how to execute on. And I especially appreciate that we included in this legislation that it is to be annual recurring, so we don't have to keep having this debate every budget cycle. So I am a solid, yes, on this, and I would appreciate my colleague's support as well, because the veterans in our community deserve it."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you. Commissioner Arrington, I just had a question about our Community Affairs Office, Stanley Wilson, community Development, will he still be out vetting the projects and making the awards?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. I did not envision nor include any changes to the process from, you know, for application or anything like that so, yes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. I was just making a clarification. For me, I have lots of veterans organizations in my area. For all of you, John's Creek has the Vietnam War Memorial, the Replica Wall in Newtown Park. And they have events there, veterans events there all the time. It's kind of a gathering place. And not only just for John's Creek veterans, but they make a point of getting all veterans groups together, because really it is a village of veterans groups that can help an individual navigate housing, mental health, jobs, cars, as we saw today with Vet Buds. But my understanding, because for me, it was really hard not to -- to take away that funding this last year. But when I reached out to the Veterans Commission, they said that they're organize -- unorganized, and they needed some time to get organized before they could effectively administer, see who's in need and who needs money. Because everybody could use a million dollars. And so I would like to know if they have any needs, like what needs. Because I'm not aware -- they aren't writing me. And when I meet with them, they aren't telling me, hey, we really need that million dollars back. I don't have that. So I'm kind of in agreement with Commissioner Ellis that, are we just throwing money at the veterans, and then saying okay, figure out a way to spend it, and it may not be a really wise investment, because we'll be trying to come up with ways to spend the million dollars. I don't know if that makes sense or anything. We did give vet -- some veterans programs out of our CBDG money. We did fund those things this past year. I think our ongoing partners still got money. So I'm kind of at a quandary. If we had somebody here that could really speak into that to see what needs aren't being funded that would be helpful to me. And I know a lot of these veterans groups aren't eligible for the million dollars because it is a Fulton County, and they work across many, many counties, most of these groups. They don't care what group you're in. So I think it's a hard thing to allocate two Fulton County veterans groups."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. Just so that the record is clear, the million dollars does not go to the -- to the members of the Veterans Empowerment Committee. They serve, like our Arts Council, and decide which veterans organizations will actually receive the money. So to be clear, the money does not go to them. None of the members of the Veterans Empowerment Committee get the money. To your point, I think, you know, one of the things that is missing, and this is one of the things that is missing, really, with all of our boards and task force, is county staff, right? And so I would -- I'm happy to amend it to include that we will allocate county staff to help serve. And I don't know who, you know, the County Manager will direct. But the problem that we have with all of our boards, all of our task force is that those people are volunteers. And without someone, you know, similar to a nonprofit, without somebody

like an Executive Director running the day-to-day operations, the boards just kind of flounder. So I'm happy to amend it to include direction to the County Manager to dedicate staff to this organization, to the Veterans Empowerment Committee like we did for the Reparations Task Force. I'm happy to amend my motion right now to do that. And I guess I -- or to amend my legislation to do that if is acceptable with you, Commissioner Barrett. Awesome."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, it is so amended. Vice Chair Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And Commissioner Ivory as well, yes. Commissioner Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, I mean --"

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I don't necessarily -- I don't equate having staff with a task force, you know, fulfilling some sort of what their role is. I think a group of individuals who are assimilated around a particular thing should have the ability come back regardless of whether they have county staff involved or not. And this is what we appointed them for specifically, right? You are representative of this community, veterans community. Where do you see -- I mean, look, there's a lot of funding that goes into veterans services, you know, from, certainly from the federal level. There's a lot of money comes in from a nonprofit sectors, lot of money comes in from the state. Where are there gaps? What are the types of things, if we're going to have a program that we should specifically focus it on to generate and meet and fill those -- and fill those gaps, if you will. As opposed to just throwing money out there and it not really having some intention behind it, where we can measure the results. That is what we should be doing with all of our programs in which we do with all these programs. So that's what I feel is lacking, and I do feel like we -- that we do need to hear back from this group with some more specifics. I mean, where are the gaps? Are they specifically around transportation? Is it around employment? And then fashion your response and solutions around it. I mean, that's what -- that's what policy making is, as opposed to just dropping money out and then, you know, it just sort of gets dispersed and maybe has an impact, maybe it doesn't. So that's where I'm at on it, and I would be looking to hear from them, and then so we can fashion something very specific around that, which we could measure, get results, and have impact."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. I'm happy to further amend the legislation to direct the County Manager to contact the members of the committee and to have them come back with that information. But that doesn't -- that should not prevent us from directing the County Manager to provide this money. They can come back, today

is November 19th, they can come provide that information to us on or before December 31st, right? And let us know what those gaps are. In fact, they spoke about some of those gaps, Vice Chair Ellis, and the Green Light Ceremony, where you and I were both there. And they also spoke about them yesterday at our press conference. So providing a list of those gaps will not be a problem. And I have no problem accommodating your request to get that information. But I think at the same time, you know, we need to direct the County Manager to allocate the funds for the budget purposes while we collect that information. I have no problem getting that information. That's a reasonable request."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "These objections are baffling to me. I'm sorry, maybe I'm missing something. But I think it's abundantly clear that there are veterans who are homeless. And there are veterans who cannot find stable housing. And there are veterans who are food insecure and hungry. And there are veterans who need wraparound and support services for behavioral health. If you're trying to say there's no gaps in coverage, that's just, it's baffling to me. We know that there are. There are tons of nonprofits to serve the veterans community because there are gaps. To say that this is a program that we don't know how they're going to spend the money is baffling to me. It is a grant program in which the Council, they're not supposed to be a managerial Council. Yes, it would be great if they could also take up some additional conversations. But the general purpose of it is to stand up a \$1 million grant program, and they with their experience that they bring to the table, as we have independently selected them as Commissioners, are going to vet which programs and which organizations should be given that funding. So I don't -- this whole conversation is literally baffling to me. We are asking to continue a program that we have had for years in this community that discontinued this current budget year. It is that simple. It is -- it can and was well run. It can and will be well run again. If the Veterans Empowerment Commission itself is having some struggles, which I understand may be true, great, let's work with them and make sure that they are cohesive and that everything is going right in terms of how they operate as a body. But the rest of this conversation is just baffling. Either you believe we can afford to spend this funding on the priority of veterans, or you don't. That's all there is to it."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Baffling. And I've been called an idiot and all kinds of things. For me, it's the fiscal responsibility of the money that we are allocated for by people paying their taxes. And we need to make sure that money is directed in a meaningful to address the health and well-being. Yes, there are veterans that are homeless. I am not denying that. There are veterans that have mental health issues. Yes, I know that. I've met with them. They come to my office. I go to their meetings. I

go to their breakfasts. I attend their events whenever possible. And I'm offended if you think that, because I'm not going to throw a million dollars up in the air and say, oh, whoever wants it, come get it, it's taxpayer dollars, and we need to throw it in there. No, I was told by the head of the Veterans Association that they were unorganized right now. They needed a year to regroup. I would like to see them come forward and tell us, these are the nonprofits we work with, these are the nonprofits that are addressing issues for the citizens of Fulton County. We can use this money towards this. I know for some Commissioners just starting a program, we don't know what the program is going to do. We're just going to put some money in it, and everything is going to be cured. We know that with PAD, because I think PAD is a very good program. We're throwing money at that program, and people aren't using it, despite that it is a good program, that is pre-arrest diversion is a good thing. We're putting two -- over \$2 million towards that, and people aren't using it. So is it -- is it worth it to give \$1 million and we don't really know what it's going to be used for? Is it going to be used for pianos that have the Armed Forces logos painted on them, and that's going to help the citizens of Fulton County, the veterans of Fulton County? No. Money needs to be directed. It needs to have purpose. And if the Board came forward, the Veterans Commission comes forward and says, we think we can use \$1 million again, we've regrouped. We're working with these organizations, I would feel comfortable doing that. But right now, I feel like just saying, oh, I'm \$1 million towards veterans, I don't know what's going to be done, I'm not going to be used, and every Commissioner who doesn't vote for it is against it, so vote for me. I'm going to use it to buy votes. That's what it kind of sounds like. And to me, it's a responsibility, and it's a hard decision to make when we had to cut that \$1 million. But I felt comfortable that they will regroup, that they will be an effective Veterans Commission. They have new leadership now. They're trying to meet on a regular basis. They will get together. But until they do, it's hard for me just to put \$1 million towards it right now at this time."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "We opened today by honoring veterans in a proclamation. And they stood there and told us the stories of the money from the veterans' mouths of what they need. You only need to turn on the news or open up a newspaper, or, you know, just, you know, be a reader of any sort to know that veterans have needs and are in a situation where they need funding from the entity that provides health and human services, which is Fulton County. So this is -- issue is personal for me. I've never really ever seen part of our budget just go up in the air and people just started grabbing for the money. But I mean, maybe that happens, I don't know. I sometimes feel like I'm living in an alternate universe right here. But we allocate budget dollars knowing what they're going to be used for. I've never sort of seen that circus go on, but maybe it happens in your district. Let me say this plainly. This is very personal for me. I am the daughter of a veteran, the wife of a veteran, the mother of a veteran. I know what the needs are. I

grew up in a family needing those needs, and I'm now in a place where I can start to help provide some of those needs, and I will absolutely support this. Figuring out how to spend the money should be the least of our worries for holding back the money. We can give the money and then convene, and I invite you to come to figure out how it should be allocated. That would be the smart thing to do. But just for our refreshing of recollection, that's a legal term, is -- this is come to the Board, this particular granting of \$1 million, this would be the sixth time in 2025. In January, Commissioners Barrett and Commissioners -- Commissioner Arrington introduced this to make sure that this funding line stayed in the budget. I -- it did not. It was not voted on by the rest of the Board Members. I then came mid -- in August when, we were in the middle of looking over and resounding our budget, and tried to have it passed three times, which it failed all three times. This is the sixth time, not the first time, not something that we're not familiar with, but the sixth time that this is coming before this Board. So I would hope that we would just do -- to say that taking the money -- not restoring the money, doesn't say we're not doing right by veterans. It's exactly what it says. It's plainly, exactly what it says. So let's just do the right thing, like a couple of times in one meeting, and then give this money to the veterans so that they can use it in the way that they know in their community that it needs to be used. Thank you, Commissioners Barrett and Arrington for cosponsoring this legislation."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Commissioner Ivory, I wish you wouldn't judge my intent. I clearly --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "I'm not judging your intent --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- I'm judging your --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- clearly --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- your words, your actions."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "That's what I'm judging."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We can agree to disagree. I support the \$1 million provided that they have -- have met, have reason to come forward to us, they're going to spend that \$1 million, what groups, what are the primary needs in Fulton County citizens, the veterans in Fulton County. That is clearly why, at this time, I can't vote to just put the \$1 million in just to have it appear that, oh, we care because we're going to

