

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

August 06, 2025
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES

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

Ratification Date: September 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts

10:00 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/VIRTUAL

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**25-0545 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by revising item #25-0555. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0546 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Paul Baldwin Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**
March 17, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Muslim American Heritage Month." **(Arrington)**
Month of July

Proclamation recognizing "Regina Waller Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**
July 6, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Lawrence Perrino, Sr. Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**
July 7, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "DJ Funky Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
July 17, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Claressa Shields and Route 30 Promotions Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
July 17, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Thomas Sampson Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**
July 24, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Chief Deputy DA Rewa Collier Appreciation Day." **(Pitts/Arrington)**
July 24, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Velma Mae Turner Rainey Remembrance Day.” **(Pitts)**
July 26, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Patchwerk Studios Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
July 26, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Everybody vs. Homelessness Day.” **(Ivory)**
July 27, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Why Not You Foundation Appreciation Day.” **(Ivory)**
July 28, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Brian BHigh Hightower Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
July 30, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Roderick Wicked Barber Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
July 30, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Jaigantic Films Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**
July 31, 2025

Proclamation recognizing “Luenell Appreciation Day.” **(Pitts)**
August 2, 2025

Commissioners' District Board Appointments

25-0547

Board of Commissioners

**FULTON COUNTY VETERANS' EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION, INC.
(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Veterans Commission shall have the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members. Such appointees shall be residents of, or work in Fulton County and shall have military experience or expertise in the areas affecting military veterans. Veterans Commission shall serve three (3) year terms, with such term subject to the discretion of the appointing Commissioner, who can remove a member for cause, otherwise such member may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a successor is appointed.

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024
Michael Moore **(Morris)**

Commissioner Barrett nominated Marcel Foster for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

Open & Responsible Government**25-0548 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 194 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Mark Philip Venti, individual, for the purpose of constructing the Bridges (Lot #3) Project at 0 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0549 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 31 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Amanda R. Bralley and Krishan Bralley, individuals, for the purpose of constructing the Bridges (Lot #6) Project at 0 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0550 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 300 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from owner Medley Johns Creek Phase 2 Owner, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Medley Johns Creek Phase 2 Project at 11660 Johns Creek Parkway, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0551 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 2,888 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from owner Medley Johns Creek Phase 2 Owner, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Medley Johns Creek Phase 2 Project at 11660 Johns Creek Parkway, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0552 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 9,780 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from owner Medley Johns Creek Phase 1 Owner, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Medley Johns Creek Phase 1 Project at 11660 Johns Creek Parkway, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0553 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 604 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Medley Johns Creek Phase 2 Owner, LLC, owner, for the purpose of constructing the Medley Johns Creek Phase 2 Project at 11660 Johns Creek Pkwy, Johns Creek, Georgia 30097. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0554 Finance

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

Health and Human Services**25-0555 Department for HIV Elimination**

Request approval of “Ending the HIV Epidemic” service contracts, subject to Federal funding, for the remainder of FY2025 (August 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026) in an amount not to exceed \$5,188,688.00, FY2026 (March 1, 2026 through ~~January 29~~ January 28, 2027) in an amount not to exceed \$5,474,653.00, FY27 (March 1, 2027 through February 29, 2028) in an amount not to exceed \$5,748,653.00, FY2028 (March 1, 2028 through ~~February 29~~ February 28, 2029) in an amount not to exceed \$6,035,805.00, and FY2029 (March 1, 2029 through ~~February 29~~ February 28, 2030) in an amount not to exceed \$6,337,595.00, pursuant to the Health Resources and Services Administration “Ending the HIV Epidemic” award UT8HA33933. Service contracts are 100% grant funded with no Fulton County match. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0556 Department for HIV Elimination

Request approval of “Ryan White Part A” service contracts, subject to Federal funding, for FY2025 (August 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026) in an amount not to exceed \$30,959,711.00, FY2026 (March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027) in an amount not to exceed \$32,346,447.00, and FY2027 (March 1, 2027 through February 29, 2028) in an amount not to exceed \$33,802,519.00 pursuant to the Health Resources and Services Administration “Ryan White Part A” award H89HA00007. Service contracts are 100% grant funded with no Fulton County match. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0557 Department for HIV Elimination

Request approval of “Ryan White Part A - Minority AIDS Initiative” service contracts, subject to Federal funding, for FY2025 (August 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026) in an amount not to exceed \$3,070,344.00, FY2026 (March 1, 2026 through January 29, 2027) in an amount not to exceed \$3,523,861.00, and FY2027 (March 1, 2027 through February 29, 2028) in an amount not to exceed \$3,685,055.00 pursuant to the Health Resources and Services Administration “Ryan White Part A” award H89HA00007. Service contracts are 100% grant funded with no Fulton County match. Request authorization for the Chairman to execute contracts with subrecipients. To protect the interest of the County, the County Attorney is authorized to approve the contracts as to form and make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution by the Chairman. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**25-0558 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt the First Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by moving up item #25-0564; and with a super majority vote adding item #25-0580. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0559 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, June 18, 2025
First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, July 9, 2025
Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, July 9, 2025
First Regular Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2025

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0560 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Purchasing and Contract Compliance Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award Day." **(Pitts/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "City of Johns Creek Appreciation Day." **(Thorne/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "Goodwill of North Georgia Appreciation Day." **(Ellis/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "Shepherd Center Appreciation Day." **(Barrett/Arrington)**

Certificate Presentation to Information Technology - NACo Digital Counties Survey Winner (Fulton County, Georgia)

PUBLIC HEARINGS**25-0561 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)**

14 Speakers: State Representative Deborah Silcox (Millage Rate); Mayor John Bradberry (Millage Rate); Roswell City Council Member Lee Hills (Millage Rate); John's Creek City Council Member Bob Erramilli (Millage Rate); Brother Anthoney Muhammond (Racial Equality); Matt Rowenczak (Millage Rate); Maria Gaudio (Millage Rate); LA Pink (Millage Rate/Sheriff); Demetrice Brewer (Local Homelessness); Chris Rhodenbaugh (Millage Rate); Paul Bolster (Millage Rate); Julian Bene (Millage Rate); Damita Chatman (Millage Rate); Nancy Saunders (Millage Rate)

22 Zoom Speakers: Kevin Muldowney (Millage Rate); Candy Muldowney (Millage Rate); Peter Corman (Millage Rate); Janet Hill (Deed Fraud); Stephen Postin (Millage Rate); Fawn Ortega (Millage Rate); Charles Kreiger (Millage Rate); Cheryl Turner (Millage Rate); Beverly Crawford (Millage Rate); Mari Wilson (Millage Rate); Nadine Mellow (Millage Rate); Aria Fiore (Millage Rate); Anwar Gonswala (Millage Rate); CK Yao (Millage Rate); Robby Caban (Animal Services); Aisha Wells (Millage Rate); Shari Marscott (Millage Rate); Joyce Cross (Millage Rate); Jeff Botch (Millage Rate); Linda LeBritton (Millage Rate); Cornelia Krieger (Millage Rate); Ryan Zanarski (Millage Rate)

25-0562**Finance**

Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Millage Rate Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED

14 Speakers: Brother Anthoney Muhammad, Michael Dvorsak, Dorothy Harpe, George Freeman, Michael Gordon, Lucia Frazer, Ginger Bradshaw, LA Pink, Demetrice Brewer, Gib Green, Damita Chatman, Jewel Johnson, Victoria Salvia, Angela James

4 Zoom Speakers: Robby Caban, Sharon Fallmer, Dion Brown, Fawn Ortega

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****25-0563****Finance**

Request approval of a Resolution adopting the 2025 Millage Rates for the General fund, General Obligation Bond Fund, and the Fulton Industrial District Fund.

(APPROVED)

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Chairman Pitts, to approve a millage rate of 8.87. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: Ivory

25-0564**Finance**

Presentation and Discussion of the 2025 Midyear Budget Review.

(PRESENTED/DISCUSSED)

25-0565 Human Resources Management

Request approval of the proposed benefit summary for the Childcare pilot program for 2025. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve as amended by amending Resolution #25-0314 to waive the ten (10) mile radius requirement for eligible employees who have eligible dependents with special needs attending childcare facilities providing special needs care, if approved by the Chief HR Officer, and authorize the Chairman to execute a Resolution capturing this amendment. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

25-0566 Finance

Presentation, review, and approval of August 6, 2025, Budget Soundings and Resolution. **(PRESENTED/APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0567 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of the following rate for the public's use of County-owned electric vehicle ("EV") charging stations:

- A fee of \$0.25 per kWh.
- After 2 hours, drivers will be charged an extra \$2.00/hour to discourage them from leaving their vehicles in the charging station spots all day.
- There may be additional fees charged to the user directly by the charging station vendor that Fulton County does not receive proceeds from. Such vendor fees will be clearly disclosed to users in advance and will be in addition to Fulton County's approved rate. Pursuant to County Policy 600-69, public hearings on the fees were conducted on June 2, 2025 and June 3, 2025. Effective upon adoption by the BOC. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0568 Information Technology

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing, Information Technology - Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission\ RFP 6100005800, with Testing Xperts, Inc., (Mechanicsburg, PA) in an amount not to exceed \$450,000.00, to provide Testing Resources for the CGI-AMS 4X Cloud Upgrade. Effective upon BOC approval for a period of 12 months. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

Health and Human Services**25-0569 Public Works**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Public Works, 25RFP146925K-DB Lead & Copper Field Service Investigation in an amount not to exceed \$1,451,000.00 with CDM Smith Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide services associated with the program development, implementation, and management necessary to meet the requirements of the Lead Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The contract shall be effective upon issuance of Notice To Proceed (NTP) for two years with one, one year renewal option. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0533 Public Works

Request approval to correct Agenda Item 25-0106 to correct the not to exceed amounts for Years 1 - 5 for the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resources Commission ("AFCWRC") Contract, 24RFP0820K-DB, Operation & Maintenance Services for the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Facility (owned jointly between the City of Atlanta and Fulton County) with Veolia Water North America - South, LLC (Veolia Water) / Khafra Operations Services, LLC, a Joint Venture (Atlanta, GA). Effective upon BOC approval. **(HELD ON 7/9/25) (APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0570 **Public Works**

Request approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) - Department Public Works, 23RFP139070K-JAJ, Progressive Design-Build Services for Campbellton Road Pump Station and Force Main in an amount not to exceed \$20,332,906.00 with Sol Construction, LLC (Atlanta, GA), to perform all final design and construction activities associated with the installation of a new pump station and associated force main pipelines to serve South Fulton County. Effective upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP) with work to be completed within 24 months of the issuance of the NTP. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0571 **Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Roswell, GA for water main betterments and relocations associated with the road improvements to Woodstock Road between SR-92 and Allenbrook Lane in the City of Roswell, GA, in an estimated amount of \$1,223,520.00. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts

25-0572 **Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Milton, GA, for water main relocations associated with the Birmingham Road Culvert Bridge Replacement Project near Manor Trace in the City of Milton, GA, in the estimated amount of \$206,400.00. **(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, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Infrastructure and Economic Development**25-0573 Public Works**

Request approval of a Resolution adopting the 2045 Comprehensive Plan for Unincorporated Fulton County and authorizing the transmittal of the Plan to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). **(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, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**25-0574 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution urging the release of Israeli hostages and an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Israel and Gaza; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED)**

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

Yea: Barrett, Ivory, and Arrington

Abstain: Thorne, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Ellis

25-0575 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 101-68 (Decorum) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (APPROVED)**

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

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

Nay: Barrett, and Arrington

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**25-0576****Board of Commissioners****HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (NORTHSIDE) (SPREAD ON THE MINUTES)**

The Board of Commissioners shall submit a slate of three (3) names, per position, to the Hospital Authority of Fulton County, for selection of one (1) person to be appointed by the Authority for each position.

Term = 4 years

FOR SPREADING UPON THE MINUTES: The Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County (Northside), at its meeting on April 23, 2025, reappointed the following appointees for terms ending April 1, 2029, in accordance with a slate of names submitted by the Board of Commissioners at its March 19, 2025 Second Regular Meeting:

Lawrence Stone, M.D. (Position#4)

Mark Sweeney (Position #5)

Alvin Sermons, M.D. (Position #6)

25-0577 Board of Commissioners**DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (APPROVED)**

Members of the Advisory Council shall be appointed for a period of three (3) years. A member may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms on the board. Fulton County having a population of more than 50,000 according to the United States decennial census of 1990 or any future such census shall appoint one member for each population increment of 50,000 or any portion thereof. To comply with the intent of H.B. 100, at least seven (7) appointees are consumers of disability services and family members of such consumers. As defined by H.B. 100, a "consumer" is a person who has been or who is currently a recipient of disability services.

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

Term below expired: 8/1/2025

Cathy Murphy (**Hausmann**)

**Commissioner Thorne nominated Cathy Murphy for a Full Board
reappointment to a term ending August 1, 2028.**

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 Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**25-0578 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Utilization of outside counsel for commercial property assessment appeals (**Pitts**) (**DISCUSSION TO BE CONDUCTED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**)

EXECUTIVE SESSION**25-0579 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

Chairman Pitts asked for a moment of silence for the shooting victims at Fort Stewart.

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

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

Did Not Vote: Thorne, Ellis, and Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the requests for representation in items #1, #2, and #3 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Arrington

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the request for settlement authority in item #5, an opioid settlement with Purdue Pharma, as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Arrington

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to approve the request for settlement authority in item #6 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Arrington

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the request for settlement authority in item #7 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Arrington

f. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve a contract with the Whalls Group for recruitment services in an amount not to exceed \$788,000.00, extending through December 31, 2025 in item #10a. ii as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Arrington

g. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve a contract of employment with Richard Anderson, County Manger, for a term of four (4) years with an annual salary of \$371,000.00 with specific terms as stated in the written contract. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Arrington

ADDED TO THE MEETING

Items Added to the Agenda

25-0580 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Process for appointment of members to the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections in light of recent court order. **(Thorne) (APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to approve adding item #25-0580 to the First Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: Ivory

Did Not Vote: Arrington

ITEM #25-0580 REMOVED AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER THORNE

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
FIRST REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 6, 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 First Regular meeting in the month of August. Today is August 6, 2025. It is exactly 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please, sound -- 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 ARRINGTON, JR.: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman. Mr. Chairman, you have a quorum."

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

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **25-0545**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda: All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place

on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an item that has been requested to be revised on page 5, 25-0555, Department of HIV Elimination: Request approval of ending the HIV epidemic service contracts. The department revise this item to amend the dates of the contract."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioners, the items on the Consent Agenda to be amended."

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "If not, I'll entertain a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion to do so by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please cast your vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 6, First Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an item to be added requested by Commissioner Thorne, 25-0850: Discussion. Process for appointment of members to the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections in cite of recent court order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. It will require a supermajority vote, meaning five. What is the emergency, Commissioner Thorne?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "There are two reasons this is an add-on item. First, the Fulton County GOP has been deprived their selected board members on the BRE. We have elections this year, ones that started yesterday for a Senate seat that involves Fulton County that require full attention of the BRE, and it should be constituted by the members chosen by their respective parties. In the writ of mandamus, Judge Emerson notes that the lack of these appointments harms the election process and deprives the nominating party of representation on the BOE. Additionally, this item is an emergency, given the timing of events. We have been ordered to take an action by the Court. This order came down after the agenda was set. In order to do what is required of us as a BOC, we must discuss this item at today's meeting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. It'll require five votes. Madam County Attorney, we're going to be discussing this, I assume, in Executive Session?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "We will."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Well, placing it on the agenda just for, I guess, a placeholder until after we meet in Executive Session, all right. What is your – you're motion is to add it? It will require five votes. Motion to do so by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Any discussion on that? Commissioner Abdur-Rahman?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, with all due respect, I think because I did receive the e-mail that this would be in Executive Session, I'm a little taken aback as to why we're discussing it when it's an, really, an Executive Session item. So in that respect, I would not be able to support it because I think we set a precedent, a dangerous precedent, when we start openly discussing things that really should be Executive Session. Not that I would be -- support it or not support it, that's not the point I'm trying to make. What I'm trying to make is, I think if it is truly Executive Session, which the nature of the e-mail that I received from our County Attorney, gave me the impression that this was for Executive Session."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I think that's correct, that it will be discussed in Executive Session, but it appears to me though that placing it here whether we would not we take a vote -- well depending upon what happens in Executive Session. I'm not opposed to it then. We'll vote our conscience on it."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Well, here again, my point is --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- I understand."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- a slippery slope."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I understand."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Either we're going to go by the rules or we're not going to go by the rules. We can't go by the rules according to certain situations. And so, whether I'm in support of it or not, is not relevant to what I'm saying to the County Manager, is this an Executive Session item?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I think understand."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Do you understand the point I'm trying to make?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "-- share Commissioner Abdur-Rahman's concern. And I absolutely share your concern, but I think in this instance, I'm a little bit less concerned about keeping the placeholder item, because depending on what you -- what the outcome of our discussion is, it could be removed or discussed, depending on the will of the Board."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. That satisfies me. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory, do you still want to be heard? All right, let's vote, please. It takes five affirmative votes."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Wait, I'm sorry. Are we were voting not to speak about it here."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, no. We're voting to add it -- to add it to the agenda as an emergency item, to place it on the agenda only."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes; five yeas, one nay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Did you mean to vote, nay, no?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I do not want it for discussion. I want to discuss it in Executive Session only."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right. It's added to the --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- and let me just say this that this is a legal issue that is not resolved -- it may not be resolved and may continue on. So we ought to talk about it in executive discussion first, and then allow our attorney to proceed however, we're going to proceed. So I don't think we need to move it as --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- point of order, Mr. Chair. We've already voted on the item."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay, that's fine."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, it's added to the agenda. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0558, Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an amendment --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- which one?"

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, Finance, 25-0564: Presentation and discussion of the 2025 Midyear Budget Review. That item should be heard before item 25-0563."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

CLERK GRIER: "And that's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anything else? Anything else, Commissioners?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve today's agenda as amended. Motion to do so by Commissioner Ivory; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0559**, Ratification of Minutes. Second Regular Meeting Minutes, June 18th; First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, July 9th; Special Called Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, July 9th; First Regular Meeting Minutes, July 9th, 2025."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Ellis, please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0560**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. First proclamation is recognizing 'Purchasing and Contract Compliance Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award Day', sponsored by Chairman Pitts with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Would all of the members of the Fulton County Department and Purchasing and Contract Compliance that are in the room, please come and stand with us. Y'all the people that handle the money; y'all take all the time y'all need. Yes, sir. Yes, sir, Chairman. Let's hurry along. All right. WHEREAS, the Fulton County Department of Purchasing and Contract Compliance is responsible for the countywide purchase of goods and services for all County departments and maintains a commitment to customer service; and WHEREAS, the National Purchasing Institute, NPI, annually evaluates procurement agencies nationwide in its criteria are designed to measure state-of-the-art in public procurement best practices; and WHEREAS, as part of the countywide commitment to provide excellence in procurement, Fulton County has been recognized by NPI in the area of procurement, professionalism, innovation, and customer service; and WHEREAS, in July of 2025, the Fulton County Department of Purchasing and Contract Compliance was awarded the prestigious annual achievement of excellence in procurement, AEP from NPI; and WHEREAS, the AEP award is given to public and nonprofit organizations that obtain a high application score based on standardized criteria and recognizes innovation, professionalism, productivity, and leadership in procurement; and WHEREAS, Fulton County's Department of Purchasing and Contract Compliance, is one of only 13 agencies in Georgia, and of one of only 45 counties in the United States and Canada to

receive the award, and has received NPI's accolades for the past 26 years. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton Board of Commissioners honors the diligent work of the department and its high standards of excellence; and declares Wednesday, August 6th, 2025, as 'Purchasing and Contract Compliance Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award Day' say that three times. Can I please get you to put your hands together for this wonderful team?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT, RECIPIENT: "Good morning. I'm going to make this quick. First of all, thank you to the Board of Commissioners for the recognition. Also, thank you to the Board of Commissioners and the Fulton County executive leadership team for providing us with the tools, the resources, and the support in order for us to achieve this award. And a big shout out and thank you to my team, purchasing and contract compliance team. Thank you all for all that you do every day."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'City of Johns Creek Appreciation Day', sponsored by Commissioner Thorne with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Can I get any Johns Creek resident who wants to come down here. You're welcome to come down here. We have some city council people here, the mayor here; we got former city council people. We got former commissioner, city council. Okay. It's an honor to serve as the sole Commissioner representing the exceptional and culturally rich community of Johns Creek. I have long considered District One as to be among the best in our county, and I'm pleased to see that is recognized by others; such as US News Weekly, for recognizing Johns Creek as the number one city to live in, which is amazing since it's a relatively new city, founded in 2006. I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation to Mayor Bradberry and the esteem members of the current city council, as well as prior city council members that are here today, for their unwavering commitment to public service and conservative governance. Their efforts have directly contributed to the recognition we celebrate today, notably, their recent vote not to hold the millage rate the same, but to roll back the millage rate. It exemplifies a strong dedication to the fiscal responsibility and the well-being of our residents. Johns Creek is defined by its remarkable diversity of cultures, perspectives, and experiences which, in the diversity index, Johns Creek is actually higher than the city of Atlanta when it comes to diversity. This award is a testament of those values and the collective efforts that makes our city truly outstanding: WHEREAS, the city of Johns Creek, Georgia has been ranked the number one best place to live in the United States by US News and World Report; and WHEREAS, Johns Creek ranks number one in the United States out of 250 cities on the 2025-2026 lists, which expanded to evaluate more than 850 out of the country's top cities, based on how well they meet the living expectation of the citizens which measures, including home value, job market, desirability, and high quality of life; and WHEREAS, Johns Creek is also known for its low crime rates, parks and recreational opportunities, a strong sense of community, and top rated schools. It's home to three of the top high schools in the state. Number five, Johns Creek High School; number three, Chattahoochee High School; and number one, Northview High School; and WHEREAS, Johns Creek is proud to be one of the most diverse cities in Georgia with a 96 out of 100 diversity score; and over half of its

population from racial or ethnic minorities, and nearly one in three residents of Asian descent; and WHEREAS, Johns Creek offers a balance between suburban lifestyle and easy access to the amenities and job opportunities of Metropolitan Atlanta. It also celebrates a significant level of cultural diversity and making it an inclusive place to live for citizens from various backgrounds; and WHEREAS, factors into this number one ranking were weighted in part based on public survey of thousands of citizens throughout the United States to learn what qualities are considered important in an ideal place to live. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton Board of Commissioners recognizes the city of Johns Creek under its leadership of Mayor John Bradberry and the city council for its status as the number one city to live in the entire United States of America; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, August 6, 2025, as the 'city of Johns Creek Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. I have Mayor Bradberry here to give us a few words.'

MAYOR BRADBERRY, RECIPIENT: "I'm proud as a peacock. For those of you that don't live in Johns Creek, the good news is we have homes for sale. You should join us and I want to thank councilmembers, Erramilli, our Mayor Pro Tem is here, Dilip Tunki. We have a former councilmember, Liz Hausmann and former commissioner. But we are very proud and very much appreciate this. It is not necessarily the government of Johns Creek that has made this a reality, but rather the citizens of our community that are outstanding. And so, to the residents and businesses of Johns Creek, I say congratulations and thank you for all you do to make us great. And thank you, Commissioner Bridget Thorne, for this Resolution and to all the Commission. And we very much appreciate this great honor. Thank you very much."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Former Commissioner Hausmann."

LIZ HAUSMANN, SPEAKER: "Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. What a great day to celebrate one of the newest cities in Fulton County, and that's Johns Creek. You know, I was elected for over 20 years and worked on a ton of projects. I have to say I'm the most proud of this particular project was when we created the city of Johns Creek. And to watch it thrive and grow really warms my heart. I travel a lot these days in state and around the country and everybody that I say is where you're from, I say Johns Creek, and everybody knows about Johns Creek all over the place. And so, kudos to the people that are here every day working to keep it such a great place because it is truly fabulous, the jewel of Fulton County and the country, so great honor. Very proud of Johns Creek. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Goodwill of North Georgia Appreciation Day' sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis with Full Board support."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "If I can get the folks from Goodwill of North Georgia to come down. All of you look good. You don't look like you're a hundred years old, right? Good morning. All right. I think everybody is aware of Goodwill in their presence in our communities, but you may not know that they've been with us for a hundred years. And I'm going to share a little bit of information that you might not know and recognize them for the good work and the great work that they've been doing in our communities for a

number of years: WHEREAS, in 1925, a group of civic-minded Atlantans founded the Goodwill Industries of Atlanta in a small house on Edgewood Avenue. Today, Goodwill of North Georgia operates 11 retail locations, and two career centers in Fulton County continuing its century-long tradition of service and unwavering commitment to the local community; and WHEREAS, Goodwill of North Georgia currently operates 70 retail stores, 14 career centers, a mobile career center, and more than 40 attended donation centers throughout North Georgia; employs more than 3,600 team members, diverts over 40 million pounds of material from landfills each year, welcomes more than seven million guests annually, and has served more than 50 million donors; and WHEREAS, through a strategic approach of a job, a better job, a career, Goodwill of North Georgia has helped more than 27,000 Fulton County residents secure meaningful employment in fields such as forklift operations, welding, supply chain management, and highway construction over the past 13 years. Its two Fulton County career centers located on Old National Highway and Metropolitan Parkway have collectively contributed to the economic development within Fulton County; and WHEREAS, throughout its 100 years of service, Goodwill of North Georgia has remained committed to innovation and forward thinking workforce development with tailored programs for entrepreneurs, high school students, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. The organization continues to meet evolving needs of the modern workplace -- workforce; and WHEREAS, its strategic goals include serving an additional 155,000 jobseekers by 2030, expanding its retail footprint, and deepening its sustainability efforts to further its positive impact on Georgia's economy and environment. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton Board of Commissioners recognizes Goodwill of North Georgia for 100 years of unwavering dedication to enhancing lives and fostering opportunities in Fulton County in the state of Georgia; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, August 6th, 2025 as 'Goodwill of North Georgia Appreciation Day' in Fulton County Georgia. Let's give them a huge hand. And I want to recognize their CEO, Keith Parker to say a few words."