allocate money this direction. And then we end up with pianos painted with Armed Forces logos on it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, anything else?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 11, **25-0895**, Request approval of a resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners amending policies limiting the use of Fulton County staff for certain events by members of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes sponsored by Commission -- Vice Chair Ellis and Commissioner Thorne."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, I'm going to -- I'm going to just hold this given -- in the essence of time, given where we are."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Without objection, next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0896**, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to address maternal and infant mortality rates with current capital investments and plan initiatives; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioners Ivory and Barrett."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. This resolution is deeply personal for me, as a Black woman and as a mother, I know what it means to navigate a healthcare system that too often does not listen to us, does not believe in us, and mostly does not protect us. Black women in Georgia are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes. That is not just a statistic. It is a lived reality for families who look like mine, for women who could be my sisters, my daughters and my friends. Georgia counties have one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the

country, and nearly 87 percent of those deaths are preventable. Preventable, 87 percent. And our infant mortality rate remains above the national average. We cannot call ourselves a community that cares about family, as mothers and infants are still dying from causes we have the power to address. Here in Fulton County, our system has been strained even further. In recent years, we've seen two hospitals close. That means fewer beds, fewer emergency rooms, fewer places for women to go when something goes wrong, and those closures hit the hardest in communities that already face barriers to care, Black women, low-income women and women who live far from medical resources. So today's resolution is about using every tool we have to confront this crisis head on. Fulton County invests millions of dollars in buildings, clinics, renovations and infrastructure. But if those capital investments aren't aligned with saving the lives of mothers and their children, then we were missing the mark. This resolution directs our County Manager to review our current and planned capital projects and determine how those resources can support maternal and infant health through expanded public health capacity, improved access to services or stronger maternal care infrastructure. And it calls for a coordinated plan across departments, because maternal health is not just a public health issue, it is transportation, it is behavioral health, it is broadband access, and it is economic stability. And importantly, that plan must come to this Board in public so our residents can see how their tax dollars are being used to close these gaps and to save lives. Fulton County has an opportunity to lead, to take meaningful steps toward reversing maternal and infant mortality disparities, and building a safer, healthier future for our families. We owe this to the women and families who have been ignored for far too long. Healthy mothers and healthy children are the foundation of healthy communities. This resolution is a necessary step toward ensuring that every mother in Fulton County, no matter her race, her ZIP Code, or her income, has the chance to survive pregnancy and thrive afterward. I am proud to bring this forward, and I urge my colleagues to please join me in supporting it. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Commissioner Ivory for your work on this. I only want to add, I agree with everything Commissioner Ivory just said. I want to add that one of the things that people don't realize is this data is very hard to collect and is often incomplete because of what people report and don't and how it is recorded by the medical professionals. And so the data that was cited in the resolution is from a few years ago, because that's when the most recent data was available. There are -- and there are some conflicting data that say the numbers are even worse. And we know that the numbers have gotten worse since those to statistics were put forward. And I say that in particular because since the abortion ban took effect in Georgia in July of 2022, the numbers have gotten worse because doctors are now hesitant to provide miscarriage care until it is certain that women will die without

intervention. We know in Georgia that two Metro Atlanta residents, Amber Thurman and Candy Miller, both died because of that delayed care. I'd also like to add that the infant mortality rate for Black babies is nearly double that for White babies. The numbers are so disparate between Black and White families that we -- we must address it. And we know we have this problem more broadly in Fulton County as it relates to healthcare, something we also need to continue to address. Infant and maternity -- maternal mortality rate is a health crisis, and it is preventable. And if we believe that we as county government have a responsibility for the health of the citizens of Fulton County, then we must take action. And this resolution is not asking for a big spend. It's not asking for money. It's just asking county management to look within the resources we already have, the locations, the places, the spaces we have, the organizations we already work with, be it Grady or Morehouse or what have you, and figure out how we can prioritize these issues for women and families. That's what it is. I hope everyone will see it as that and as an intention of the county to make this a priority, I hope you will vote in favor."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "You know, it is factual that there is a high infant-mother mortality rate. In the study, it cited that 93 rural counties have no hospital or labor or delivery unit, that African-American women have a 30 percent higher maternal mortality rate compared to their urban African-American county -- counterparts. So that was the study that was cited in there. But my question is, because it is a need, but do we need to reinvent and come up with our own program? Did you talk with the Fulton County Board of Health about this resolution?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yes. We've talked to many departments about this because, like I said, it's not across one department. Yes, we did. Yes --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "You talked to --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yes, we did. I'm answering your -- you're about to interrupt --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Who did you talk to at the County --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "We talked to -- my entire team talked to several departments before putting this together --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm not asking several departments --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- and we talked to -- I said yes to the Board of Health, and you're not going to -- you are not going to ask me to tell you the time and dates and people --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, I just --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- that I talked to --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- wondering who, because --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- because -- if I report you, which I do not."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Because -- I'm not saying you report to me. I don't know why you're so antagonist --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "No, well, because you're starting off asking me --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- who did I talk to, and I answered you. Did I talk to the Board of Health --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Oh, because I talked --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- yes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We talked with --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Stop. Stop and listen."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I feel like we're reinventing or we're trying to come up with a new government program that's run by the county, by Dr. Roshell and County Manager Dick Anderson, when we should be working with our own Fulton County Board of Health. They have a Maternal and Child and Health Services Group. The mission and scope of that group is the Maternal and Child Health Program. It improves the well-being of pregnant women, infants, children, and families through prevention, early intervention, and coordinated health services. Their key service areas are prenatal and maternal services, perinatal case management, and nurse education, Medicaid, presumptive eligibility assistance, pregnancy testing, and referral to prenatal care, nutrition, and breastfeeding support, WIC program, and it goes on. And the services where people in Fulton County can access these services is at the Adamsville Regional Health Center, the College Park Regional Health Center, North Fulton Regional Health Center, which will be in our new building soon, and the Oak Hill Child and Family Center. So I don't know why we're trying to come up with our own program when there's a program out there that's under the governance of Fulton County. Why aren't we just trying to work them and advertise as Commissioners, how we got -- we need to

get our constituents sent to them. Like, maybe we need to do a better way of advertising personally the services that are already provided for maternal health. That's my only objection to the thing."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you for that. And a recent -- as recent as just a few minutes ago, 2025 report card grade for Georgia based on maternal and infant mortality had us at a birth -- at a rate of an F, with the preterm -- I mean, it's just Black babies are 1.5 times more likely to be born -- I mean, just tons of information. So we continue to be in a failing area around this. And they -- and I thank you for raising those services, and those services are available. But we're not really talking about WIC when we're talking about maternal and infant mortality rates. The County Manager's office can certainly work with the Board of Health on those existing programs to develop a plan that speaks to what I am speaking to, which is about infrastructure, expanded public health capacity, and improved access to these services, along with a stronger maternal care infrastructure. So we're not starting something new. We certainly can work with what we already have to expand it and make it stronger. But because of the rates that we see in Georgia, particularly in the Black community for Black mothers and their children, we want to have an increased focus on this moving forward. And have the County Manager work with the resources we already have, allocate additional resources to it once we figure out what those are needed in those areas that we just mentioned. And that is the reason why I am pointing this forward today. So anything that you mentioned before has been wholly inadequate. It has not dealt with the problem that we continue to see in evidence that right as of today, we still have a F as a failing grade in this area of health services."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you. I just want to respond to the idea of that because there is some service that already exist in county that that's enough. The Board of Health also offers free mammograms. Are we going to then say, we don't need to make -- make sure we don't fund that in any of the other clinics where we give money because of the Board of Health already does it? No, this is an additive. We need to do more. As Commissioner Ivory has said, the outcomes are abysmal, even despite the programs that we already have, we need to do more. And I would say, county management, this is kind of what I was getting to when I was talking about putting together something around health outcomes and trying to look, at a least on a -- every couple of years at how our actions are improving health outcomes. Because we can stand up programs, I think, to your point, Commissioner, all day long, but if we're not actually improving health outcomes, then we need to think about how we redirect. That said, my initiative was overruled by this Board. So at the end of the day, we know these numbers are bad. This is a resolution asking to -- within what we are currently

doing and in addition to do more to help the women in this community and the, you know, mothers in this community, and to have more babies survive in this community. Once again, why we would be discussing this in any great detail about why we don't need it, is baffling. We need it."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Baffling, again. We have a group, this is what they do. If they need to do a better job, then we as Commissioners need to encourage them and to ask them, how can we get to you to do a better job. We don't need to have a program that's running on our own when the state already funds our Health Department. We have -- we just went on a tour of the new 4700 North location. They have services there. I encourage us as Commissioners to work with the new Health Director. How long has the Health Director been there, Dr. Roshell, one month?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "Yes, or less."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Less. Less than a month. We've had Dr. Paxton, how long was she there, since 2000 --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "Certainly during COVID, so --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "-- several years."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So we had -- we have, we have a changing of Directors. And I feel like, what are we going to be signaling to them that you're failing? He's only been there less than a month. Let's just try to work with him to encourage and see how we as a Commission -- now, if he comes to us and say, hey, if you guys could set up a team of people that goes out in your districts, and you know, analyzes the data or whatever, then that would be something I could be supportive of. But I don't want to overrule somebody whose job is to help that have developed a program for Maternal and Child Health Programs. Let's work with that program. And if that program says, hey, we could use some additional money, then that would be something I would be open to if they -- they are the experts. They hire doctors, community health workers, program workers. I just don't think we as a county, on our side, need to have our own separate thing going on that we're starting, and then trying to administer our program over their program. I think we just need to simply work with them, and that takes conversation, that takes meetings, and I would be happy to arrange a meeting with the County Health Department for us Commissioners. Maybe we can have them come down here and speak to it if this resolution fails, speak to what they're doing. I think that would be a great move."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I didn't want to get involved. First and foremost, I'm on the Board of Health, and this has never come before us. I think -- I don't think we're a failure. Whoever said that we're a failure, someone did -- well, let me just -- we're not a failure. We do a good job. And I will take this up at our next Board meeting. Now, Dr. Roshell, you been involved in this at all?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "In what way, sir?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The -- any discussions about this with capital, current capital investments and planned activities?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "No, sir."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** ""Yeah. I think what I wanted to try to understand was like, what was -- what the direct, specific direction was to the county staff in terms of the work to do. And kind of what I'm hearing is we have a lot of investments, right? About 157 million in health, roughly, right? And they're three principle entities that we're working through are the Board of Health, Grady, and Morehouse, right? So am I hearing that we don't have the full awareness of kind of the totality of how those three organizations specifically are focused on these issues relative to the investments we're making? Is that part of it, so we want to inventory that? So in terms of the direction to -- and then we obviously we have a -- we, you know, we've gone out and we said we're making a material investment in South Fulton with the emergency room, and then the plan to have a future hospital. So would part of this be to say, hey, you know, well, we know there's investments, they impact a lot of health, right? You know, this is -- you know, this is a very important part of it, but it's, you know, sort of totality of it, right? And I know Grady has very specific stuff where they look at social determinants of health, and Grady's got a lot of detail, they probably have not come over and talked to us about it, so we probably don't understand it. So is the direction more to say, go talk to these three entities, bring all that stuff together, come back, and then sort of share that with us, and let's have sort of more of a co -- what of -- what I'm looking for -- holistic kind of conversation around things? Is that what we're talking about?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "That's exactly."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay, all right."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ellis."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "The exact wording that I'm -- thank you for asking that question, is this resolution directs our County Manager to review our current and