KEITH PARKER, CEO, GOODWILL OF NORTH GEORGIA, RECIPIENT: "Thank you, Commissioner Ellis, and thank you, Chairman Pitts, and all of the Members of the Commission for this great honor. You know, they often say Goodwill, you know, we need to find the butter because we are on such a roll. Our organization from those humble beginnings just a few blocks from here, of a horse-drawn carriage, a gentleman with a horse-drawn carriage was going door-to-door asking for used goods that we would then turn in to things to sell, helping people who face some barriers in life, helping them reach their fullest potential by the ABC approach of what we call a job, a better job, and a career. This retail operation has exploded; we're now bigger than target in Georgia. And the funds that we received from that retail operation, the profits we've received has turned into the biggest nonprofit workforce development organization in the state of Georgia. Just in the last few years alone, we've helped over 125,000 North Georgians find jobs; spent over a \$100 million in that effort. So when you shop or donate to a Goodwill, you are helping not just yourself in a great new suit or a great lightly used suit -- let me say it that way, or a new coffee table or that sort of thing, you're helping fund what is now the most successful workforce development nonprofit really in the entire country. There's a hundred and fifty Goodwill regions around the nation, and we are number one of all those Goodwills in putting people to work, and putting people much more meaningfully into working-class in middle-class type of jobs,

moving more than 50,000 North Georgians out of poverty and into the working and middle-class in just the last six years alone. So with that, let me thank my board chair who's with me, Erica Qualls-Batthey and one of two other board members, Michelle Jackson and James Summer, as well as the entire Goodwill team, for doing the great work every day to help move Goodwill forward and with our great partner, Fulton County. Thank you so much."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Shepherd Center Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioners Barrett and Arrington."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "All right, well, we don't have a big and mighty crowd representing the Shepherd Center today, but they have been a force in the Atlanta area and really in the country, maybe even the world, for a long, long time. And I have a special place in my heart for the Shepherd Center because, when I first moved to the Atlanta area, I had a dear friend whose family was helped by the Shepherd Center, and so I've known about it since the minute I got here many, many years ago, 37 years ago or something like that. In any case, we have a wonderful proclamation in honor of their 50th Anniversary, and I'd like to read it now: So WHEREAS, on August 18th, 1975, Shepherd Center was founded as a private nonprofit hospital with a mission to help individuals experiencing brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and other neurological conditions to rebuild their lives with hope, independence, and dignity; and WHEREAS, Shepherd Center has served countless individuals from Fulton County and beyond by providing personalized rehabilitation and medical care; and WHEREAS, Shepherd Center is a global leader in neuro rehabilitation research, and has made significant advances in facilitating recovery, improving lifelong health, and maximizing patient's independence; and WHEREAS, Shepherd Center has played a vital role in the community advocating for accessible public accommodations and transportation in Fulton County; and WHEREAS, Shepherd Center lead the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games Organizing Committee and founded the wheelchair division of the AJC Peachtree Road Race; and WHEREAS, Shepherd Center's culture of hope, humor and hard work continues to inspire its patients, families, staff, and the broader community. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Shepherd Center for 50 years of steadfast commitment to its patients and their families; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday August 6, 2025, as 'Shepherd Center Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

STEPHEN MARSH, RECIPIENT: "Good morning, my name is Stephen Marsh. I'm the general council at Shepherd Center, and I want to thank Commissioner Barrett and the Commission for this very special recognition. While we didn't start in a horse-drawn carriage, it may have seemed that way at the time. We had the six-bed rehabilitation unit 50 years ago. And today, we're a hundred and fifty-two bed world renowned rehabilitation hospital and research facility. And we have maintained our central mission during that time of improving the lives of those afflicted with catastrophic conditions and restoring their hope and dignity and that remains our mission. And we couldn't do that work -- that very important work, without the support of a very generous community here in Fulton County, which we've always had; and we really look forward to continuing --

excuse me, to continuing that journey together over the coming years and just thank you so much for your help with Shepherd Center."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Would the IT folks come down, please? Wow, the whole team, comes on down y'all. All right. Looking all spiffy. All right, everybody, let's move this along. All right, everybody. So Commissioners Barrett, Thorne, and I had the pleasure of attending the NACo, National Association of Counties Officials Conference several weeks ago where our IT department -- this hardworking group of folks were presented with an award for their performance, for their dedication, for their innovation to our IT systems. And so, this was in the category of large counties, which is one million residents or more. That is the biggest category of large counties, and we were proud of all counties in the United States to come in fourth place in recognition of the tremendous IT work that is being done in Fulton County. So I just want to present this award. We got it when we were there in Philadelphia. I'm like, where were we -- just in Philadelphia -- to our head of IT who is the leader of all of the great work that is being done in this County. So put your hands together for our entire IT department."

KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, FC IT, RECIPIENT: "Good morning. Good morning. Kevin Kerrigan, CIO here in Fulton County. Just want to thank the Board, our County Manager's office and, of course, my wonderful team here that really is focused on delivering, you know, excellent innovative IT solutions, because we exist to support those departments that are providing public service across the county, right. So our goal is to put the right tools and technology in their hands to be successful, so when they're successful, we're successful and that's why we here, so very much an honor and a privilege. We look forward to climbing the ladder to being number one next year, and that's our goal and we'll continue to strive for that goal. So thank you so much and we appreciate the recognition."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, Public Hearings, **25-0561**, 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's website, www.fultoncountygga.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 12 speaker cards. Will the first six speakers, please come forward: State Representative Deborah Silcox, Mayor John Bradberry, Councilmember Lee Hills, Brother Antoney Muhammad, Matt Rowenzcak, and Maria Gaudio."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, speakers come on up. Again when you have 15 seconds remaining in your two minutes, I'll say 15 seconds, and that will be your clue to begin to conclude your remarks. All right, Madam Representative, come on up."

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH SILCOX, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Pitts and Commissioners, thank you so much for the opportunity to speak this morning. I'm going to speak about raising the millage rate by 12.49 percent. As a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, I worked very hard to pass a bill several years ago limiting the increase in property taxes to no more than three percent or the CPI. This decision flies in the face of that bill to raise the millage rate to 12.49 percent. Inflation is still a real factor in our economy. This year it's standing at 2.7 percent as of June, and just yesterday on the front page of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, there was an article stating that 83 percent of all Americans are stressed over food costs because of inflation. This decision to raise the millage rate 12.49 percent at one time, will disproportionately affect senior citizens and those that are disadvantaged in our community. It will disproportionately affect those on a fixed income as well. It will drive people out of Fulton County. It will drive businesses out of Fulton County. It will also affect and discourage those new businesses from locating in Fulton County. I can understand the need to raise the millage rate to keep pace with inflation, but certainly not a 12.49 percent, at one time, especially. I hope that you will consider these thoughts before making your decision, and I appreciate your attention today. Thank you so much."

MAYOR JOHN BRADBERRY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm back, Commissioners. Kind of awkward coming down here maybe to talk about the millage rate after such a nice proclamation was given to the city of Johns Creek. But I want to encourage you not to raise the millage rate -- not to raise taxes. Hopefully, you received the Resolution on the Johns Creek City Council that we voted on unanimously asking you not to raise taxes. As I was driving down here, I was thinking about what to say, and have to encourage you to think about the idea of living within your means. You know, I think, we all, through our time watching the news over the years, we see the stories where you hear about a movie star or a rock star, or a famous athlete that, in their older years, they wind up being bankrupt. And then, on the other hand, you hear stories about people with more modest incomes, they hereby retire a millionaire. It's really a matter of what you're doing with the money. Fulton County does not have a revenue problem. Fulton County has a spending problem. And if I may toot the horn of Johns Creek, it's wonderful that we were named best community to live in. I would highlight the fact that we are also the lowest millage rate of any city in Fulton County. And we have a lower full-time employee footprint. We tried to do less with more; we tried to manage things in an as frugal way as possible."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds, Mayor."

MAYOR JOHN BRADBERRY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "And try to be high results with the lowest tax burden possible. So again, I just want to encourage you not to raise taxes on the good, fine people of Fulton County."

COUNCILMEMBER LEE HILLS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, I'm Lee Hills, Roswell City Councilmember. Honorable members of the Fulton County Commission, as a current Roswell City Council Member, I stand before you today to highlight the dire consequences of the proposed millage rate increase from 8.87 to 9.87 mills, an 11.27 percent hike that translates to a 12.49 percent effective property tax rise above the rollback rate. For Roswell residents already shouldering a disproportionate tax burden to this fully municipalized County, this would exacerbate financial strain, accelerate out migration, and stifle economic growth at a time when neighboring counties are thriving with lower taxes and superior services. Let's examine the facts: In Roswell, with a median home value of \$660,000 and assessed at 40 percent, or \$264,000, the current County tax portion alone is about \$2,342 annually. This hike adds roughly \$300 average per household on top of city and school levies, pushing total property taxes well over \$7,000 for many middle-class families. Fulton County already claims 29 percent of a typical Roswell bill, despite cities like ours delivering front-line services such as police, fire, roads, and parks with just 16 percent of the pie. Our efficient \$197 million city budget contrasts sharply with Fulton's bloated 1.53 billion, where Roswell receives a mere 1.9 percent in direct benefits, things like courts and health services while contributing 4.6 percent of the revenues. Compare this to neighbors, Cherokee County's millage rate just 5.307 mills, nearly half of Fulton's proposed rate; Forsyth holds a 7.896 mills --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

COUNCILMEMBER LEE HILLS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and Cobb at 8.46. I'll skip to the end. I just want to make very clear that Commissioners, you must reject this tax raise -- this proposal. Prioritize efficiency, not extraction. We have people fleeing to other counties because of the costs."

COUNCILMEMBER BOB ERRAMILLI, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Commission. I am Bob Erramilli from Johns Creek City. You just honored us by the commendation. Thank you for it. We also acknowledge your partnership with us in us getting that accolade. On a separate note, we recently saw federal government lower their taxes on Social Security income. They've done away with tax on tips and overtime. And the state legislature followed up with giving the seniors a partial school tax exemption and returning unspent monies from their coffers. We follow the suit. We, too, lowered the taxes. I do wish you, Commissioners, also follow the suit of lowering the millage rate from your proposed rate of 9.87. The reason is, recently, a 93-year-old Korean War veteran, he passed on last week, but before that he had moved from Johns Creek to Forsyth County. He came waving his property tax bill. It had lowered from to 4,000 to \$1100. Seniors are working with their (inaudible). We all know the schools are forecasted to close hundreds of classrooms. Again, we're going to lose taxpayers. And if your tax policies continue to keep raising this millage rate, we will see yet more seniors and more taxpayers leaving the County. My point is why are we tempting the seniors and taxpayers to leave our cities into the waiting arms of Gwinnett? They're making Forsyth County the richest county in the state."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

COUNCILMEMBER BOB ERRAMILI, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I implore -- the last meeting, the City Council of Johns Creek, which represents 83,000 citizens of Fulton County, we implore that you reconsider your decision to raise the taxes. Thank you."

BROTHER ANTHONY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I am Brother Anthony Muhammad. I am a spiritual soulful man representing teaching of the (indiscernible.) is why my (indiscernible.). I was thinking before I come here last night, Mr. Pitts, I was thinking about Hosea. I was thinking about Hosea because I was thinking about John F. Kennedy, former President of the United States, and those that were dying in Alabama with John Watts, 1963, marching. What you call it, in 1963 when Kennedy got shot, what did he do? He had told George Wallace let these dark antimatter people into the school or else I'll nationalize the National Guard and remove you: he submit. Then in 1968, Martin Luther King had a friend, you know, Mr. Pitts, Mr. Hosea, he's talking so much about it, well he (indiscernible.) -- but he went and they killed him. He went to talk about his people. Now why do I bring it up? I bring it up because our people should not be treated like they are in that jail over there. They should not be treated with no respect on the street. You had the 14th amendment, (indiscernible.) 1981, that says they could treat us like you treat the Caucasians, Ms. Ivory. Treat us the same way in public and private entities. But what happened to that? I think the president, Mr. Trump, when he said the 14th by birthright. It didn't have nothing to do about no person coming from another country and referred American descendants of slaves --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

BROTHER ANTHONY MUHAMMAD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- my ancestors that you know was always from Georgia to Mississippi. But these people who you find living on the street. We should have you more inclined to find a way with the city for money to help our people."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for your comments. Next speaker. Next speaker."

MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Morning, Commissioners. Matt Rowenczak, Fulton County resident. Here we are this morning having to even discuss the idea of a 12 percent or more tax increase on Fulton taxpayers. And it's all residents really, because who would like to place a bet that rent won't go up if you raise taxes more than 12 percent? Would you like to take that wager, Commissioner Ivory? Because you seem to be disconnected from what the people are asking for and that is no tax increase. You respond to the public's opposition to this increase by saying we need to maintain constituent services, but we all know that's a lie. The County has already told us we can maintain constituent services at the current millage rate. But we're seven months through the year with the planned budget. You probably couldn't spend it if you wanted to. The County has also said -- well, I mentioned that. So why are those that are advocating for more than a 12 percent increase doing so? Do you believe you can spend our money better than we know how to? Commissioner Ivory,

you actually replaced Commissioner Hall, and one of the reasons why she lost that election is because she was abusive and violated the law with taxpayer money. And that settlement was almost a million dollars. The proposal that you are supporting today is a \$78 million increase on Fulton taxpayers, so which one is more egregious?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "But the public has said loud and clear, they do not support this, the decision is clear, there should be no increase at a minimum to the millage rate. Thank you."

MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Maria Gaudio, Fulton County. Good morning, Board. Personally, my property taxes have doubled in the last two years. So this proposed millage rate increase of 12.5 percent is double whammy. This issue is the primary issue for the upcoming election cycle. An increase in millage rate would resort, as Matt said, in an increase of 78 to possibly \$80 million. And this would be just-in-case money, because it's not on the budget. We already have the reserve available that is required by law, so this is totally unnecessary. It's also an unnecessary burden for those on fixed incomes, those who are 62 and older. In a word, by voting for this unnecessary millage rate, you are messaging to Fulton County residents who are 62 or older, you're no longer welcome in Fulton County, you're not wanted here. I'm sorry to hear that Marvin Arrington is in Martha's Vineyard today. A couple of weeks ago in Roswell, he told several of our residents he would vote, no for this millage rate and we need his vote today. If he were here to do so, it would make the race for Commission Chair a two-man race. Anyone who supports this ridiculous millage increase is tone deaf if they think they can run for Chair in this election cycle, Ms. Barrett. Commissioner Ivory, you're sitting in the seat of the previous Commissioner, Natalie Hall, who raised our taxes and doubled her gigolo salary. Please don't make me sing right now. Thank you."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Please note that I am present, and I am present. Please note for the record that I am present and that I am listening to all, and I plan on voting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute, Commissioner Arrington, hold on. He's present. You didn't call him present. He's joined us by Zoom."

CLERK GRIER: "Yes. That's correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "She called me present. She called me present. I indicated present when she called my name, and I've been here the entire time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Arrington is present. Next speaker."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come down: LA Pink, Demetrice Brewer, Chris Rhodenbaugh, Paul Bolster, Julian Bene, and Damita Chatman."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So it is official, Mo Mess is no different than the Commissioner before her. The only difference between you and Hall is you ain't chasing balls: that's the only difference. Other than that, let's get to the real situation that's really going on with the reason why we know that the taxes are really going up. Your sheriff wants his name on something; well y'all need to put it on the tax millage rate. That's where his name can go on, because he's playing a big part of what's going on with the taxes having to be going up. It's sad that Mo and Dana and Ike Arrington is trying to allow these type of things to take place and not hold him accountable for the actions of the things that he's done at this jail. You all know that over at the jail they are tearing this jail up. You guys got a letter from the person that fixed the locks on the doors, and you will soon speak to some people that is letting you know that they have got instructions to keep this jail tore up so y'all can keep paying, so that's more money. So while y'all continuously wonder where your taxes are going and how the millage rate continues to go up, put his name on it, and you have the answer, you know. It's sad that we continuously to allow y'all to build a RICO -- the County Attorney's involved with it. He has involved some of these Commissioners. He has involved some judges, he has involved -- Fani Willis has involved herself, but there's a RICO coming down the pipeline."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Why? Because you guys are covering up -- look up what RICO means. It's a organized crime, the RICO Queen is best to know what it is, and that's what you guys are helping him to do, organized crime, okay?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

DEMETRICE BREWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning again, Board. I'm Demetrice Brewer, security Street Groomers. I just want to share with y'all that God says treat your neighbor as you would treat yourself. There's a bunch of peoples outside and only one program up active. How I know? I've been outside the building too, and I've been looking at the program and only one program that's out there really working. These kids and these families with kids in these tents that y'all walk past every day, they need y'all help. I need y'all help, too. So if I can come in and speak to y'all -- I know it's a bunch more who want to come in and speak too, but what I'm really saying is pay attention to y'all yard. Y'all grass need cutting. There's a bunch of folks out there, and there's a lot going on. There's a lot of crimes out here in front of y'all's yard, and it's only one little me. But I need y'all help to help these folks get up off the street. (Indiscernible.) done what they have to do. That's the only program that I can really speak on, because that's the only program that I see that's out there really active. But other programs, y'all really speak to these people about coming out here on Martin Luther King, and Shirley Clark Franklin to get these people up off the streets. That's all I got to say. You have a blessed evening."

CHRIS RHODENBAUGH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Morning, Commissioners. My name is Chris Rhodenbaugh, and I live in Southeast Atlanta. I believe in this Commission, there is a majority that shares my view on President Trump. I think his policies and leadership

are having a devastating effect already on lives here in Fulton County and it's only going to get worse. I ask each of you to do a little soul-searching to make sure that you aren't intentionally or unintentionally acting as President Trump does; telling hard-working and vulnerable people you have their back, but behind closed doors either selling them out or allowing them to be sold out to please wealthy donors and influencers.

Commissioners, I'm here to ask you to delay the millage increase vote until each of you can provide clear answers for how you will use your authority to ensure trophy commercial properties are appraised in line with their sales values. The news editors at the AJC and many other reputable outlets here in Atlanta, including Georgia Tech researchers, all see a problem. We ask for an explanation: you owe us one; and particularly, before raising the millage rate, which will hurt renters and homeowners. We need these funds from these high-value properties to fund essential county services. In particular, healthcare at a time when Medicaid is being cut, hospitals are being closed down. We can do that by holding the Chief Assessor, Roger Conley, accountable. Please use your formal and informal authority. Commissioner Arrington, I hope you are able to see me. You interrupted public comment last month to say that I misunderstood the terms appraisal and appraise. I do not. We are not confused. I have printed off a screenshot from the Fulton County Board of Assessors' website. See if this is visible to Commissioner Arrington. 1180 Peachtree sold for \$472 million, and yet it was appraised at 187 million; the assessed value, 75 million. This is unacceptable. That's \$285 million --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

CHRIS RHODENBAUGH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- that is not being taxed. That means \$1.1 million lost for this County every year, as well as the city of Atlanta and APS taking a hit. Fulton County residents deserve real attention to this. Thanks for adding it to your agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Bolster."

PAUL BOLSTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate all what you do. We're here again, as you might expect to talk about the commercial assessment process or problem in the city. I'm not opposed to the county and local governments getting more revenue. I think there's obviously reasons why that needs to happen to have a first-class city, a first-class education system, both in the county and the in the city; a first-class fire department that can protect the high rise buildings. But the problem is, not all of the revenue is put on the tax base and is taxed so as to create a fair system of taxation. So what are the solutions? First of all, some people say go to the legislature, but I can tell you, I went there three years ago. It's a dead end. Our legislation got one person to show up in a tiny little hearing, and that's all we got. They're not going to deal with this issue. So this issue has to be dealt with by the County Commission. I think it's a good step solution that you have an outside counsel that can go and defend the assessments the County makes in court. They can use Discovery to get all of the facts on the table. They don't even have to get the penalty; they don't have to take it to trial unless the facts show that they don't -- that they can't win in that case, so don't worry about that. The second thing is you need first-class

commercial assessment people in the Assessor's office that can use all the data. They can use the data from the County Development Authority or the city of Atlanta's Development Authority. They can use the data that's in the newspaper. The company said this is what we paid for the building; you ought to believe them, if he puts it in there, and he says that a reporter in the Chronicle. So you need to get all the data on the table --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

PAUL BOLSTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and all taxpayers need to pay their fair share. And I hope the Commissions really acts on this to do something that changes the way we do taxes in the County. Thank you."

JULIAN BENE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Commissioners, thank you for putting a discussion of appointing outside counsel for these commercial appraisals on your agenda today. Trophy appraisals are broken. Take the new QTS data center. QTS applying for a tax break that they didn't get, said its tax would be \$15 million a year. Its actual tax, thanks to misappraisal is just 10 percent of that. That's \$14 million that should be flowing to the city and the schools that they're not getting. Now, if you don't believe me, I challenge, Mr. Conley to get in a room with me and let's have a debate, and I'll bring the receipts. I can bring the press releases from Cousins, who said they spent \$300,000,000 to buy 725 Ponce and another four million for development option on 715. There's no question it's a 300 million-dollar project, and it should be taxed at 300, and it's not, and therefore we're losing money. And Chris Rhodenbaugh has mentioned the 1085, the King Spalding building, it goes on and on. So your outside counsel idea is great, but it won't work by itself. You have to make a change in the appraiser staff, so that you have people who are good at trophy appraisals, who understand those segments: data centers, hotels, the fancy offices; and then working together with expert counsel and you're going to have to pay them well enough, but they are expert counsel. You're going to start to see the revenue flowing, and I said it's half a billion dollars and I'm sticking to it. It's half a billion dollars per year --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JULIAN BENE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and thank you very much."

DAMITA CHATMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Chair, Commission. My name is Damita Chatman. I'm here representing as taxpayers and for citizens for excellence (inaudible). I'm standing before you guys, and I'm going to ask you again please put a pause on your tax hike, please. I want each one of you guys to search your heart. I want the ones that voted for it to search your heart. Let's think about the people that food is going up, mortgage rent is going up, people that can't survive. You might can pay your rent; you might can pay your bills; you might can even can wear the red bottom shoes and all, but everybody can't do that. So I want you to look at that and again look at the tax. Let me say this, sometimes people get it confused. Fulton County do not cover the fire and the police: cities does that. The only thing that Fulton County covers is the mental, the health, and Charlie Brown Airport. They don't fund with

their taxes the police or the fire. Now, I can stand to be corrected if I'm wrong, but each city does that. So what I'm asking you to do is please search your heart. I'm glad that my Commissioner said that he was here on Zoom, but he's in Martha Vineyard. I ain't feeling that. I'm not feeling that because I thought I was gone get to see him today, because last week I was -- the last month I was here and I made a post, and he come back after me. I understand. I'll stand strong on what I believe in. I am not going to be moved by any of you guys, but I'm going to ask the four that voted for this tax, I know you're on ballot, vote, no --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DAMITA CHATMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- because I'll be the first one to make sure that you won't get elected. Thank you."

NANCY SAUNDERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, my name is Nancy Saunders, and what I wanted to do was make the numbers real for you so you would understand as a retiree what has happened to me and what I'm facing as a Fulton County taxpayer. So in 2002, I bought the house, a one-story ranch -- I'm in Buckhead. I bought a one-story ranch house next to my parents so I can help them as they grew older. I realize that I would make them crazy if I lived next door to them -- but in 2012, I was able to -- now keep in mind I have a mortgage -- in 2012, I bought their house so they can go to a retirement community. My dad had Alzheimer's -- I mean, had -- he had Parkinson's. My mom had some mild dementia, but anyway I had the great privilege of being able help them. I was able to pay both houses off. Again, it's the same house next door to each other, a one-story ranch. By 2015, I was able to pay both of the houses off, but my parents are still in retirement, but what happened then -- so this past -- I guess it was whenever we got our assessments, the same house, my house, and I've got the homestead exemption -- my house was appraised at a hundred thousand more than the house next door. I don't have any rhyme or reason for it, but here are the numbers that I think that really drew me up short. I went and I calculated for those two -- and I do get some rental income from that other house, but it's about 15,000 less than I do for social security. I just signed up for social security this year. I'm 69, because I had too. So and I'm at the upper end of social security, but it doesn't matter, so I wanted you to understand the numbers of what I pay for taxes on those two houses. So for Fulton County I pay over eight percent of my social security income for those two houses. If you add in city of Atlanta, it's almost 37 percent of my income. So the reality is -- as I was thinking about it, the reality is, you know, I buy things and they are mine. I bought my home, but it's really not mine, it really belongs to you guys because, you know, I have to keep paying taxes --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

NANCY SAUNDERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and so, I guess, I really want to ask you to please remember that as you're making these tax choices that you own my house, I don't, and that you're pricing me out of my home. You're pricing me out of my American dream."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have 89 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. Enough is enough. You want to raise the millage rate a hundred basis points, which actually is 12.5 percent increase, add to our escalating home -- added to our escalating home valuations, that could easily be a 20 percent more increase in our county operating liability. Some of our esteemed County Commissioners see this as building a \$78 million cushion in county funds; when actually it's a completely unneeded seizure of taxpayer money. If an emergency were to occur, approximately 40 percent of Americans could not cobble together \$400, and you want us to give you a \$78 million rainy day fund. Sounds like you want to screw your constituents just to make your life easier. We need a rollback. Our home values have increased, but we are not receiving any additional county services. Why take more from us? On another issue, we deserve bipartisan representation on the BRE. No one is above the law. This Board needs to follow that law. Appoint our legally nominated board members. Thank you."