planned capital projects and determine how those existing resources can support maternal and infant health through maybe expanded public health capacity, improved access to services or stronger maternal care infrastructure. So it's to say, let's look at all of those things, and how can we put maternal and infant mortality as a top -- as a, you know, as an important part of that, and see how all of those resources together can be put under one umbrella so that we can have a stronger impact."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "That's exactly what I'm asking."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay, so --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "It has -- I'm not asking for any money. I'm asking for an analysis of that so we could be stronger in this area, and we can show that this is a topic that stands out from other health issues, because it affects so many Black women in Fulton County."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay, all right, thank you."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And again, I'll talk to our Board at our next meeting about this."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay. I'd love to come --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, it's the Board of Health, it's open to the public."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "All right, I'll be there."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. But that predates that -- well. Yeah."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I mean, I do think in particular as we are -- I mean, I think we heard from a the lady from South Fulton who talked specifically about that, right? And about the gaps, I mean, so I think that -- I know we don't have really kind of a proposal before us about time -- timeliness of when a hospital will come before us and all that. But that's the kind of detail I think that, you know, Grady has, right, at a macro level, and then to the extend where they can bring it down to, you know, might -- there might be a couple of other topics outside of this too, but specifically this in terms of, like, how that's going to increase access in their ability to, you know, drive this. And I'm sure because they've got the social determinants of health structure that they use that that's part of kind of how they are targeting where, you know, what specific services, the types of things are -- their regular -- they're planning to have in that facility. So I think, I have no objection to, you know, just trying to having our team try to bring those parties together, present that stuff back to us, and then, you know, you listen to the data, and then you kind of hear what that tells you, right? And some of it may just be, hey, there

needs to just be more of an -- you know, this party needs to collaborate with this party, you know, maybe we find like the thing in South Fulton is going to -- we feel like, is going to be a significant game changer, you know? I mean, what do we learn from that? We should learn from that, right, as it relates to this as well as to other health issues. So I don't -- if that's what the intent is, I just want to understand what we were directing our staff to do. And if that's it, then I think, I think that's fine, so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I have a question, but go ahead".

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, you can go ahead."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So Mr -- Dr. Roshell and Mr. Manager, it's important for me to hear what y'all understand, your understanding of what this is attempting to do. Because we've been all over the place here. It's a good topic, it's needed. But what are you being -- what do you think you're being asked to do? Because I will talk directly with the Board of Health."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, we've been comparing notes, both before the discussion, during the discussion. And I think, you know, logically -- and the only thing I want to be clear on, when you said capital investments is part of the resolution. The capital investments, and I do think there could be a direct link here, are principally being made in the HHS North facility that you were there, of course, yesterday, along with several of you. The HHS South, which we're going to talk about in a few minutes, feasibility study has been completed on that. So we're in a position to propose moving forward with that. And then, most significantly, obviously, the standalone ER and hospital in South Fulton. So those are the principal capital investments. And I -- of course, Public Health or the Board of Health would be in both of those, North and South, that's our plan. I think that would be reality. So certainly, we could work with them to strengthen their programs, understand -- well, understand their program, strengthen, and measure them more effectively. Grady, in several meetings this is come up before. But I can't verbatim talk to exactly what their program is or the metrics that they use. But we can pull that together. If it's beyond that, then I'm not sure, but you may have some ideas, Dr. Roshell, that you've been thinking about."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "Thank you, Dick. So I do also see two components of the resolution. One is capital, and the County Manager laid that out very well. The other would be identifying gaps. So as Commissioner Ivory said, when the hospitals closed, they did take a birthing center with them. That did leave a gap in the south. And so that's well documented. It was documented in our Project Care Study. So that certainly is -- is an issue when we look at health disparities. The other issue is some funding that the Board of Health has lost as it relates to health services, the ones that Commissioner Thorne laid out. So for example, there's a gap in home visiting. The Board of Health did lose a United Way grant that would allow them to provide home

visiting services. So while services are offered, and I would like to reiterate they do an extremely stellar job in delivering those services, but caps do remain, and I do believe that this is an opportunity to identify specifically where those gaps. Are as Commissioner Ellis said, in partnership with those providers that are actually delivering the services day to day."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So basically, we just want you to look at our coordinated efforts and find out where gaps are? There's no program, no financial allotments at this time or anything like that. It's not expanding, and we're going to be working with our Health Department?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "Yes. Similar to the HSS South Feasibility Study, I see this as a feasibility."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "A review and analysis of where we are, identifying the gaps. I would say that as a part of that process, we would come back with what it would cost to close some of those gaps. But that is not what I read into this today."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. So it's just kind of a fact-finding mission. It's not even anything -- it's not a new program. It's not an expenditure, it's not a line item, item on the budget, or anything like at this time? Okay, thank you for that clarification."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I'm happy to support this item. I think, Dr. Roshell, this really, to some extent, goes back to the healthcare state of emergency that I declared back in 2022 when we lost the hospitals. And we probably need an update or a refresh on that as well, right? And this is one of those components, an important component of the overall health picture. But yes, I'm happy to support this. But I think it begs the question of, hey, what is the update on our healthcare state of emergency? And what -- if it is, in fact, an emergency, what is our cadence for updates on that emergency, right? And so I would just ask, I guess, not only for what this resolution asked for, but also for updates and regular updates on our healthcare state of emergency. Because if it is, in fact, an emergency, we need to be acting with urgency."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. 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:** "25-0897, Request approval of a resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners directing the County Manager to work with Select Fulton and the Fulton County Development Authority to develop a Senior Property Tax Relief Program; and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, it's seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ivory, followed by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. This resolution is about protecting the very people who built our communities and we know that to be our seniors, those who raise our families, staff our schools and hospitals, run our small businesses, serve in our houses of worship, and have laid the foundation for a thriving Fulton County. Housing affordability and stability are among those pressing challenges we face as a county and for senior homeowners living on fixed incomes, escalating housing costs can become an overwhelming burden. No one who has contributed a lifetime to this community should face displacement simply because the cost of staying in their home has outpaced their retirement income. I want to say clearly as the only Commissioner who proposed a responsible millage rate increase this year, I understand the concerns our residents have about rising property taxes. I hear them. I listen. And I know that even when increasing revenue is necessary to maintain county services, it can create real challenges for people, especially seniors on fixed incomes. That exact -- is exactly why this initiative matters. We cannot ask more of our residents without also making sure we are protecting those who are most vulnerable to this displacement. We've seen the city of Atlanta implement a similar property tax relief program, and it has already made a meaningful difference for its seniors residents. Those are our same senior residents. It is time for Fulton County to do the same, thoughtfully, responsibly, and in partnership with the organizations best positioned to help us get it right. This resolution directs our County Manager, along with Select Fulton and the Fulton County Development Authority, to design a program that provides real relief to senior homeowners who are cost burdened or at a risk of losing their homes. They are trusted partners in economic development, community investment, and strategic planning. Working together, they can build a program that not only stabilizes housing for seniors, but straightens the fabric -- strengthens the fabric of our neighborhoods as a whole. This resolution also calls for identifying or creating a nonprofit fund to support this work, ensuring that the program has a dedicated and sustainable source of revenue. And it requires a full framework, eligibility, structure, funding recommendations to come back to this Board no later than February 2026. That means transparency, accountability and an opportunity for public input. Ultimately, this initiative is about dignity. It's about honoring the people who poured their lives into the county, ensuring they are not pushed out during the very years when stability matters most. I'm proud to bring forward a measure that stands with our seniors, protects homeownership, and keeps our community whole -- communities whole. I urge my colleagues to join me in

supporting this important step toward housing stability and fairness for the residents who have given so much to all of us. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I support this resolution in theory. I just wonder if Select Fulton and the Development Authority are the correct vehicles in order to do this. And I wonder if it might just be better to ask our County Manager to do it. I do know that we just had two referendums that just passed, one in Atlanta, and one outside of Atlanta that will provide tax relief for our seniors. And that is the school portion for seniors, I believe over 65 or 70, they will no longer have to pay the school portion of the taxes. So I know that we do have that form of tax relief already coming to our seniors because that passed in Atlanta and it will apply to seniors in Atlanta. And it will also apply to seniors outside of Atlanta in Fulton County. So our seniors will have some tax relief coming. I'm happy to support additional tax relief for them. I just don't know, you know, it seems like, you know, I don't know if the Tax Commissioner and Chief Appraiser and Assessor might be -- needed to be involved in that. I think maybe, it may just be better to have the Manager pull together the specific parties who -- whoever they may be, and --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- towards that effort."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yeah, the resolution directs the -- it's written as, directing our County Manager. So it directs the County Manager along with Select Fulton and the Fulton Development Authority. But if the County Manager, if you're proposing that he oversee it and decide which departments, you know, belong inside -- or should contribute to it, if that includes the Tax Commissioner or whatever, whoever else you mentioned, I don't have a problem with that. I can make the amend --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess, what I'm asking is, like, I just don't know if Select Fulton and the Development Authority need to be specifically outlaid. I don't know that that falls within their realm. And maybe that's just my ignorance, right? And I know, maybe County Manager, you can help us if you, you know, see that that's something in there. But as long as it's the County Manager directing it --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- I think he can pull from whoever. I just don't know if -- if that is the role of Select Fulton or our Development Authority to be involved in that. But I definitely want to support relief for our seniors."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Well, I -- this resolution directs you, as the County Manager, to work with them. If you felt that that was not proper, you absolutely could change it. Or I could just take those entities out, and you could decide where, you know, those dollars, or the programmatic structure that we -- that needs to be put together, how it would be done. We just thought that was a revenue-generating source that could help to put this together. And so that's why we included it."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I'm just thinking out loud. I mean, they're principally business-recruitment oriented. So I don't know the -- how they could be relevant. But maybe I need to think about that some more. And then I guess, the other -- and Sharon could help me with this, is the -- if you could clarify, is the intent for us to find legislative relief for seniors in property tax, since that's principally what we levy against. And that's the way others have achieved relief for seniors. So it's -- or is it a different idea? I may not understand --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "No, it's not an idea to introduce any state legislation and go after. It's the idea to start a fund, and then to figure out how to fund it. So the County Manager can also help -- they helped us draft this, so they can also speak to it specifically. But Select Fulton and the Development Authority have unique relationships with many corporate entities that could then -- we could create a nonprofit where dollars could come into that --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I didn't understand --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- from those -- yeah, from those relationships. So we are specifically thinking that if we're going to go to the corporate world and ask for help to fund and keep this fund sustainable for years to come, we could use our partners on the inside to help develop those relationships to do that."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Now, I -- now, I think I -- thank you --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yes."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- for clarifying --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "So there's no legis -- I'm not trying to change any legislation. It's a program. And then how to fund it."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Then let us go back and huddle with both of them, because I didn't understand that until you just explained it."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. I focus a lot in terms of just property tax relief in a number of different measures, senior property tax included. And my view on

this, I've seen these funds, I don't think that is a sustainable or effective mechanism for providing stability of housing relief. I think it's episodic. I think it's hard to select for. It's self-limiting, you know, just in terms of what the fund is, et cetera. So I'm not in support of that approach. I have a different view of the way that this, you know, providing sort of persistent relief should look -- should look like. And I do feel like it's a legislative approach. I mean, we in Fulton County have a 100 percent senior exempts, 100 percent, right? So many of these residents that we may be talking about here may pay no Fulton County taxes, but they're paying city of Atlanta taxes, they're paying APS taxes, they're paying Fulton County Schools taxes. So the answer to that is, hey, Fulton County Schools, APS, city of Atlanta, other cities, how about you adopt the same exemptions that Fulton County Government has, right? That's -- that gets at it, right, versus, let's try to create a back-end way to, like, pay people's taxes, you know, for them. And that's the kind of thing, I mean like, we had floating homestead exemptions that we had put in place throughout the county. APS didn't adopt it. The state, you know, they had a state, statewide referendum, didn't adopt it, didn't opt in. But until you have those types of measures, you're not going to consistently address this issue. So I'm not supportive of the fund approach. I understand the intent behind it. But I don't think from a public policy perspective, that's the right way to go about it. I would rather see us get behind -- and look, I mean, we got people coming down here telling us what to do and what to fund, and other governments and that sort of stuff this morning. We tend to be a little bit more less of that approach with folks. But I think it's an opportunity to turn that back and say, hey, look, I mean, these are the type of exemptions that we've had in place, somehow we've survived, despite having all of those exemptions. And you know, why don't you consider them too? It would provide meaningful, consistent tax relief to these folks, and you could be doing it sort of across -- across the county, not just in some sort of episodic way. So that's, that's my -- you know, I appreciate you bringing it forward, but that's my view on it from a public policy perspective."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I have to say, I very much appreciate the attempt, and I also have -- agree to some extent, with what Vice Chair Ellis is saying, because I've taken a lot of calls, certainly from citizens during tax time in particular where they're really concerned about their assessment having gone up. And when you -- when I run the numbers for them and I look at their actual tax bills, our bill, to your point, Vice Chair Ellis, is zero. And the real impact is coming from the school tax, and to some extent, the city tax. And so on the one hand, I -- I'm torn a little bit because I agree with you that until those bodies decide to do something different, we're not really going to get to -- the citizens aren't really going to get the full benefit of what we already offer. So on the one hand, we should be sort of encouraging them to do those kinds of measures for their taxing jurisdictions. On the other hand, they haven't done that. And so we have seniors living in Fulton County currently, whether

the tax is coming us or elsewhere, who are struggling because the assessments have gone up and they don't have the same exemptions that they get from us on their school tax in particular. And so, you know, I am -- I struggle a little bit with what the right solution is. And I also, I don't know that there is really that -- but there might be some interesting tools the Development Authority could use in terms of -- you know, and again, I'm just -- this is just speculation and question, not saying this can be done. But, you know, perhaps when they're incentivizing a large company to come or something, there's some, you know, in order to get the tax incentive that they get to build here, maybe they contribute something to, you know, keeping seniors in their homes. I don't know exactly what that would look like. But I do see the -- where your ideas are coming from, Commissioner Ivory, on involving the Development Authority. I know Invest Atlanta does some interesting things in a variety of pots that we haven't really tackled in Fulton County. So I'm -- I'm sort of like, we've formed this -- is this like saying we're forming the fund now? Or is it getting -- is it figuring out if we can? Or who -- help me out where this gets us to."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "I'm not in the --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But I'm asking you in my time, so."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Okay. So, yeah. I mean, it's to design a program to look into it. When I started reading about all the other -- all the programs that other entities have, you know, I noticed that in Fulton County, we don't have sort of like a nonprofit-type fund where we can help people. And while it is true that we have a robust exemption for seniors, it not 100 percent of our seniors who pay no taxes in Fulton County. That -- I don't want that 100 percent to be portrayed as there are no seniors paying Fulton County taxes, because there are, and there are ones that are having trouble paying them. So I understand both approaches from a legislative perspective, and I understand your halfway-halfway. And I was just thinking that I speak to a lot of nonprofits, and even in my -- in my former careers, I have nonprofit organizations willing to give money, and they're looking for a great cause to give it to. And we have not necessarily set up that mechanism inside of Fulton County to have a pot where if, you know like, I don't know. I'm just going to really use an example of someone who gave a million dollars. But like, a Tyler Perry, who wanted to come in and take care of seniors and relieve their taxes. And he just did it through his own mechanisms. That's an example of money that we could have taken in, and done that, you know, because we directly have the information here. So I was really thinking of it from that way, very much, a community-based fund that we could create and give out to folks right around this time when taxes are due that couldn't quite get there, whether it was \$75 or \$5,000. So that's really what my intent was behind it."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay, thank you, Commissioner Ivory. I just -- I will say, I think it would be good for us to -- and I don't know if this exists, but maybe have

the data in some way to see kind of how many seniors that are on fixed incomes and financially challenged are in -- are having trouble paying their taxes. And I think one of the things I also learned during tax season, each of the years that I've been here, is that a lot of times just because we offer the exemptions doesn't mean they have them, because a lot of times they don't know. And with the senior exemption, they have to apply the first time, and a lot of them don't know they have to apply. And so I think maybe just seeing how many people qualify but have not applied, might be useful. Some additional education out to our senior residents that to check and make sure they have the senior exemption. The bills are also, I know by law, they are the way they are. But they are challenging to read and to tell if you're looking at your bill if you have certain exemptions. So -- and we've all done town halls, I know, to try to help people learn about that so -- but I think maybe we could stand to do a little bit more of that to try to lessen the problem. But thank you for clarifying where you were on this, Commissioner Ivory, and I'll be happy to support."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So the creation of a nonprofit fund? So you're not talking about having a line item in the budget? Is there something -- I mean maybe, Commissioner Arrington, I vaguely remember when we were talking about having an Arts Fund. How that's very difficult to set up, like, we can't just say, oh, we have a fund and you can donate to the fund. The Library has an external fund and Board that manages their fund, and that it's very, very hard to set up a fund that people can donate to."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I don't -- I don't think it's hard to set up the fund that people can donate to. But I don't know -- but the nonprofit would be separate from the county, right? That nonprofit would be a separate entity. And so, you know, I think it's easy to set up a nonprofit, and to set up a nonprofit fund, but that is a separate entity from the county, which we would not have any control over. But, you know, I'll -- you are right, I did bring that up with the Arts Council, because I would love to see -- to have an Arts nonprofit match the \$3 million that we give, and then we could give out 6 million to arts organizations. So I don't know, Commissioner Ivory, if maybe we could bring this back and look at it more holistically, you know, and not only accomplish this goal, but also set up something for the Arts. I think the seniors in Atlanta and Fulton are going to get the -- and Jessica, I don't know can help me out on the legislation that just passed, or that the voters, the referendum that the voters approved, as it regards to senior tax relief in Fulton County. My understanding was that it passed in Atlanta and outside of Atlanta."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And that's correct, Commissioner Arrington. And we will provide you summaries of those. They're not 100 percent exemptions like the Fulton County one, but they are much more --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "\$50,000 each or something?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes. And we've talked about this before. It's not the first time we've discussed the fact that the tax burden when you receive a tax bill with three taxing entities, the city, county, and school board, for most property owners, their school tax is about 50 percent or more of their tax bill. And the School System has been concerned about the full -- full exemptions that some - - both of our School Systems have been concerned about the full exemptions that Cobb County and others have, which have been very expensive for their School Systems. So this was a very significant step forward for school property tax relief. And we'll provide some additional information. I just talked with Mr. Conley, and we'll be doing some more education as part of that rollout."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. But your understanding is that there are additional \$50,000 home exemptions for seniors over 65 or 70 from the school portion of the taxes?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "There are two new referendum. I don't want to give any details, because I don't want to misspeak but -- but we will make sure to rollout that education, and make sure that you all have updated fact sheets about that."

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

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Marvin, just -- I know you still --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm sorry. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So -- and I also had the same concern about the Fulton Development Authority and Select Fulton running it as well. That could be -- they wouldn't run it. They would identify and facilitate the creation?"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "So what I -- what this is exactly is to figure it out. That's what this resolution is, not to say this is what it must be. This is directing the County Manager, along with Select Fulton and the Fulton in the Fulton County Development Authority, because we identified those two relationships to nonprofit money, to design a program to give us an idea what would look good to help seniors. So like, for example, if right now, a foundation wanted to give Fulton County \$50,000 for any seniors that couldn't meet the November 15th deadline or the October 30th deadline, whichever of their taxes that they couldn't meet, what -- what would we do with that money? We wouldn't be able to do anything with it."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We -- yeah, we can't accept the money --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Exactly, exactly."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And this wouldn't have to be --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "So is in order to be able to think about doing that, if they could think on it. And so if the County Manager comes back and says, you know what, it's not really the proper place to put it with Select Fulton, or it's not really the proper place to put it with the Fulton County Development Authority, it's actually the proper place to put it here, I think I should oversee it, then I'm just trying to get the conversation started for this possible program and how it could be funded."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I think --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "It doesn't have anything to do with the general fund."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Right, right. I think that --"

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "-- no money in or out of the general fund."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- I think since it's written, and I think there's some things that need to be worked on more, I'd like to make a motion to hold it if that's possible."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Substitute motion to hold. Is there a second? Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion fails for lack of a second. Commissioner Ivory, you have floor."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "I'd just like to call the question."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I'll second."

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Yeah, okay. There you go."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Call of the question."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on call the question. And the motion passes; four yeas, two nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Back to the main motion which was to approve."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion fails; three yeas, one nay, one abstention."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 5, County Manager's Renewal Items, **25-0865**, Finance request approval to renew an existing contract for annual audit services in the amount of \$313,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0866**, Request approval to renew an existing contract for printing and mailing water sewer bills in amount not to exceed \$491,644."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0867**, Information Technology request approval to renew existing contracts for cabling and physical security in the total amount not to exceed \$6,975,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, **25-0868**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval to renew existing contracts for janitorial services in a total amount not exceed \$1,306,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I have favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0869, Request approval to renew existing contracts for modular workstations and freestanding furniture countywide in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Justice and Safety, 25-0870, Police request approval to renew existing contract for armed and unarmed security services in an amount not to exceed \$17,375,401.16."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0871, County Manager, Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Mr. Manager."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, good afternoon. We'll be concise with this report, given that the budgets on -- budget recommendation is on next. I think you'll see from Steve's presentation, we're kind of in a steady state with the Justice Performance Report, with slightly over 3,000 folks at -- in the Fulton County facilities. One thing I think that does jump off the page is ACDC with population about 445 on average. And then monitors, ankle monitors at 572, that's 1,000 folks that are not in our direct facilities and are important components, we need to keep a -- keep an eye on that. We've also got the Diversion Center Report, which you asked for. It's in here monthly. It hasn't changed a lot. It's still about an average of five per day. I have asked Steve to go in and look at the billings that we're getting, and he'll report on -- he'll report on that. The Jail Blitz is nearing completion. I talked to Joe, just during the meeting, he'll discuss that with you. Of course, as it completes, that'll bring hundreds of beds back online. So that's important, certainly, to get people off the floor that may be existing or not have a -- not have a bed today. HHS North, as we described earlier, had a hardhat tour yesterday. I think it was a tremendous success, both from the public perception, the press, and then also city officials that showed up. It was really

heartening to see the Mayor of Alpharetta there, as well as most of the Alpharetta Council. We'll discuss today, the Feasibility Study for HHS South, so that companion facility in the South. I think you'll be pleased with the location which you gave us some direction on. Feasibility Study has confirmed that, now we need to move forward with further planning for that, to bring up a, again, light facility in the -- in the South. Of course, most of the day will be discussed -- or be spent on discussing the budget. We'll have some more comments about that when we get to that. So, Steve, let me turn it over to you."

**STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER:** "All right. Thank you, County Manager. We can advance the slide, the Justice System Presentation, go one more. All right. Good afternoon, Commissioners. Steve Nawrocki, Strategy Office. We'll start with our Justice System Score Card. Across most measures, you'll see there have been some improvements relative to last month, starting with our average length of stay. We did see a two-day decrease down to 49 days for the month of October. Looking at our unindicted population, we saw a 2 percent improvement down to 16 percent. The clearance rate for felony criminal cases saw a significant 12 percent increase up to 82 percent for the month. However, we did move in the wrong direction for felony cases disposed within 180 days, down 7 percent to 28 percent for the month. And finally, with felony cases disposed within 365 days, a 1 percent increase to 59 percent. Go to the next slide, please. One more. Looking here at our average monthly jail population, as the County Manager alluded to, we have seen a bit of a leveling off effect, with an average population of 2989 inmates for the month of October. Looking at one-day snapshot back on November 13th, we did have 3013 inmates, with 72 on the floor. Next slide, please. Go to the next. Next, we'll look at a one-day snapshot of the length of stay for currently incarcerated inmates in the jail. As of November 3rd, there -- of the 2967 total inmates, about 51 percent have been incarcerated for 90 days or less, with about 16 percent incarcerated for greater than one year. Our average duration is 206 days, again as of November 3rd, which does mark a four-day increase since last month. Go to the next slide. Next, is an update on our electronic county-funded monitoring program. Again, the County Manager made reference to this. We do currently have, or I should say, as of October 27th, 572 participants in the program. Can go the next slide to see the rolling participation. So looking over the past six months, but specifically between September and October, you'll see there is a decline of 70 monitors for the past month. However, we are holding steady, when looking at the far right two columns, we're staying consistent with those monitors that have been on less than and greater than one year at 16 and 40 percent respectively. I did also want to note, I believe this is in the recommended budget, or at least a mention of it. We are currently working with Superior Court Administration, who administers the overall program. And with Juvenile Court, looking at in 2026 expanding the program to Juvenile Court to provide monitors to them in addition to Superior Court, or those administered by Superior Court. And this can be done without any increase to the

budget. Next slide. Next, we have our Facility Utilization Update on the jail population. I just want to make clear that these numbers are of -- are as of last week. But as of the date of this report, 1,843 beds are in use at Rice Street, with 555 beds offline for either scheduled blitz repair or maintenance. And then 240 beds are reserved for classification or specialized custody. And I won't steal his thunder, but I think Mr. Davis in his report, has a significant update on the beds offline. So good news to come there. Next slide. We'll move on to our inmate analysis to the jail population. About 72 percent or 2,130 inmates, as of November 5th, are either indicted or accused or both indicted and accused, while 466 or 16 percent remain unindicted. And then we can go to the next slide looking at the aging. Here you'll see a breakdown of the 466 unindicted inmates. In the far left column, the 324 represents about 70 percent of all inmates unindicted within the jail population. And what's most noteworthy for this month is that there are no inmates that are unindicted for greater than one year. So very good progress there. Go to the next slide. And finally -- thank you. We'll end with a update on our Diversion Center utilization. Again, this report is -- or this portion of the report is intended to provide greater visibility into the actual usage of the Diversion Center, and just another reminder that it is Grady that is the operator, not County Administration. So looking at this first set of data we have for the month of October, and we're looking at diversions by policing jurisdiction. We did have 159 diversions for the month of October across ten different jurisdictions. We're getting most with Atlanta at 61 percent, and then followed by our Fulton County Fulton Police Department at 17 percent. In all, we had four other cities with diversions in addition to MARTA, Georgia Tech, and then Emory's Midtown Hospital. Also want to call out, and this is new for this month, pulling from the standing report we get from Grady. Of the 159 diversions we had for the month of October, 24 diversions had multiple drop offs from officers for the month. And go to the next slide. We'll stay here with our October data, looking now at an overview of those 159 diversions across charges. We are consistent with last month, criminal trespass and disorderly conduct were the two great -- or were the greatest number of the divertible charges brought to the Diversion Center. And not for this month, but hopefully for next month, speaking with Grady leadership, we want to expand this -- this charges report and show which services or programs that individuals were connected with per charge, so you can kind of get a better idea of what those outcomes are as someone is moving through the Diversion Center and what that process looks like. So we're going to try to have that included in our December report next month. We can go to the next slide. And now we're going to shift to a view of the year to date data showing, since the Diversion Center opened earlier this year in January, in total, including in the month of October, we've had 1,059 diversions of the Diversion Center. Looking to the left top chart, you'll see 2025 diversions year to date. You can see how that 159 in October represents a high water mark for diversion since the center opened in January. And then similarly, looking just below that in the average daily census, with five for the month of October that matches a high point of June earlier this year. We'll

shift over to the pie chart on the right side, with the 2025 discharges here to date. So the categorizing why individuals were discharged. 72 percent did complete the programming, with another 6 percent that were discharged to hospital. So that 78 percent does represent a successful diversion. Then of course, we have 21 percent overall that discharged itself, meaning they left before programming was complete. And then 1 percent was an admin discharge, where they had to be removed from the Diversion Center. I'll make one final comment or two final comments real quick before closing. Just for awareness, we do have the next Justice Policy Board meeting scheduled for December 15th. I know Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, well, she's not here, has encouraged attendance from her colleagues and staff. And then speaking with Diversion Center Justice Policy Board staff, I believe they're targeting kind of midpoint of Q1 to come back to the Board and provide a full report out on the Diversion Center, so a holistic view. We saw this a couple of months ago, led by Judge McBurney. And so this would be a reprisal of that. And then the final item, and the County Manager alluded to this, and it's not in the report. And so I'm going to have to read off some numbers here, because we just got them on Monday or Tuesday this week. But I think last month, there were questions around what the burn rate and how much had been expended for the Diversion Center to date, and comparing that against the \$2.5 million investment. So I'm happy provide this information to the Commissioners and anyone else that needs it after. But we have processed invoices up to September in an amount total of about 1.6 million. So January to September, those invoices have been processed, paid about 1.6 million. That does equate to about 182, \$183,000 burn rate per month. And so if you take that monthly burn in forecast out for the rest of the year, that would put us at about 2.2 million of the 2.5 million that was funded for the Diversion Center. So again, I'll provide you these numbers. I know you don't have to look at them, but that just kind of gives a better view on what our investment has been for 2025. And with that, I can take any questions."

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No responses.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "None."

**STEVE NAWROCKI, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER:** "All right, thank you, sir."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "All right, thanks, Steve. Mr. Davis will give you an overview on the jail maintenance program."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Joseph Davis, Real Estate and Asset Management. So here on the first slide, we have an overview of the jail blitz in which we are reporting that nine of 11 housing units are complete. It's actually my pleasure to report that as of this morning, we're in final

closeout of 7 South, which will release an additional 204 beds. We fully expect, based on the minor list of items to be completed, to be done with this floor this week. So that will then allow us to turn 204 beds back over to the Sheriff's Office, which will significantly impact the available bed space in the jail. We're also, as we have been completing 7 South, we've been also simultaneously working on 3 South. The completion of 7 South will allow us to focus our full attention on 3 South. Based upon walk-throughs on Monday and Tuesday by both our vendors as well consultant EMSI, we project about two to three weeks to be complete with what's remaining on 3 South which will allow us to complete, as promised, Phase I of the blitz in December of this year. Our next phase will be going on to housing units 6 North and 6 South. They were originally part of the blitz schedule. However, due to facility needs, needs of the Sheriff's Office, we swapped 3 North and South, which are the medical floors, for 6 North and South, moving those to the second phase. So we'll be starting hopefully 1st of January, if not late December. The holidays tend to make that a little bit problematic. But we'll be starting 6 North and 6 South as soon as we're done with 3 South. Next light, please. This is an overview of the locations where we have open beds in the jail that are beds that are out of the service due to maintenance repairs, blitz activity, that number totals 555. As I mentioned previously, the completion of 7 South will return 204 beds back to use. And we anticipate releasing those beds first of next week. Next slide, please. For the month of October, we received 1512 corrective maintenance work orders, of which 1,006 were completed within the actual calendar month of October. We also completed 281 of those October work orders in the month of November, for an effective completion rate of 85 percent. A grand total of 1567 corrective maintenance work orders were completed in the month of October. That represents work orders, regardless of what month they were initially created in, grand total of work 1567 work orders. We completed 29 -- 292 of 327 preventive maintenance work orders, representing a completion rate of 89 percent. We have a total open work order count of 1,213, of which 511 of those work orders are in the upcoming blitz area of 6 North and South. The tables below on the bottom left gives you a three-month overview so that you can compare the work order numbers and performance over the last three months, beginning in August through October. And then the table on the bottom right essentially tracks our work order backlog by month. We did see a slight increase from September to October. However, as I mentioned, our completion of 7 South and moving into 6 North and South will significantly impact the number of open work orders moving forward. Next slide, please. As you are aware, of the Board approved \$3.2 million for several critical repairs and/or upgrades. The fire alarm upgrade is actually progressing extremely well. We initially projected that project to take 365 calendar days. However, based upon current progress, we'll be complete with that project in the month of April 2026. We've completed the padded cells at the South Annex. We've completed the kitchen equipment replacement that was approved. We are still holding on the full laundry equipment replacement. However, based upon our vendors recommendation,

we have decided to replace two washers at the main jail. They will be installed, in fact, I just received an update yesterday that December 21st date is a little too far out. I'm being advised that they will be installed by the end of next week, excuse me, before the holiday. We also are moving forward with our elevator modernization. The bid due date is December the 4th. It's a very complex solicitation in terms of the specifications. We received a great deal of questions from prospective bidders. And based upon that, the decision was made, in conjunction with Purchasing to extend the due date out to December the 4th. And that should be the final slide. Any questions?"