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

CANDY MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. This is Candy Muldowney from Fulton County. The gravy train is stopped. We have had enough. You need to balance your budget as your constituents have to do in their households all of the time. The county has more than adequate reserves, and our bond ratings are solid. I have wished I could just wave a magic wand and have a bunch more money to spend, but that's really not the way it works. Your voters work hard for their money, and we are one of, if not the highest taxed county in the state. Any Commissioner who votes for this, is nuts. You are going the wrong way. Give us the rollback we deserve. Thank you so much."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Peter Korman."

PETE KORMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, Commissioners. This is Peter Korman, resident of Fulton County for forty years. My twin daughters who grew up in Fulton County are also residents, one's a homeowner, one's a renter. All three of us and our families and my son-in-law are all impacted by rising rents, rising home valuations; and now when the county should be adhering to the state in opting in for limiting its tax increases is considering truly outrageous 12.8 percent increase on top rising assessments this year. I would encourage every County Commissioner to reject the 12.8 percent increase and, in fact, consider rolling back the millage rate and looking into every department where we can actually make spending more efficient. You have an excellent CEO and County Manager who lives in Fulton. He was excellent at

BellSouth at making operations more efficient. I suggest very strongly that we look at Fulton County operations and see what we can do to make Fulton County better governed and less expensive so people do not have to leave. Thank you. I hope everyone also votes for the ballot proposition to reduce school taxes, while this isn't a Board of Commissioners --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- all right. Fifteen seconds."

PETE KORMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- item, the ballot in issue of 776 and 777 to provide exemptions -- partial exemptions for school taxes. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Janet Hill."

JANET HILL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Thank you. I'm a resident of Fulton County, and this is to address the issue that impacts property tax increases, which is deed fraud. Most property owners and tax assessors may not be aware that the costs in some cases that are being used to assess values are sometimes based on stolen properties. The theft is regularly and intentionally originated in the Tax Commissioner's office, where once a property tax bill is paid by a nonowner, someone who is attempting to steal properties, the scammer then files an eviction for the property using a fraudulent deed, and that fraudulent deed is based on an inflated value. For example, there are three recent stories of this issue in District 14, which is Old Fourth Ward. We respectfully demand -- we're not begging, we respectfully demand that these County officials perform their oath of office and protect our rights and our private property. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Stephen Poston."

STEPHEN POSTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes, Commissioners. I would very much like for you to vote against the millage rate. I oppose this because of several reasons. One is my wife and I are on social security. We had a 2.5 percent increase this year. And the second is that, you know, you guys have given an increase of 12 percent, there's a need for this. You pass the budget based on the current millage rate that would suffice for everything that you need this year. This is just a slush fund that you're looking to get. Your credit ratings are excellent. You have a \$239 million rainy day fund, in this millage rate is not needed for that; and it's going to affect people, you know, groceries are going up, healthcare is going up. You know, all these things are going up, and then you're going to increase our millage by 12 percent when we get an increase of 2.5 percent? You're going to price us out of our homes. We're not going to be able to do this anymore. So please, I implore you, to vote against this millage rate because it does affect all people in Fulton County. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Fawn Ortega."

FAWN ORTEGA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, yes, respectfully, Commissioners, my name is Fawn Ortega. I'm a Fulton County resident. I just really need to say on the record that we are in a full unconstitutional crisis, and if you go by the 2023, there was

fair trade. Tariffs have raised everything, and now there is uncertainty of all kinds. Just yesterday, Trump was on the roof of the White House talking about nuclear weapons, zero trade deals have been made. This is setting a frightening pace in people's stressful mind. At our last meeting, I saw the government spent billions on furniture and elevator data for the government zero for the people. You have a chance to halt this and to save us by not increasing our bottom line and preventing this height to bill. The people are under attack. We ask you to save our lives during this lawless time. We are fearful. I can't sleep at night because our futures and our ability to have our voices be heard are under attack. I feel that not raising our millage rate or our taxes during this time of lawlessness is just imperative. So please do not do this to us. We are stressed, and we don't have the proper healthcare to even take care of these stresses. I thank you for your time."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Charles Krieger."

CHARLES KRIEGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes, hello. As the senior, living in East Roswell, I'm going to call back to our elementary school days when we learned that one of the main reasons this country was formed was a revolt against taxation without representation. Please explain how our representation will increase concomitantly with the millage rate increase? My wife and I joined Kurt Russell and escaped from New York ten years ago because of these kinds of actions where the government feels free to ignore their books and demand more and more from the citizens, and we see what's happening in New York, people are fleeing. In order to benefit from that flight, it would be wise for our Fulton County officers to make this a welcome place and not only not increase this millage rate, but decrease it. Make it more inviting for people and businesses to come here. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Cheryl Turner."

CHERYL TURNER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Thank you to all of our Commissioners for your service to Fulton County. I'm participating in today's public hearing to ask that you not increase the millage rate this year. As you know, due to House Bill 581, citizens have not been provided an estimated tax on their property tax assessments. The natural result of this will be that some residents, particularly seniors on fixed incomes, may not save enough to pay their taxes at the current millage rate. Your desire to increase the millage rate knowing this is concerning, since we know that if seniors have not paid their taxes by the due date because they don't have the money, they are more likely to end up with a tax lien, which can lead to the loss of their home. To raise the millage rate with this knowledge is shortsighted and undermines citizen's trust in your leadership. Especially given that County staff has said the increase is not necessary this year. If you feel the increase is necessary for next year, I encourage you to start doing the due diligence now to make the need for an increase to the Fulton County resident -- to Fulton County residents clear, and we can have an increase next year. But today, I ask that you not increase the 2025 millage rate. Thank you for your time."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Beverly Crawford."

BEVERLY CRAWFORD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. As a senior who's not yet eligible for some of the homestead exemptions, I have just been placed on disability, I watched my home value go from 250 to 432, and my property tax has doubled since I have purchased this home, which also impacts my insurance rate for my home, and I am now on a fixed income. All of these are shortcomings. I've just got the escrow statement that I need to come up with another \$1800 for the escrow shortcoming, and I'm trying to figure out where that's going to come from along with all of these medical bills. So as a taxpayer in Fulton County and also the city of Union City, I am asking you guys, begging, imploring you guys not to increase the millage rate, which we already have home values up the wazoo, and you are already receiving increased tax monies. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Mari Wilson."

MARI WILSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. Can you hear me okay? I'm sorry; it's a first for me."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

MARI WILSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you for hearing all of us. I don't know that I can add much more than all of these brilliant people have. I've been here 15 years, and I think about how our taxes increased and all that, and I get to see a intercity road fixed; it's mind numbing. I think the valuations of our properties, they have gone up quite a bit, but in some ways so unrealistically that you can't just lump everybody in because of the -- excuse me -- you know, maybe the place next door, there's a building across the street that's newer, but we're living in something old and worth a lot less. You know, times are tough, and inflation is up again. So many more eloquent people have said it already. I worked in the film business, which was a huge part of the economy here, and I think we all know it's been pretty slow and dead for a couple years, of course, because they're shipping it out of the country now. So all the more reason we can't pay. A lot of us are almost destitute and we're trying to re-career. My bill also doubled last year. I'm sorry; I don't have the bill in front of me. So yeah, it's just enough. We're broke. We can't afford it. And this is an insane increase. It just is. It's absurd, and you got to take care of us, because, you know, we're in trouble here, and it's getting way too expensive, and I'm approaching the senior citizenship myself, but not quite there to get a tax break. All right, thank you, everybody."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds, ma'am."

MARI WILSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm finished, sir."

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

NADINE MELO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, my name is Nadine Melo. I'm a Fulton resident. I'm here to urge our Commissioners to reconsider this property tax hike. Raising property taxes right now is not just unnecessary, it's tone deaf. The county's own budget documents show that revenues are strong and property values already overinflated. This is not about covering a shortfall; it's about ignoring the very real financial pressure residents are facing. Everything is going up from groceries, insurance, utilities, but our salaries are not. This tax increase will only add to the burden for working families and individuals already struggling to keep up, and I'm not a senior citizen nor am I on a fixed income. Just last year, voters across party lines came together to curb the rise of property taxes. That unity was a clear message, enough is enough. Moving forward with another increase now tells residents that their voices don't matter and that community trust is optional. Even your own budget materials acknowledge that property values are overinflated and if you know that valuations are officially high, why keeping pushing a burden onto homeowners? We deserve better. I urge you to reconsider this increase, not just for the sake of the budget, for the people who actually live here. Otherwise, who are you really serving and who is this city really for? That's all."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Al Williams. Al Williams. Next person to speak is Allan Anderson. Allan Anderson. Next person to speak is Amol Mali. Amol Mali. Next person to speak is Amparo Jauregui. Amparo Jauregui. Next person to speak is Anita Gupta. Anita Gupta. Next person to speak is Ashi Reese. Ashi Reese. The next person to speak is Aria Fiore."

ARIA FIORE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. I just wanted to say I've lived in the city of Atlanta for ten years. In February, my property taxes went up \$181 each month. Right now, my mortgage is one-third property taxes. We do not want this increase, and if you vote for it, we're going to remember this. We're going to remember this when it's time to reelect you. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Anwar Ghaswala. Anwar Ghaswala."

ANWAR GHASWALA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everybody. The reason is for calling is the millage rate should not be increased. The property values are increased, but have increased because the people who wanted to sell the property has spent [Verbatim.] maybe between 100 to \$300,000 upgrading the property and selling it. Our house needs that 100 to 300,000 upgrading, so we can get the same amount. If we try to sell the property as is right now, we may get round about 300 to 400 less than what the property values are at this time. So hence the property value of the county suggest or the data suggests is just expenses which has been spent by an homeowner who just sell the property, and the millage rate increase is not warranted, in my opinion. So I'm asking you not to increase our millage rate as well as try to be less on the appraisal of the property. The property has in real sense for people who are staying has not appreciated that much. If you want to sell, you spend 100 to \$300,000 upgrading the property to get your value. I appreciate that. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Audrey Collins. Audrey Collins. Next person to speak is Audrey Ford. Audrey Ford. Next person to speak is Bill Gione, Bill Gione. Next person to speak is Birdel Jackson. Birdel Jackson. Next person to speak is C.K. Yue."

C.K. YUE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

C.K. YUE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes. You all are, Commissioners, right? This rates on property taxes is insane with inflation being so high and all the seniors having a hard time to come up with all the day-to-day expenses. This is ridiculous. I've been a Fulton County resident for over 20 years, and this will cost a lot of burden to businessowners, homeowners, commercial property owners. So if you want a big recession in Fulton County and you want to all lose your job next term, do that. So please do not do it. We have enough budget and there was one Commissioner, I don't want to mention the name, she said because of our jail system needed to be upgraded and what have you, maintain what you have. Live below your means, and if the prisoner becoming a burden, put them to work. We need more laborers here in this country. So that's all I have to say. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Camille Sudderth. Camille Sudderth. Next person to speak is Cartha O'Hare. Cartha O'Hare. Next person to speak is Cheryl Turner. Cheryl Turner. Next person to speak is Robby Caban."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. Thank you for allowing public comment. And just FYI, the process when people say to look on these sites is unclear. For months now, I've been having to come in person to make public comment because the online public comment process is very confusing, which is unfortunate for, especially seniors, who have feedback. But I am speaking today to oppose the increase in the millage rate, specifically in alignment with all of the residents who have made very reasonable arguments including the lack of appropriate appraisals on commercial property, the current fraud that's going on within the housing market that you have not regulated and, in fact, exacerbated the consequences to Fulton residents by inviting for profiteers, raising the values, not warning residents, and failing to regulate the MPU system which continues to be problematic due to the MPU -- listening to neighborhood associations that require monetary dues, which are a modern day pole tax and leave out the voice of the true community collective. But further, I've commented multiple times on the animal control contract. Fulton County along, taxpayers allocate over \$9 million a year which, by the way, there's no timeframe on this system online. I don't know who handles that, but we have allocated over \$9.5 million a year that you have increased County provider, Lifeline Animal Project, that covers over 15 cities, and that money is not being used, taxpayer funds, according to the animal control contract. You have all been advised via multiple whistleblowers, staff, and volunteers alike, that the animals are not being picked up. We have an overcapacity shelter that was full --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and you have failed to audit. You are asking for more money when you are wasting, wasting. This is taxpayer fraud. This is taxpayer abuse. Stop wasting our money. Do not raise the millage rate."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Christie Kwon. Christie Kwon. Next person to speak is Connie Mixon. Connie Mixon. Next person to speak is Dian Brown. Dian Brown. Next person to speak is Claudia Vanessa. Claudia Vanessa. The next person to speak is Donna Murphy. Donna Murphy. Next person to speak is Ernest Glenn. Ernest Glenn. The next person to speak is Georgeann Levy. Georgeann Levy. Next person to speak is Janae Davis. Janae Davis. Next person to speak is Georgia Barrow. Georgia Barrow. Next person to speak is Greg Malecki. Greg Malecki. The next person to speak is Jason Shafer. Jason Shafer. Next person to speak is Jennifer Frieese. Jennifer Frieese. Next person to speak is Ilesha Wells. Ilesha Wells."