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "None."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "Thank you, sir."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "All right. The next section, again, which you've been long awaited, is a Feasibility Study for HHS South. I'll turn it over to Dr. Roshell."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO:** "Thank you, Dick. If we could just go to the next slide. I think that captures the entire essence of the update today. So Commissioners, I'm pleased to provide an update on the HHS South Feasibility Study. This will be a county-funded asset that will deliver health and human services in South Fulton in a similar fashion as to the new facility that will open or be completed in December in North Fulton. Today, I just want to provide a brief update on the three phases of the feasibility study and where we are. Next slide, please. So the first phase of this study has already been completed. Sizemore is our partner to complete the entire study, and they have completed the market analysis. The market analysis points to the trends and the socioeconomic data as well as comparative analysis on facilities that provide an array of health and human services in the south. The study, very high level, has revealed what we learned in the Project Care Study, that these types of services are much needed in the south, and that there's certainly a gap in the ability to access health and human services in the south. That component of this, of the Phase I has been completed. Phase II is the -- another element of feasibility where we will look at the specific types and levels of service. So while we're modeling this program after HSS North, this study will tell us whether there are some specific and unique services that need to be offered in the South based on the data. The timetable for completion of that component, task two, is November through January of 2026. And then the final task under Phase I is the needs assessment. We'll look at project cost, program cost in this component of the analysis. Phase II of the analysis begins in December, and that is a site evaluation. We did take the recommendation from the Board to prioritize the owned land across from

the South Service Center as the priority location. We did just that, we did, however, eliminate that there are no standing facilities that would have accelerated this program or process. And so now that we will be moving to the site evaluation, it will be only dedicated to the land that Fulton County owns directly across the street from the current South Service Center. That evaluation will look at how developable -- how we can develop -- if it is a developable -- develop -- if it can be developed across the street, if there are any barriers to development. And so that is the -- the goal of that element of the study. We will then move to Phase III, which will create an enhanced schematics for us to build out the construction cost. So we're well underway with the study. As I said, task one of Phase I has been completed, and our contractor Sizemore has provided a full schedule. So we will plan to bring back to the Board the design cost, which is the construction cost in the beginning of the third -- second quarter in 2026. And we will provide an update for you on the site evaluation during a Board meeting in January of 2026 as well. Mr. Chairman, that concludes the update on the Feasibility Study."

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. This is really not an update. But anyone who either wants to go after this meeting or schedule some time for Joe Davis, Tim and others to show you around the tenth floor, it's come along quite nicely. These are my pictures from walking through that you'll see on this page. Again, you can tell where offices are now get a look and feel of how it's going to be. And I think, Joe, what's your projected time frame for move in."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.:** "We were looking to complete the work within the next three weeks. So right before Christmas, we're looking at move in."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "So Mr. Chairman, since some have already left, maybe we won't do it today, but we could organize the time, or you can just do it individually, if you'd like to go through there. Just want to call it your attention. And I think without any other questions about current month financials, that will conclude our report."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom page 6, **25-0872**, Finance presentation of the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Operating Budget."

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We do have a presentation, Mr. Chairman, if we could get that pulled up, please."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You want to start, Mr. Manager, or CFO?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, no, sir, only, you should have a paper copy of what we're going to go through. I think we're pleased to present this. Obviously, it took a lot of work with the departments, and we want to express appreciation to them. We've provided you information, now, I believe on the departmental presentations. Some of you sat through those, and I think those were helpful. We're pleased to be able to present a budget recommendation at 8.87, the current millage rate. For continuing operations, we do believe it will require incremental expense and revenue to deal with the consent order, so we'll be looking for guidance for you from that over the next month or so. And then, obviously, we have to put both of those things together before the -- before the budget is finally approved. We anticipate giving you the Strategic Plan draft at the end of December. And then subsequently with the budget being approved, one of the meetings in January, we would bring back at your direction, the Strategic Plan and the long-term financial plan for any further discussion, adjustments, and hopefully approval. And so with that, we're prepared, as we normally do, having provided you the draft, the budget recommendations on the 15th to discuss this today and at each meeting subsequently. Kudos to Sabrinna who spent many a -- well, certainly I know spent a Saturday night and a Sunday night up late on this. Great thanks to her. Sharon, during the course of a loss in her family, also paying attention to this. And obviously Ray, who did a yeoman's job on the long-term plan as well as with this plan. So Mr. Chairman, we're ready to discuss this."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I'm just waiting on the presentation to be pulled up. The presentation should say FY2026 2026 Proposed Budget. Thank you. And you can go to the next slide, please. The first slide that we have in the presentation is a summarization and a review of our '25 general fund projections and the '26 proposed budget. So what you see before you is in the middle column, the 2025 projections, we have made a few updates to these since the midyear. Most notable on the revenue side, we increased our revenue protection by about \$3 million. And on the expenditure side, we've increased that by about \$4 million. So we began the year with 240 million in fund balance. We expect to receive about 933 million in revenue, providing one point -- 1,173,000,000 in available resources. We expect to spend 940, and that should leave us with 233 million in fund balance to carry forward to 2026. So for the 2026 proposed budget, we are proposing 996 million in revenue. That is a 7 percent increase over the '25 projection. We proposing 1,053,000,000 expenditure budget, which is a 12 percent increase over our projected '25 expenditures. And we are projecting a 176 million ending fund balance. That fund balance well meet the Board's fund balance reserve requirement of 16.67 percent of budgeted

expenditures. So that's a general summary of the '26 budget, very high-level. Next slide, please. All of our appropriated funds are identified here. So the total proposed budget for all funds for 2026 is 1 billion, 441.7 million. The general fund is the largest component of that at 1,053,000,000 followed by the Airport Fund -- Airport Fund at 8 million; our Water Revenue Fund at 181.4; Water Renewal Fund at 19 million; Fulton Industrial Development Fund at 30 million; the Animal Services Fund at 13.2; the 911 Emergency Services fund, 9.6 million; the General Obligation Bond Fund, 15.6 million; the Risk Management Fund, 88 million; and our Special Appropriations Funds at 23.8 million. Next slide, please. This slide simply provides the Board with a breakdown by our focus area across all funds. So in the Health and Human Services area, we would be appropriating 157.6 million across all funds; Justice and Safety, 544.2 million across all funds; Open and Responsible Government, 297 million across all funds; Infrastructure and Economic Development, 382 across all funds; and Arts and Libraries, 60.9 million across all funds. Next slide, please. Since we tend to focus the majority of our conversation on the general fund during budget season, this slide is designed to show you how the general fund budget is constructed. So again, we start with our projected fund balance, beginning fund balance of 232.7 million. We have the 996 million in expected revenue, which breaks down as noted in the column, 32 million of that is incremental property tax, specifically aligned to the expenses associated with the consent order. 815 million in taxes that would be aligned to the 8.87 millage rate; 32 million in local option sales tax; and then 114 million from all other revenue sources. In the next column is how the expenditure budget breaks down, the 1,053,000,000 expenditure budget, with 498.5 dedicated to Justice and Public Safety; 201.5 to Open and Responsible Government; 157.4 to Health and Human Services; 150.6 to Infrastructure and Economic Development; and 44.8 towards Arts and Libraries. And then the ending fund balance at the 175.6, which again complies with the Board's fund balance reserve requirement. Next slide, please. This slide gets into a little more detail around how the revenue sources are developed for the general fund budget. It's funded from property taxes, including an overlay tax for consent order items, local option sales tax, all other -- all other revenues, and then the fund balance that's in excess of the minimum required fund balance. So the assumptions for taxes include the operational budget outside of consent order items being balanced to a flat millage rate of 8.87, a .3, a projected .39 mils overlay to support consent order items that have been initially identified in the proposed budget; a 3.11 percent billable growth rate in the digest. This amount aligns to the billable digest growth that we experienced in the 2025 digest. And then a 95.2 percent collection rate related to 2026 property tax collections. Next slide, please. I've already talked about the additional tax revenue, that's the overlay millage rate for consent related items. And then for the local option -- excuse me, local option sales tax, we have increased the expectation for local option sales tax to comply with the change in the distribution certificate in 2026. We will move to a 8.75 percent distribution up from 7.15 percent in 2025. And we have projected, I believe it's a 3

percent growth in the local option sales tax base. So we'll get that plus the increase in the distribution percentage. Next slide, please. All other revenues that includes fines and fees, court-related revenue, interest income, and direct cost reimbursement, commission on property tax collections, and then, of course, the use of fund balance above the required 16.67 percent minimum fund balance. Next slide, please. So with that revenue, what are we funding in the '26 proposed budget? Based on the recommendation that has been presented, we will be refer -- we will be funding our recurring operational needs. We'll meet our required pension obligations for our closed defined benefit pension plan. We will meet our dirt -- our debt service payments, including a \$10 million set aside for jail construction costs. The change from previous years, we did not apply an attrition factor. So all positions are currently fully funded. We did, however, in order to balance out the budget, apply a 1 percent reduction to all departments across the board in lieu of that attrition. So departments will have to spend a little bit of time determining how they're going to absorb that 1 percent reduction. And whether or not they will choose to use it to -- or choose to offset it by holding positions through the, you know, through some portion of the year, it will be their decision on that this year, instead of us automatically applying an attrition factor. Next slide, please. We've provided for the 2026 Elections, funding for election cycles at 27 million. That is in line with what the 2024 election -- actual election costs were. It is down significantly from the previous budget amount for Elections. So we've aligned it more to actual spending. We provided \$3 million in resources to support the two new State Court Judgeships that were authorized during this year's legislative session. Those resources will be spread between State Court, the Solicitor General, Public Defender, and for security for the two Judges. We've provided for continuation of several programs, several behavioral-health based programs, but in particular, \$2.9 million for our school-based therapy program. We've provided 1.3 million for the Emerging Adult Reentry and Permanent Supportive Housing Programs; and 400,000 for Pre-Arrest Diversion and continued the \$2.5 million support for the Diversion Center. We've also provided incremental operational support for the opening of 4700 North Point Parkway, which includes net new services, senior services, being the primary that new service at that location, as well as providing for a customer service desk be located there. And then funding DREAM's budget to cover the facility operating costs that will be incurred with the facility now built out and occupied on a daily basis. Next slide, please. We also provided for a cost-of-living increase for Fulton County employees equal to 3.45 percent. That would be effective with the first pay date in March. And the amount for that that we set aside was 12.5 million. We've continued funding for our Community Service Program, as well as increasing the funding level for Contracts for Services in the Arts and Culture Department to now be at the level of \$3 million. We've continued to provide funding to outsource inmates as necessary. And to continue the ankle monitoring program, a total of 18.6 million, with 2.2 million of that being provided for ankle monitoring. And of that amount, 2 million is for adult ankle monitoring, and