IESHA WELLS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "This is Ilesha Wells, and I am on here just to let you guys know that I bought my home in 2018, and my taxes were maybe \$600. In the last seven years, it has more than doubled. I cannot afford to pay this now, so just imagine if you increase it to 12 percent. I am a Para Pro -- there is no way that I can afford this. I'm barely able to make my payments that I have now along with all of the rest of the bills that I have. This is unacceptable, and you're supposed to be here for us. You supposed to take care of your people, your citizens. This is not what it's doing, and that's all I have to say."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Sharie Maresot."

SHARIE MARESOT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I recently bought a condo in Fulton County, and I -- I am very, very happy about it, but now learning about the potential increase, I've been stressing out every single day because I am not sure how I'm going to come up with the money. I work in the school system, so I don't make a lot. Could you guys please, please reconsider, because I don't know if I'm going to be able to afford it, and I'm already having second thoughts and doubts about me even living in Fulton County and me even purchasing a condo. Please reconsider, thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is -- excuse me. Joyce Cross. Joyce Cross."

JOYCE CROSS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes, hi. I'm Joyce Cross, and I live in Fulton County, and I'm just going to echo the many dozens and dozens of people that testify here today that this increase is not bearable for most of your residents, and if you are listening to your residents here today, you will vote, no to a tax increase of this magnitude or suffer the consequences at the voting booth. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak Jeff Bauch. Jeff Bauch."

JEFF BAUCH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes, I've been listening to this. This is my first time attending. I'm a long resident of Fulton County. The votes are clear. It's insane that this many people are sitting here, and you're supposed to represent the people of this County, and what I'm hearing is just atrocious. It's insane. So as a manner of course, I'm willing to donate a lot of money towards personal investigation of corruption in the County as well as signage to prevent the reelection of all of you, starting particularly with Dana Barrett, who's up for election next year, and then the rest of you follow up after that, making sure that you don't perpetrate this continued atrocity. Thanks."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Jerry Hill. Jerry Hill. The next person to speak is Juan Jimenez. Juan Jimenez. The next person to speak is Katherine Lewis. Katherine Lewis. The next person to speak is Linda Lebriton. Linda Lebriton."

LINDA LEBRITON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yep, can everyone hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

LINDA LEBRITON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I just wanted to echo everything else everyone else is saying, and I do not think that you should increase those rates."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Sharon Follmer. Sharon Follmer. Okay. The next person to speak is Mark Dunbar. Mark Dunbar. Next person to speak is Mary Lunsford. Mary Lunsford. Next person to speak is Mark Riley. Mark Riley. Next person to speak is Matthew Ehret. Matthew Ehret. Next person to speak is Ma Kelly. Ma Kelly. The next person to speak is Cornelia Krieger. Cornelia Krieger."

CORNELIA KRIEGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, can everybody hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, ma'am."

CORNELIA KRIEGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, hello everyone. I live in Fulton County with my husband. We moved here from the very expensive New York City, and we now find ourselves in the exact same situation with this 13 percent increase. I speak directly to the Commissioners. I thank you for your service; however, the Fulton County taxpayers are not your bank. We should not have to pick between feeding our families, and all of the expenses that we have, and funding other projects. The county has to live within a budget. That's all I have to say. We would not be able to afford it. If this rate goes through, we would not be able to afford to live in Fulton County, and we love living here. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Maureen Giannone. Maureen Giannone. The next person to speak is -- is -- excuse me, Nailina Vagmar. Nailina Vagmar. The next person to speak is Nancy Brockway. Nancy

Brockway. All right. The next person to speak is Pamela Scott-Johndron. Pamela Scott-Johndron. Next person to speak is Paul Barrow. Paul Barrow. Next person to speak is Shelby Bose. Shelby Bose. Next person to speak is Ryan Zanarski."

RYAN ZANARSKI, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, good morning, everyone. I just moved to Fulton County literally a month ago and very excited to be here, but as a lot of the other attendees have voiced their concerns, the affordability factor is something that I seriously urge the Commissioners, and the Board here to reconsider and reevaluate what the solution could be to cover the bases and the cover the necessary funding. So I strongly recommend that you please vote against this increase in property taxes for us so that we can continue to enjoy a quality of life that many other residents find appealing here. Thank you very much."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Cindy Trapnell. Cindy Trapnell. Next person to speak is Sandra Elias. Sandra Elias. Next person to speak is Sherry Ragole. Sherry Ragole. Next person to speak is Susan Rice. Susan Rice. Next person to speak is Shelby Bose. Shelby Bose. Next person to speak is Tina Sheridan. Tina Sheridan. Next person to speak is Vivian Yu. Vivian Yu. The next person to speak is Wesley Hills. Wesley Hills. Next person to speak is Tony Serrano. Tony Serrano. Next person to speak -- it was labeled Zoom user. And this concludes the Zoom public comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Seventy-one, we're good. Okay. All right, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. Continuing on page 7 of the Public Hearings, **25-0562**, Finance: Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Millage Rate Public Hearings. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have received 21 speaker cards. We'll start with speakers here in Assembly Hall. First six speakers, please come forward: Councilman Bob Erramilli, Brother Antoney Muhammad, Pam Eckhardt, Michael Dvorsak, Dorothy Harpe, and George Freeman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Did the Councilman leave? Okay. Brother Muhammad."

ANTONEY MOHAMMED, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I appreciate you letting me coming back. I think you didn't quite comprehend me a while ago, but I'm going to make it very simple today. What I'm talking about is this (Indiscernible.) went over the city over 300 percent, but that ain't really my concern, you know. You've got a dog pound in Fulton County, just spent a million dollars. That could have been able to help peoples on the street. And like someone said, you spent a lot of money wastefully, but what you should prioritize your interests based on the interests of the people. Now this is what we call the tree of life, you know your Bible, all the religion started with the teaching of the (indiscernible.) on the THOTH. This dark matter man, he was the one that taught us how to have love. That's what I'm talking about Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy; they were working for the benefit of a rising condition, your people that hadn't

had houses in the city, we just started buying some houses and they've never even been able to keep them because of the taxes. And then in '68, he got shot. Then you had Mr. King to get shot. Who talking for us now? We thought y'all would, Ms. Ivory, Ms. Rahman, the 21st century starts in Assembly Hall. You, millennial people, you are maturity. Why don't we realize other people living on the street? You got DEI, diversity, equity, and inclusion. That don't even allow us who look like me, being suffering for 400 years, to get access to resources, even money to pay for rent, but you are bringing people from another country, give them access to jobs, all in the government. Well, they did not plan for what Mr. Trump did about birth rights. You Democrats, who started the Democrat Party? Talk; who started the Democrat party, Andrew Jackson, on your \$20. He didn't have no love for your ancestors then. He fought the (indiscernible.) War --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ANTONEY MOHAMMED, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- he fought the (indiscernible.) war to get your own people, my indigenous people. My family know they own land, but they ran them off. So I'm saying do what the people ask of you. Don't increase the millage, but do something about the poor folk that look like you, Ms. Ivory, Mr. Pitts, Ms. Rahman."

MIKE DVORZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Mike Dvorzak. I'm a Fulton County resident, lifelong Fulton County resident, and I'm opposed to the millage rate increase. I think that, among other things, you'll find that those who can afford to leave will choose to leave, many of them, when their costs go up. And property values will go down because of the added tax burden. And those that can't afford to leave because they can't afford to go buy another house, people who live in some of the poorer areas of this county will feel the brunt of this regressive tax increase. Now, I was privileged to go a presentation by Commissioner Thorne about the budget, and I learned a lot and between the areas where we can tighten our belts and as Mayor Bradberry put it, to save some money, and things like the assessment process where the gentleman mentioned QTS and their investment, a million square-foot data center is easily worth when you include the personal property inside a billion dollars. Now if it's not being taxed accordingly, the county is leaving a lot of money on the table there. So I would submit that we need to investigate these areas first before we come to the people and ask them for more money. So thank you for your time this morning."

DOROTHY HARPE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone on the Board of Commission. My name is Dorothy Harpe, and I'm a resident of Fulton County. And I want to say that at the age of 65 and above, we should abolish property tax for seniors. We can't keep affording to pay for this increase. I know you all make good money and probably don't care about it, but people like me and others we care about it because we cannot keep paying these increases and this millage rate every year. Y'all go up, but our check don't go up. Our checks say the same thing, and we have to rob Paul to pay Peter. And I'm sick of paying the property tax on that house. I've been living in the house 40 years. I've done double time paid for that house. I don't have no children in the school system that use all of this stuff, and they should be abolished for seniors 65 and up. Commissioner Pitts, I know you fit in that category, so you should be on my

side, and abolish property taxes and quit increasing our millage rate on these property that we have in Atlanta, Georgia. That's what I'm here for. Thank you very much. Have a blessed day."

GEORGE FREEMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Greetings. I'm George Freeman, senior citizen. I used to be a lifetime resident of Fulton County. I want thank, Chairman Pitts and all the Board of Commissioners for all the -- your service to Fulton County and the city of Atlanta. Actually, I'm here today, as a lot of people are, to encourage a no vote against the 12.5 percent millage rate increase. As a lifelong resident of Fulton County, my great-grandfather, Isaac Roberts, was the first train conductor and engineer on the first train in Atlanta to Roswell; even carried a President on that train. So my family has been paying taxes, increasing taxes on property for over a hundred years in Fulton County, back to the 1800s. We feel that the voters, the taxpayers, and the citizens have been really burdened with increasing inflation since COVID in 2000. They're really filling the pinch on food, utilities, gasoline, insurance, and social services. A 12 percent increase, along with the increase in values of their homes, and the maintenance to keep those homes up is an undue burden, especially on groups like my family, which is a middle income, lower income families, and people raising children."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

GEORGE FREEMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I just want you to really consider a vote against this tax increase at this time. I appreciate your time."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers: Michael Gordon, Lucia Frazer, Maria Gaudio, Larry Samuelson, and Ginger Bradshaw."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "While they're coming down, let me recognize Atlanta City Councilmember, Mary Norwood. Thank you for being with us, Councilmember."

MICHAEL GORDON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Michael Gordon, Fulton County resident for 30 years. I'm here to oppose the raising of the millage rate for the following reasons: The budget for 2025 that you guys put together for 915 million was based on a millage rate of 8.87, and so far, the spending this year, you're under budget. So you're expecting to have a surplus if you continue the way you're going. So there's absolutely no reason to raise the millage rate when you have more than enough to cover your expenses. The excuse given, or maybe one of the excuses, was the refurbishing the Fulton Jail, and the expenses for Grady Hospital and some other things, these are not valid because these are not for fiscal year 2025. So please don't use those arguments to justify raising the rates. And interestingly enough, over the last ten years, the rates have actually come down by 25 percent. You guys have made that happen, so thank you for that. While at the same time, revenues have gone up by 41 percent. So you don't need to raise the millage rate to get more revenue. You're going to get that by not raising it just because of people coming in and property values going up. So it's completely unnecessary. In fact, what you should be thinking about is, how much can we lower the millage rate because we have all this extra money that we don't need as

the tax revenue goes up. You don't need to have such a high millage rate. So please don't do that. And you know, the problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money. This is not your money. If you guys want to spend your money, that's great. Go ahead and do that. We'd love that. But if you're going to spend our money, then spend as little as you can. Don't spend money you don't need. Stop making excuses and lower our rates, give us a break. You are here to represent us."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

MICHAEL GORDON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So, thank you. Bye."

LUCIA FRAZER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners, Lucia Frazer. I do not support any increase in the millage rate at all. In fact, a rollback would be great. Like the previous speaker said, the county does have enough money to fund our budget the way it is. That was shown in financial analysis in other meetings. All citizens should be able to keep their money. The number one principle that this country was founded on is that citizens can make decisions for themselves, not have the government make those decisions for them. So we can get together as a county, we can decide what money we want to spend and on what. That's why we're here. Like structure, like roads and utilities, and some support programs for the less fortunate. But really past that, I mean, we don't need to do that. I mean, you're already overdoing it. There's tons and tons of programs I hear about in the budget that maybe I don't support, and maybe if I keep more of my money, I can choose which programs I want to support as far as charity or art programs or things like that, that you guys don't need to choose to support for me. And to save some money, an idea, we can save several million dollars. All we have to do is stop using the expensive machines that we use for elections. Hand marked paper ballots would save us a ton of money. And we can also go down to one Election Day like we used to. All of this would save us a lot of money. Some folks here said they were okay with a little more money, but I don't think they realize how bad the Fulton track record has been. You still haven't proven to me that I can trust you with my money. So I also want to thank Commissioners Ellis and Thorne --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LUCIA FRAZER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- for supporting commonsense budgeting, and for making really fabulous informative presentations for us to understand the process. Thank you."

GINGER BRADSHAW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi, Commissioners. I'm Ginger Bradshaw, long time Fulton County resident. And what I was going to say I'm not going to say because you've heard it from 99.9 percent of the people today. Republicans don't want a tax increase. Democrats don't want a tax increase. So what I have to say is a hundred percent of the speakers here have been opposed to property taxes. Extrapolate that percentage to the voters in the next election and evaluate how good your chances are. Thank you very much."

CLERK GRIER: "Next speakers, please come forward: LA Pink, Carmelita Beckham, Dimitrios Sphero, Cynthia Pitts, Gib Green, and Christine Deirdre."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You said, Ms. Ford? Okay."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay, so today, I just bring forth that what I didn't say earlier that I have the courage and the wisdom, unlike some of the people on the Board, to go to the Governor and file a complaint against the Sheriff for an investigation. Today, we stand with an unmarked seat once again. He says he's on the call, but he's in Martha's Vineyard. And if everybody paid attention, he was there last year around the same time. And here we go again, and he's probably there with his friend, Labut, the Sheriff, like he was before on tax payer's dollars. Y'all ain't tired? Enough is enough. Like when are we going to say I'm not going to be a part of the RICO? Because when you know crime, you become a part of the crime. This is the reason why I keep throwing that word around, because crime is organized, is when one or two people know what's going on, and something is organized or allowed to be done and knowingly done, a County Attorney, knowingly. See, we can go back to when he swore in, and we knew that he was sworn in before his date, that he was supposed to be here, and I keep bringing him up because y'all need to name this bill -- I mean, this conversation y'all are having after him, because he has cost y'all the most money. He has cost y'all the most money, and y'all continue to allow this to happen. And I'm going to continue to bring that forward so that Fulton County residents could recognize that he is part of the --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- tax increase. He's part of the reason why y'all even having a discussion, him and Fani Willis, of the tax increase. It may be Mo Ivory."

DEMETRICE BREWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Morning again. I'm Brewer, again. I just have a few questions and I have peoples outside who would like to have some good answers to it, because outside we ain't getting any answers. A few answers is -- after a year of being housed, they want to know is the vouchers is actually a lifetime voucher or what's the expiration date on the voucher? Because you have multiple people that's out there that was in a residence in their homes. They got picked up off the streets, back on the streets because they said that some of the programs they went through, they put them back out in a year and 12 months. And some of them were looking for a second year, a second term, being in they places, and but they're back out on the streets. They right up the street, they right down the street in the tents. So I'd just like to get something together to give to them so we all be on one accord. Is there anything that y'all could feed back to me, so I can have to give to them? Is the voucher is a lifetime voucher, is what I'm asking, for housing? Is it? Nobody knows? Well, thank you all for y'all's time again. You have a blessed evening."

GIB GREEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm not sure if it's still morning yet or still, but if it is, good morning either way. I just -- you know, I'm going to be real with you. We've had dozens and dozens and dozens of people from every side; all walks of life come up and speak with y'all this morning about not raising our millage rate, okay? Despite all of the

division that's in this country right now sadly, this is something that's unanimous with everybody. So please listen to the people that are here. And I want to say to the people that are listening to me right now, there's elections coming up, and if these Commissioners want to raise your millage rate regarding things like not getting federal spending when we've seen HIV grants come over the top with more money and other resources come in and not be able to define to you why they want to raise your rate, vote them out. I want to create an urgency right now with the Commissioners and with the voters. If you're going to raise our millage rate after hearing all these people from all walks of life, vote them out. Vote the people in that won't raise your millage rate that will look out for you. People that say they're for affordable housing, raising the millage rate is not being for affordable housing, okay? Not only raises the property tax, it raises rent. I really wish that Commissioner Arrington, Jr. was here today. I'd love to look at his face right now. In 2023, he said he does what the community tells him to do, okay? Well, the community is telling you, sir, and the Commissioners right now today to not raise the millage rate and to lower the millage rate --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

GIB GREEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- I'm done. Thanks for your time."

CLERK GRIER: "Last four speakers, please come forward: Damita Chatman, Jewel Johnson, Victoria Salvia, and Angela James."

DAMITA CHATMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I stand before you again. Thank you, Commissioner, Chair and the Commission. I'm asking you guys, please, do not raise the tax rate. Again, I want you to think about the seniors, the young folks that's coming out of high school that want to buy a home and can't afford a home. I need you guys to look at the food going up. I need you to look at all that. Search your heart, please. I'm hoping that my Commissioner is still on Zoom. I just saw something come across social media that is a little disturbing. And so, since it's out there in the public, I'm going to say something about it: If this tax meeting was so important and to saving money, why would you spend \$2,231 and some change, taxpayer dollars, to go to Martha's Vineyard? I don't know if you're over there on county or luxury, but the perception don't look good. It don't look good. So I'm going to ask the four that voted for this tax increase to search your heart. And I put out last week and I'm standing on faith on this one that it's going to be a change of heart out of somebody up there. I don't need but one vote. We don't need but one vote to change the heart, and this is what woke me up this morning after I decided not to go to work last night because I wanted to be fresh for y'all. Mark 8:36, "What is it for a man to gain the world and lose his soul?" What I'm going to say to you guys --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DAMITA CHATMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- search your heart and do what's right. And if you don't do it right, we're going to make sure we get it right. Thank you. Have a great day."

JEWEL JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. I'm Jewel Johnson and I'm here today as an advocate. I am very, very disturbed that we are raising taxes on people, especially the ones on the Southside, where we have so many people over there just trying to live from day-to-day. How are they going to add on to what they already struggling to have? And I want to say this: We are the richest country in the world. Fulton County is the largest county in Georgia. I want to know from all of you, because I certainly been e-mailing and I've been calling and letting you know why is it that we on the Southside have a food problem? We have people hungry; we have people on the streets. I said that to one Commissioner and they said that to me, oh, that was just a homeless person. Well, let me tell you something, they wasn't born homeless. I have been trying to talk to my Commissioner for almost two years, and she has refused to talk to me, and I want to know why? You took an oath. You do not have the pleasure of representing who you want to. Everybody in your District needs to be supported. And this is awful, and I'm going to say this: The streets are talking. Change is coming, and I'm quite sure no one here is going to like it --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

JEWEL JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and angels of mercy, Ms. Khadijah, it's not going anywhere. Thank you."

VICTORIA SALVIA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Victoria Salvia from District Four, Fulton County. To clarify exactly which individual proposed this property tax increase bill, it's Commissioner Mo Ivory of District Four along with the support of the following individuals: Commissioners Dana Barrett of District Three, Marvin Arrington of District Five, and Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman in District Six. One must ask, why would these four individuals who collectively represent the poorest areas of Fulton County even consider creating a monster situation for many who are already next to destitute? This is slavery wherein the citizens are forced into the threat of coercion, duress, or even violence to hand over a portion of their hard-earned income or they will have their homes stolen from them by their perceived masters. A key component to consider, what is the right of an individual under the God's law, a.k.a. Universal Law, a.k.a., natural law based on objective morality? A right is an action that does not cause harm against another set being. This concept of taxation under coercion, duress, and even violence is a man-made construct, and is not a right of an individual under the laws of the creator a.k.a. natural law, for these individuals to force us to pay any taxes, nonetheless even more taxes or they will steal our property as a transgression against God's law a.k.a. universal law a.k.a. natural law and is, therefore, immoral. If these individuals vote in favor of this bill, not only are they showing us that they do not care at all about what happens to us, our elders, or our children as a result of this tax hike. They are showing us by definition that they are acting immorally. In Martin Luther King's I have a dream speech, he spoke of equality and freedom --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

VICTORIA SALVIA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- the ironic fun factor is that he was born and grew up in the area now known as District Four, Fulton County, which is Mo Ivory's

District, who was the representative proposing this horrendous tax hike. Boy, have things change y'all."

ANGELA JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm Angela Jones. And my concern is, and I don't know if it's been out there, published yet, is I would like to see a graph made on the revenue that's come in over the past ten years in to Fulton County for residential properties and businesses as far as property taxes are concerned. Because I know it has grown immensely, the revenue that has come into this county and it's just disgusting to want to raise our taxes in excess of 12 percent. And I'm a visual learner. I ride around Fulton County, and there's apartment complexes coming up on every square inch of land there is. So the revenue had to increase immensely. That is my biggest concern, just seeing it visually, and seeing a graft of your expenditures also that have been made and have been put out over the past ten years. So we can see what revenue was coming in 2015 all the way up to 2025, so that we can understand the need for this --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

ANGELA JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- increase in taxes. And also, the accessors, I think that they sometimes unfairly assess your property. And I understand from one of the assessors that the apartment -- the multifamily dwelling apartment owners, they get a bigger tax break than the residential people do. I don't know if that's true or not, but that's what I was told, and I think that is also unfair, because a lot of these people are very wealthy and they get the break, but we don't --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ANGELA JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "That's all. Thank you very much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it?"

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we still have 59 speakers on Zoom."

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

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you for taking the public comments online. Just an FYI, there's no sort of structure on here, so people don't know when they're going to speak, that might be beneficial in the future. There is also no time clock on here, and this chat is disabled. I don't know why you wouldn't allow public comments in a public meeting via the chat. The two subjects that I want to bring up regarding this millage rate that clearly everyone is against, is the current predatory investments in real estate that have not been regulated. I have e-mailed my city council, Antonio Lewis, and I've e-mailed the mayor's office of sustainability. I've e-mailed my Commissioners, specifically, Natalie Hall, Marvin Arrington, and all of you regarding the lack of regulation that you've allowed in real estate industry. You have allowed the city to do for-profit tours, inviting investors, inviting predatory investors without warning the residents

that've flipped these properties that brought tax liens, the firms that are encouraging brokers, licensees, to flip properties. That is against the code of ethics which is very clear. It states, upon -- under all is the land, upon its wise utilization and widely allocated ownership depend the survival and growth of free institutions. We're not using our lands for highest investment. No one is regulating it. That's the first problem. The tax assessments are based off of predatory sales. I alone have had an issue for three years with the tax assessor's office and all of my senior neighbors come to me to help them with comps. Then there's the waste. The waste in Fulton County, animal control and the jail is a perfect example. You allocate \$9 million to a county vendor who is not performing, who have no animal control experience. --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- 15 seconds."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- the contract. Are you kidding? Who would not pay nine million taxpayer dollars to take care of animals and do our field? Stop wasting our money. You took an oath of office. Don't be unethical. Do the right thing. Do not pass this millage rate, and stop spending our money."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you. Next speaker."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is -- excuse me. Excuse me. Allan Anderson. Allan Anderson. Next person to speak is Sharon Follmer."

SHARON FOLLMER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, can anyone hear me?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yes."

SHARON FOLLMER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Oh, good. This is the first time I've been able to get this thing to work, so I would just simply like to say that since -- my math may be off, but since 100 percent of the people that have spoken today have been against this tax increase. I'm just trying to say what is the justification at all for this? I mean, no one has really convinced me that there is any justification. In fact, it's been quite the opposite. So unless the only thing that moves these people, the Commissioners that is, is the thought that you won't be elected again, then so be it. But it seems like this is an awful lot of waste of time for everybody just to do what you knew was the right thing to do in the first place. So that's it."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you. Next speaker."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Amol Mali. Amol Mali. Next person to speak is Aria Fiore. Aria Fiore. Next person to speak is Ashli Reese. Ashli Reese. Next person to speak is Birdel Jackson. Birdel Jackson. Next person to speak is Beverly Crawford. Beverly Crawford. Next person to speak is C.K. Yue. C.K. Yue. Next person to speak is Claudia Vanessa. Claudia Vanessa. Next person to speak is Camille Sutterth."