200,000 is for Juvenile Court for a program that they are looking to initiate. We also provided funding for our contribution, our operating contribution to Grady Hospital, sufficient to cover that plus the current debt service payments that we have contractually obligated ourselves to, in addition to the monies that will be necessary to fund the debt service associated with the freestanding emergency department. Which we will be bringing forward in the month of December, the documentation necessary for that bond issue to take place. Next slide, please. The '26 general fund budget includes continued -- a continuation of the Risk Management fund contribution at the same level as last year, which is \$10 million. And that is incremental to the normal contribution into the Risk Management fund. We've also continued the resources that were originally provided as part of the Jail Bridging Program, which is incremental costs for inmate food service, inmate health, security staffing, and communication plan. We've provided funding for our pay-as-you-go capital planned, as well as the physical security plan that the Board approved a few years ago. It had some annual recurring costs associated with that, so we've ensured that we've covered those costs. We've provided funding for the new Enterprise Lease Program, Countywide Vehicle Replacement Program. And then we also funded about 13.4 million in enhancements that were contractual, regulatory, statutory, or inflationary, or cyber security betterment related. And then we had a number of enhancement requests that were received that we did not have resources to fund. And those will be considered for recommendation if we have any additional under runs coming out of 2025. And if you go to the next slide, we have sort of tranced those out. And these should align with the tranches that are identified in the -- in the budget message. I think we do have to make a revision or two in one of the stacks. We had some lines that got crossed in that final version, so we need to make some revisions there and resubmit that to the Board. But these are the balance of the enhancements that we were unable to fund. In the Sheriff's column of the 144.5 million, we did not reduce that for the items that were identified as consent order related that we have made a recommendation for. So that column would have some items in it that we have already provided a -- or recommended a means to support. But we wanted to show the full ask in this presentation. And then we did a millage rate calculation so -- for each, so if we were to fully fund all that was requested, that would require about 2.52 mills to meet that total requirement. Next slide, please. With regard to the -- a few highlights from some of the other funds that are appropriated and included in the recommendation, the Airport Fund reflects the funding for base budget for Public Works. The -- are operations at the airport that is the aviation, air, fire and rescue response unit that will be coming online here in the very near future. And then we've also provided for expansion from funds available and fund balance in the Water and Sewer System Fund. We've provided for all of the necessary operating expenses associated with the operation of our many water -- Wastewater Treatment Plants and our Joint Venture Water Treatment Facility. And that fund does now reflect the rate increase that the Board recently approved as well, as well as all funds necessary to meet our required

debt service -- debt service payments for the Water and Sewer System. Next slide, please. For the Fulton Industrial District, we have provided resources for all of the agencies that provide services to the remaining portion of Unincorporated Fulton County. And we have, for the most part, fully appropriated the available fund balance. So if there are other economic development efforts that we need to undertake in area, we will be able to do so. And then in the Animal Services Fund, that is fund that we set up specifically to account for the operation of the Animal Shelter, and that is supported by the underlying agreements that we have with each of the municipalities in the county. It does reflect the built-in 3 percent increase in those agreements. It also reflects the upcoming contractual changes that we intend to present to the Board with the current service provider, and the movement of the removal of field services from LifeLine and establishment of that function within Fulton County Police Department. Next slide, please. So we always like to let you know where we're at in the process. And you know, we did submit the budget to you on the 15th, maybe the really early morning of the 16th. And we are making our formal presentation to the Board today. At the next Board meeting, we will hold the one legally required public hearing for the '26 proposed budget. And that will set us up then to be able to approve the budget at either the first or second meeting in January. The Manager did mention in his comments earlier that we will have an item on the agenda for budget discussion at each of the meetings in December. It's not reflected here on the schedule, but I did want to mention that. And with that, Mr. Chairman, we will turn it back over to you for any comments from the Board."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madam CFO. Commissioner Arrington, followed by Commissioner Ivory."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Madam CFO, thank you for a very thorough, comprehensive budget, proposed budget proposal. I just got a few questions. I think there was, I saw something where you said there's an assumption -- yes, okay, what page was this? Flat millage rate of 8.87, and I think what you mean when you say that is that the current millage rate is 8.87, and that we're not assuming a higher additional rate, millage rate so that the millage rate will remain flat. And those are the assumptions that we're using here."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Arrington, we took two approaches with regards to the millage rate. During our discussion with the Board at the first meeting in November, the -- some of the feedback that we received was that we -- you all wanted us to try to stay as close to the 8.87 millage rate as we could. So for anything that was not associated with compliance with the consent order, we tried to balance that to what an 8.87 millage rate would generate, assuming the growth in the digest and the collection rate assumptions that we've -- that we've built in, and that we would overlay an incremental millage rate in order to fund the consent order

items. And that incremental millage rate is currently estimated at .39. So the total millage rate would be more than 8.87. But the way that we tried to balance it out was if it wasn't related to the consent order, we tried to massage everything and get it into what an 8.87 rate would produce. And then we incremented above that to cover consent."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I'm -- here's my question, and really the answer you just gave really exacerbates my question and my confusion. How is the millage rate flat if it's 8.87 to 8.87, yet Contracts for Services is enhanced, and it's 3 million to 3 million? You can't have both. You can't say the millage rate is flat at 8.87, and we're going to keep it at 8.87 so it remains flat, and simultaneously, at the same time, call the 3 million for Contracts for Services an enhancement, although it's remaining flat at 3 million. And that is exacerbated by the answer that you just gave, that there's an additional .39 mills for Consent. So really, the millage rate is enhanced and it's increased. And so you simply -- you've done a great job. You've done a great job on the budget. But that is -- that is problematic to call one thing flat and something else enhanced when, in fact, it's the opposite. The 3 million is flat, the millage rate is enhanced. That -- that is problematic in presenting it in that fashion. It's confusing and misleading to us and to the public to do that. Please don't do that. Please don't mislead and confuse us and the public like that. The other question that I have is, I think it was on slide 13. And our slides aren't numbered, although the ones up there are numbered. But -- and I guess this leads back to what you were saying about maybe the .39 millage rate -- I get -- no, no, go back, go back, go back. I'm trying to understand how -- how the Sheriff is in a column outside of Justice and Safety. If the Sheriff isn't Justice and Safety, then I don't know what is. Maybe that consent order, and maybe that's, you know, maybe a better way to label that column. I see that there's an asterisk there next to Sheriff. But I don't see anything that would indicate what that asterisk indicates. But, yeah, I -- I mean, if the Sheriff isn't Justice and Safety, then I don't know what is. So maybe you can help me understand that, and then also maybe help me understand how 3 million to 3 million is not flat yet, 8.87 plus .39 is flat, because that does not compute. Neither of those compute. So please help me understand those two things."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, with regard to the Sheriff, Commissioner Arrington, his requests were so significant that we felt like we should show them separately. Yes, he is part of Justice and Safety. All 144.5 million of his request is not consent related. So a portion of what he requested was identified as consent order related, a portion of it was not. But we felt like, again, because the request was so substantial that we should show it separately. And I believe the first year that we had it in tranches, we received some -- some comments about we included it all together and didn't break it out separately. So that is the -- my explanation for why the Sheriff is held out separately from Justice and Safety. The asterisk, I believe, was intended to have the footnote on it that the 144 did include the consent items in it,

inclusive of what we have recommended within -- within the budget. And so there -- there should have been -- I'm not sure if it got cut off of the -- the slide when we copied it over. But there should have been a little there, and I apologize for that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No. But it would -- thank you. It's not a big deal. But it would have been helpful, because I think, you know, I'm going back to my -- my 8.87 and the .39, because I still need explanation. But it would be helpful to have the .39 consent order identified as part of 1.77, right? It would be helpful to know what component of that is -- is for the consent order. But you know, words, words are important. And people and budgets and the public can be manipulated by the words that we choose. And so when we choose to label something flat that isn't flat and label something enhanced that isn't enhanced that -- that seems to push an agenda. It seems to push an agenda, right? Because if 3 million to 3 million is flat all day long. 8.87 plus .39 is not flat. And so I don't know what that agenda is or what it's attempting to be pushed. But it seems to be a deliberate attempt to mislabel these items. Please help me understand that."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, let me take responsibility for that. It's definitely not an attempt to mislabel. What it was an attempt to do is show as clearly as possible what can be funded or what is required to fund continuing operations. And what I mean by that is everything that we normally do, the consent order and the process that we have used, as you know and all of you know, has been a case-by-case basis that has been vetted through a process that complies or is heavily reliant upon, I should say, with advice from the County Attorney, input from the monitor to the degree that that's appropriate, and approved by the Board on a case -- on an incremental, if you will, during 2025 basis. There we had some reserves that we called against. So it doesn't -- it did not impact the millage rate because we had some reserves at the beginning of the year. So we took that same fundamental approach. And maybe, if this is confusing, of course, we can change it for the next presentation. But we took the same approach to say, if it's the will of the Board, we'll talk about the continuing operations as one thing, and then everything that is gone through that process that we've been doing now, you know, for almost 12 months, and we'll call that incremental. In the end, of course, when the final decision is made, it's one millage rate, there's not -- there's not two millage rates. So to your point, it then all comes together. And if it's not helpful to think about it in those two ways, then we can certainly change it. And partly, maybe this would have been better explained, you know, when we were trying to meet one-on-one, we got, some thought that was a good way to do it, some did not think it was a good way to do. And again, we're here to hear your direction."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So thank you for that. And I don't want to belabor the point. I think I may -- I think I made my point. And I think you guys received it, right? But I don't know if I want the budget prepared on what you guys think the will

of the Board is. I want you to prepare the budget as the budget is, and then we will tell you, after the budget is prepared, what the will of the Board is. I don't know, I mean, the budget is the budget, right? And the will of the Board is the will of the Board. And you know, I don't know. We -- you guys have done a great job, as always, preparing a budget, you know. But I think when you're looking to what you think the will the Board is, you adjust the budget accordingly. And I would just rather see the raw, uncut budget, and then let the Board decide after that, right? When I guess it's kind of hard not to consider what you know the Board is already voted on when you're -- when you're doing that. But to me, the budget should be the numbers. What are the numbers, and the numbers, and the numbers only, not -- not the policies and this and that. The policies and this and that will come later. To me, the budget should be raw. You know, we -- I've said this before, right? I've all -- I said for almost ten years now that I think we do ourselves a disservice because we -- I mean, you know, for the first ten years, everybody got -- was getting like a 5 percent cut per year, right? Maybe it was only six or seven years. But there was a 5 percent budget cut. And we base our -- our department and budgets based off of what the budget was last year, or what the amount of money they received last year. And I think that is backwards. I think we need to -- what is the number that it takes to run this department. I just think we -- I think we approach this whole budget thing backwards. And I don't think that the numbers that we include in there are the real numbers. And I think that's why these people ask for -- I'm not even going to call them enhancements, because I don't -- I don't, you know, I think that's part of the trap. That's why these people ask for budget increases. And they've been asking for the same budget increases. Do we have the numbers on how much they've been asking for for the last ten years? I mean, I want to see how much each of the departments have asked for for the ten years versus how much they got. They've been asking for this money for the last ten years. I don't think that's an enhancement. They've been underfunded for the last ten years. And again, I just think we're doing ourselves a disservice. It's getting late. I'll stop there."

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

**COMMISSIONER IVORY:** "Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. Thank you, County Manager and Madam CFO. I want to begin by acknowledging the significant work that you have done and in the Finance team as a whole have put into this proposal. I truly want to be able to support your work. But I need to be clear in saying that I cannot vote for a budget that I cannot confidently explain to the taxpayers who fund it. And that's how I feel right now. My constituents deserve to know how their money is being allocated, and right now I simply do not have the level of information needed to speak with them -- to them with some certainty. So the budget did come -- the budget book that you gave to us came out on Saturday in the wee morning hours, and my team and I have combed through it for the last 72 hours. And then this book, this book, which I have been asking for for a month in a digital

format, was handed to me less than 24 hours ago in paper. This comes from the Share Fulton Access site where the department submitted their budgets, to which I've been asking for a link and a password to which I still do not have to this day. I'm not really sure why I don't have it, but I don't have it. And so I'm going to comb through this, but I will need time to do that, to fully understand it. I -- I know that we have three more meetings to be able to discuss this before the January meeting, the second meeting in January, where we will vote on it. And so I am confident that I will be able to get through this information and explain it to my constituent -- constituents, and come to a decision on how I will vote on it by that time. But I'm going to just emphasize a little bit of what Commissioner Arrington said that I don't quite understand the way our methodology is here about doing of the budget. When -- when most people do a budget, whether that is anywhere in the world of doing a budget, you look at what amount of money you need in order to deliver the services, a great level of service to the constituents. But that's not what we do. And I even in the meetings asked, let me see what that is, present this, but also present what would be the amount of money it would take to effectively run Fulton County. And I have not gotten that number. I have not gotten a presentation with that number. Instead, we've gotten a presentation with what we could do to deliver services, staying inside of a millage rate that has been flat for more than a decade. I don't know anywhere in America or any other place that you don't need more money to deliver a better quality of services over a 15-year period or a 12-year period. Okay, that's just our basic services, not emergencies or let's move to the consent decree. Those expenses far exceed what we have underneath the 8.87. So just if we were going to provide a level of service that was the same that we provide, we know it costs more because things cost more, so it would have to go up. Even if we consider a spike in the digest, it's not enough for the price of things, of what they cost today. So that confuses me. Whether or not intended so or whether or not directed to by a certain number of people on this Board, the implication and perception is that this is a political move to keep the millage rate flat, to simply be able to say, we kept the millage rate flat. So I heard you say we were massaging everything. I never want you to do that. I never want you to say this is a rate, and we've got to massage everything so that we can stay inside of this rate no matter what factors are going on around us and in an increase in the market levels of anything. I know that the cost of the things that Joe needs to do -- to run DREAM are higher. I know that the prices of all the things that contractors with this county need to charge us is higher. So if it creates a perception -- and I even asked you, County Manager, when you told me -- when I said, why are you doing the budget based on 8.87? Why wouldn't you just give the number that we need the millage rate to be to provide the service? And you said, I've been directed by the Board. And I said, who? And you said, members of the Board. Not me, not Commissioner Arrington. So I mean, I think it has a political nature to it, intended or unintended, that is scary for our constituents. Scary for them to think that we are doing their budget based on a political agenda. Because that should not be the case with the

budget. Now, the consent decree, the consent decree cost -- costs are not even what has been calculated be .39. That's just an assumption of what we're spending right now. We know certain expenses that we don't have the cost yet of are coming in. So that's not real. It's going to go much higher than that. But we're again trying to create a perception to the public that it's an expense over here. It's a general fund expense. It falls some in DREAM, it falls some in the Sheriff's. It falls in different line items that exist already. So it is not separate from the 8.87. We are not, everybody, we are not going to be able to keep the millage rate flat. We are not. Point 39 plus 8.7 already isn't magically 8.87. So right now, we are saying it right here, the millage rate is not going to remain flat. In fact, it may even go up more than that. In fact, a presentation that I was -- sat in, that you all presented, had a possibility of it being 10.1 in 2026. In the ten-year forecast, it had 10.1 2026. That finally started me thinking, great, let's look at where the increases had to happen. So I'm going to comb through this entire department book, and we're going to come to the end with most of the departments asking for things in this large binder that they just not going to get it again. And I just -- it's a little demoralizing for the departments. It's hard to meet with them and when they say, what is going -- you know, what is -- for us to say, well, they're just -- there's not, there's zero left to give for you to do the things that you've been asking for. It's not an effective way to run a government. It is not poison or terrible to say we need more money to provide this level of service that you, our constituents deserve. That's fine to say that, things go up. So I'm not asking for any answers from you right now. I know we're going to meet again and again and again, and I thank you for that. I thank you for your willingness to take my calls to meet all the time. And we will meet again about this. We will meet again about this. We will meet about my notes. We will meet, meet, meet, meet, because that's -- you know, that that's what I love to do. But I just would like for us to be honest with constituents, with our taxpayers, and say, we don't have enough money to meet the emergencies that we have, and how are we going to resolve it? Because they want to know, how are we going to fix the jail sooner rather than later? How are we going to provide for seniors, provide for veterans, continue with the arts, all of these things that we are demand -- build a hospital. And then there's a second hospital they want us to build as well. We haven't even started discussing that, which we get phone calls about all the time. So I just wanted to say that I -- I just think we do ourselves a disservice by continuing to spend and put a narrative out there that is not real. And thank you for your work, and we will talk more about this over and over again. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you. Thank you for all your work that you guys have done, and thank you for meeting with me one on one and answering a lot of my questions. I feel like a lot of it has been answered. A question I have to you is, why set a millage rate if we don't try to confine a budget around a millage rate? Not that we can

successfully, but what's the purpose of setting a millage rate if we're not going to try to target that millage rate? I don't know if you can answer."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That was last year's millage rate, is the answer."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And we're going to set next year's millage rate in August. So we have eight months of next year that we should be confined over a millage rate. Now that last four months, we can reset one based on the consent decree. We should know better, hopefully better what we're going to be required to send spend on if we need to adjust the millage rate. And it looks like we're going to have to adjust the millage rate; is that correct?"

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Also, I want to point out for the public who's listening, you guys presented us with a \$68 million in overruns -- or under runs, I'm sorry, under runs several months ago. And that money, it's not that we had an extra 68 million that we could spend and we're not spending it. That money has been rolled into our fund balance for this year. And even with that additional money infused into our fund balance in our budget, we are still looking at possibly, likely having to raise the millage rate. So it's not like we had extra money left over. Let's go ahead and spend it now, we got extra money. That money is being used for next year; is that correct?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am, it's part of the beginning fund balance that we've added to revenue to come together for the available resources to support next year's spending plan."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And that 60, I guess we took out 1.7 for the arts. So that 66.3 that's put in our beginning fund balance is helpful to offset almost a full mil, additional full mil increase that we could be projected to look at, or cuts in departments to try to."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That's correct, yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So I just want -- I just want the public to know that we do have responsible budget making process. We do have tranches here that are spelled out with the unfunded -- unfunded mandate, or unfunded items listed out for us. It's not like we're blindly going into this. We can see. I think you guys have always had standards, you know, no new programs started, certain things that we are not going to fund because we are looking at having to possibly increase, or likely increase the millage rate. So it isn't that you guys are just picking and choosing. You guys have guidelines when you decide what to fund, what we need to fund. And that all the employees, we did tell you that we thought it was important to go ahead and give them an adjustment for the cost of living. And you guys have funded that. So with inflation,

we're trying to accommodate our employees that we have in a responsible way by adjusting their salaries for inflation. I want to thank you for all the work you've done. And this is not political in nature. This is what I think is a responsible way of tackling a project. We can't fund everything. We can't go ahead and fund and spend money, and then just come back and tax the public later. So I thank you for looking at this this way."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, thanks for the work. You know, I guess I wanted to reiterate something Commissioner Thorne just said that any additional funds that we spend this year on 2025 items are just going to mean more pressure in 2026. So we don't actually have this huge surplus that we're not spending, right? I mean, that's --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "No, sir."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- fallacy, right? So I've heard that statement made. So that's a fallacy, number one. Number two, we're like, oh, you know, we've held steady at 8.87, which sounds like, okay, we've somehow not increased our revenue, right? And we've not taxed people more. What is the expenditure growth? Can you go back to --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "It's the second --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- the second slide. I want you all to look at this."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "That's it."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "An additional 12 percent expense budget over what we spent in 2025. That's pretty significant. And you know, anybody wants to talk about, oh, you should budget from a standpoint of like, oh, you know, here's -- here's what we, you know, what we should like have to spend. Well, you have to have some degree of practicality in terms of what your likely available revenue is going to be. And maybe some of us just sort of lapsed and sort of forgot what all of the citizens that came down and spoke to us in summer months said about their feelings around millage rates and tax increases. And that was essentially, I'll leave out the first word, but the second word was no, with many exclamation points outside of, okay? So you know, we have to understand that and hear that and realize that that's where our citizens are, and balance that out with all of the things that we potentially could do, the things that we're required to do, the things we could likely do, and the things that, you know, maybe are somewhat fringe or non-core. So we go through this exercise every year. We have grown county government. Our expense line has grown. We are funding more, more and more stuff. This is not some big austerity mechanism where people are getting their budgets cut year over year, that's not was going on here. I like the presentation of showing it in terms of here's the existing, but recognize, you know, that, you know, all up, we're going

to have to consider a budget with a total millage rate assumption. You know, I really think we're going to need to continue to look at it and see how we can get that total millage rate assumption to a flat number, because, rest assured, that's what we're going to be hearing come August. So you know, I think we need to kind of continue to, you know, look and see where those opportunities are. Maybe it's going to come in with, you know, we have a slightly higher under run in 2025, and that provides some offset to that. But you know, there's not an unlimited pot of money, and there's never going to be. And this is not about like, oh, we have to fund everybody because they come down here and make an ask. This is about making tough decisions with taxpayer resources and keeping that all in mind that there are not unlimited resources here, and choices are going to have to be made. So I think you've put together, you know, great, great initial budgetary, you know, you know, set up. These things obviously, they're going to change, and they're going to be fluid as we work through this stuff."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "In addition to seeing the departmental budget requests over the last ten years, I'd also like to see the fund balance reserve amount over the last ten years, because it is increased tremendously since I was first elected in 2011 and since it was first established by Vice Chair Ellis in 2015. I think at that point based on our budget, it was about 100 million. And we found out last week it was 160 or 165 now, and next year is projected to be a 176. So certainly would like to see that trend as well over the last ten years."

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Nothing else?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Nothing else."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, **25-0874**, Information Technology request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in an amount not to exceed \$1,310,000 for digital evidence software storage services for Fulton County's Justice Partners."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0875, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval to increase spending authority for Task Order Contract for Minor Construction in the total amount not to exceed \$600,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0876, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing for HVAC Solutions, related products and services in the amount not to exceed \$150,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis, it's seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, 25-0877, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for Testing and Repair of Backflow Devices in the amount of \$200,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0878, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchase -- purchasing in the total amount not to exceed \$130,000 to provide full-service HVAC maintenance and repairs."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "25-0879, Request approval of a statewide contract for Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Inventory Management Services in the amount not to exceed \$955,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I have a favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Cast your vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0880**, Request approval to amend an existing contract for Program Management and Professional Services for the Fulton County Jail Capital Improvement Program Phase II in an amount not to exceed 5,130,235.02."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **25-0881**, Public Works request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for Sewer Line Chemical Root Control Services in the amount not to exceed -- in the amount of \$350,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I have a motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 9, **25-0882**, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in the amount not to exceed \$131,927 to transport materials and dump gravel and debris."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0883**, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for landscaping restoration services in an amount not to exceed \$111,601.80."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0884**, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$349,862.12 to provide Corporation Stops and Brass Fittings."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion fails; three yeas, zero nays. Motion passes with Chairman Pitts."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0885**, Request approval to increase spending authority for standby utility pavement patching and paving services in an amount not to exceed \$200,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0886** request approval of the lowest responsible bidder for manholes, frames, grates, and accessories in the amount of \$199,452.75."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commission -- Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Thorne."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**25-0887**, Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement between Fulton County and G-DOT for relocation of water facilities, estimated cost of the project, \$1,768,280."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10, **25-0888**, Request approval of an IGA between Fulton County and the city of Roswell for water main relocations in an estimate amount of \$953,550."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Justice and Safety, **25-0889**, State Court request approval to close out a contract in an amount not to exceed \$225,000 for final payment for services rendered for drug testing services and products for the Fulton County DUI Treatment Court."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "And no further items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No further items to come before us? Ms. Corbitt, you don't have anything today? You're a Great American. Thank you. All right, I'll say a motion to adjourn. Thank you."

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.**