CAMILLE SUDDERTH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes, can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

CAMILLE SUDDERTH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I worked in recruiting young people to come to Atlanta to work and these young people back then could barely afford their apartments. And some of them had to live way in another county; however, to come to commute is now adding another hour and a half, or an hour to an hour and a half to their commute just to get there. So I want to get quality educators, I want to get quality people coming into the county; and we cannot keep recruiting these people if they are faced with just rising rapid cost. So that's it. I appreciate your time."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Ernest Glenn. Ernest Glenn. Next person to speak is Dian Brown. Dian Brown."

DIAN BROWN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon, everyone. My husband, Calvin Brown and I would like to voice our strong opposition to the proposed property and millage increase in Fulton County. And we urge all of the Commissioners to vote, no on this proposal for the very several compelling reasons. One being, Fulton County already has the highest property taxes in Georgia. And on a personal note, we understand that the median annual tax bill is \$3,847, and we personally already pay almost double the median tax bill. My husband and I are both 65 and older, on fixed income, and we recently received a 50 percent notification of change in our home value, so our tax bill is already subject to go up 50 percent even without a millage increase, so I would just say that as seniors, we believe it's important for Fulton County to have a major school tax exemption for seniors. We have not had children in school for over ten years. And again, we just want to say we oppose, strongly oppose any proposed property tax increase, whether it be millage tax or market value -- market valuation taxation of the amount the house is reportedly appraised at. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Diarra Brown. Diarra Brown. Next person to speak is Fawn Ortega. Fawn Ortega."

FAWN ORTEGA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. I'm sorry. I thought I had already put my hand down. I didn't realize that it was up. I already said my piece. Trump was on the group for the White House talking about nuclear weapon --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- all right. Thank you. Next speaker."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Fred Meyer. I'm sorry, Fred Meyer. Next person to speak is Jack Ewer. Jack Ewer. Next person to speak -- excuse me. The next person to speak is Jennifer Friesse. Jennifer Friesse. Next person to speak is Katherine Lewis. Katherine Lewis. Next person to speak is Pamela Scott-Johndron. Pamela Scott-Johndron. Next person to speak is Greg Malecki. Greg Malecki. Next person to speak is Shelby Bose. Shelby Bose. Okay. The next person to speak is Tina Sheridan. Tina Sheridan. The last to speak is Tony Serrano. Tony Serrano. And this concludes our Zoom public comment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you. That's it? All right, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 7, County, Manager's items, under Open and Responsible Government, **25-0564**, Finance: Presentation and discussion of the 2025 midyear budget review."

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

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a brief presentation if we could get it pulled up on the screen, please. Thank you. We can go to the next slide. Good afternoon, Commissioners. We appreciated the opportunity to brief you regarding the midyear review in advance of today's meeting and wanted to walk through the presentation now publicly. This first slide is intended to share with the Board and the public a historical view of our millage rate and our actual financial performance from 2015 through 2024, along with what the 2025 budget included. The synopsis of this slide is essentially that between 2015 and 2024, our millage rate has declined from 10.5 mils to 8.87 mils where it has been since the 2022 millage rate adoption. That is a 16 percent change over that period of time. From a financial performance period of time, while our millage rate has been on a steady decline, we have seen our fund balance position increase from a year-end fund balance in 2015 of 156 million to a year-end fund balance at the end of 2024 of 240 million. During the same period of time, our actual revenues have increased from 619 million in 2015 to 879 million in 2024, while our expenditures have increased as well from 591 million in 2015 to 867 million in 2024. All of this to say is that we have generally done very well from a financial performance perspective. We've had a strong fund balance with the exception of the 2017 to 2018 time period where we had a, what we refer to as the tax digest reset, which resulted in significantly delayed property tax bills with a due date in the following future year. Our credit rating has increased over this period of time, and we are currently recognized with a Triple A credit rating. Next slide, please. With regard to 2025's actual performance, we have provided you with a projection based on two different millage rates. What's before you now is the millage rate that we used when we established the 2025 budget and we will also show you a view of what the proposed millage rate at 9.87 looks like. And so, on this slide with the proposed millage rate -- I mean, with a current millage rate of 8.87 mils, we are projecting that we will generate about \$930 million in total revenue, that is from all sources of revenue, property tax, sales tax, and other sources of income including interest commissions on property tax, fines and fees coming from the court of any other source that really doesn't fall into that property tax or sales-tax category. We originally programmed 915 million in revenue anticipations in the 2025 budget, which means we will see about a 15 million-dollar a better performance in our revenues based on the 8.87 mils. What's driving that increase; what we're seeing incremental receipts in the local option sales tax area. Those receipts are coming in a little bit better than expected, plus we are now receiving our distribution share at a slightly higher percentage rate as those rates will ramp up over each of the next seven years, I believe. And then the other area that we saw a significant increase in revenue is in the public utilities hats category, and that is

because, at the end of last year when we were finalizing the budget, the valuations had not been finalized yet for a public utility tax, so a temporary billing was done on those. And then in the spring of this year, early spring of this year, those bills were finalized, and the billing rate increased more. Well, it actually increased substantially from what it was at the end of the year. And so those, those resources are now 100 percent included in our projection. So LOST, public utility tax, and then a couple of those small other areas are really what's driving that revenue increase at the 8.7 mils. On the expenditure side, we have completed an analysis of general fund expenses, looking at personnel and fringe benefits and all of the operating lines. And currently, we are projecting spend in the \$936 million category. That is about \$54 million less than what our plan was for the year. The budget was nine -- about 990 million. So that, that is a \$54 million under run against our 2025 expense budget. When you put the revenue and the expense together, more revenue than we expected, not spending 100 percent of what we planned to spend. That means that we would expect to see our fund balance in the \$234 million range at the end of the year versus a 165, which is what when we adopted the budget, which is what the fund balance reserve worked out to the 165 millions, the 16.67 percent of the budgeted expenditures. So we are seeing that we will end the year with a better fund balance position than what we projected when we adopted the budget. On the expenditure side, what's driving that \$54 million under -- under run, I don't think is surprising here. We have about -- run about a 10 percent vacancy rate all year. So we are including now, six months' worth of actual personnel and fringe benefit under run, plus a projection of under run in through the end of the year. We have also evaluated each department's utilization of their salary resources to cover the pay-for-performance bonus that was issued earlier this year. Typically, we ensure that we have the funding available in non-agency. As we progress through the year, departments that we see will not be able to absorb it through their normal salary under runs, we will make a calculation and ship to them through the budget soundings processes, the amount that they will need to cover those expenses by the end of the year. So we factored all of that in to our analysis. We do have some agencies that we will be coming back to you in future budget soundings so we can move the resources to cover their pay-for-performance bonuses that they will not be able to absorb through salary savings by the end of the year. We also have spoken previously to the Board about this year's budget, including 20 -- \$10 million for potential debt service on a bond issue related to the plan for the Fulton County Jail facilities. We will be coming to you in a future meeting with the results of the facility condition assessment and a set of recommendations. So at this point, it does not -- we do not anticipate needing to tap into those resources in '25, and so those amounts are reflected as being unexpended in, inside that \$936 million --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: (Zoom Open-mic.)

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Arrington, we can hear you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Continue, Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Okay, thank you. So the \$10 million for -- that was set aside for that debt service is not currently included as

expended in the 936 million, and is in that \$54 million under run difference. We've also made some general assumptions around spending for the Fulton County Sheriff's office, as well as the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management that their budgets would be 100 percent expended in an effort to ensure that whatever resource is needed to be spent to comply with the consent order are used for that purpose. We've also assumed that 100 percent of the resources the Board set aside within non-agency for the consent order would be 100 percent expended through the end of this year. Other than that, we went in and we evaluated individual departmental operating budgets. We looked at our large contracts to ensure that we were on track to spend the resources related to those particular contracts, made adjustments if necessary. And then we did a multiyear spend analysis on all the other operational spending line items and -- and essentially used that multiyear spend pattern as the basis for our projection on all the other operational lines. So those are the underlying assumptions that we use in developing both the revenue and the expenditure projections. Next slide, please. So as I mentioned earlier, we did the same thing, and this time, we used in are projecting based on the 9.87 mills, which is the advertised proposed millage rate. And the significant change that you see here is in the revenue category, where our revenue projection increases from 930 million to the 1 billion number that's reflected here. Expenditures remain the same, so when you look at the numbers, what you see is that on the revenue side, at the 9.87 mills, the assumption is that those revenues would be collected and received. That would generate about a \$94 million difference between what we appropriated as revenue in the budget. And then on the expense side, you see that same \$54 million under run against our expenditures. The result of that is it would increase our fund balance by 148 million, bringing us to 300 and roughly 313 million going into 2026. So that's the effect of the higher millage rate, higher proposed millage rate running the same set of assumptions on revenue and expenditure. Next slide, please. The items that we have identified for midyear budget consideration, as we indicated when we presented the proposed millage rate to the Board that any -- any under runs that we had this year, we would recommend that the first column, those be related to consent decree compliance. When we adopted the budget earlier this year, we did build in some resources for the consent order. But we did not yet have, based on the timing of receipt of the consent order itself, we did not really have time to fully vet all of the requirements and cost them out. So the action was to reserve funding, knowing we would have some expenses we would need to cover while we, you know, further develop the full plan for compliance. And so based on that and the way in which we have been moving through that process, we have identified, and this number is as of around the 1st week of July, we had identified about \$3.3 million worth of known costs associated to the compliance with the consent order that are related to a number of different needs associated with that, as well as about an additional \$2.1 million for routine, recurring, corrective measures associated with jail maintenance contract that we have with JCI. We've also identified here that we have costs that still, as of the

generation of the midyear review, were no 100 percent known or fleshed out, but that are around the recruitment and retention plan, the contraband the security plan, general staffing needs of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, information system needs, and equipment. As we speak today, we have received some information, but it still has not been completely vetted. We are still waiting on the finalization of the staffing analysis plan that's -- that's underway with the outside third party, and then I believe a security audit is also expected in the future. So we -- we would, you know, recommend that we to cover, initially this 5.4 million out of what is available in under runs. But there -- there will be other costs that will be identified throughout the remainder of the year that we will need to cover as well. We just can't quantify those completely right now. The next item on this list is a reminder that the Board did take an action and passed a resolution authorizing a \$300,000 pilot program for child care. The general outline of that is also on today's agenda. And then in the future, we do have a couple of routine soundings items that we will bring forward out of our soundings contingency budget. We wanted to share those -- those with you here as well. That is an item for the Medical Examiner's Office as a result of a need to cancel a contract, the costs are higher with the vendor, and so we need to provide for that. And then we have been made aware of some small, various different small item expenditures that our justice partners have identified that are related to the renaming of Central Avenue to the Shirley C. Franklin Boulevard. So we would propose bringing that back in a future soundings as well. Next slide, please. Go back one slide. Thank you. Closing out the midyear review as we think about what the pressures that we know we have currently, the biggest one being the consent decree. We also wanted to identify other things that we're aware of that we need to be cognizant of as we plan for 2026 and beyond. Of course, the consent decree, we've -- I've shared a little information about that. And we also believe that we will need take a look at our Risk Management, our Risk Management fund and provide for some premium increases in order to ensure that we're able to cover legal and claims-related costs. We want to make sure that we provide for employees. 2026 would be a COLA year. And we would also, and will bring to the Board in the next several weeks, the health plan premium recommendations for next year's employee benefit health plan. We are seeing increases in that areas, and so as a preview, you will -- you will see increases related to health insurance benefits for employees. We also have a couple of new facilities that will come online later this year and early next year that we will need to ensure that we've provided a full year's funding, both for operational expense for the service that is being delivered, as well as the ongoing building occupation expenses, utilities, janitorial services, things like that. The two facilities in specific will be the South Fulton Developmental Disabilities Training Center and the 4700 North Point Parkway North HHS facility. The Developmental Disabilities center is a -- it's a reopening, so we have most of the operational expenses already built in to the Behavioral Health budget; we may need to add a few things. The 4700 North Point Parkway that is mostly relocation of existing services and consolidation into one location. But we are adding

Senior Services at that location, so that will be a net new service at that location and will require additional resources. We also know that in the '26 budget, we will need to plan for the two new State Court Judges that were approved in the Legislative Session. As well as we wanted to make sure that we included any potential funding implications as a result of what is happening at the federal level. And that could be anything from unfunded mandates that end up getting passed down to the county to a Board decision to continue a service that has been previously funded through federal resources. We also know that we have a number of items that we will have to provide for from a contractual increase perspective. Some of our contracts have built in escalators, so we'll have to make sure that we cover for those. And then, of course, we also just wanted to make sure that we didn't neglect including that there were a number of enhancement requests from departments in 2025 that did not get funded in the '25 budget, and we would expect to see many of those brought back for consideration next year. And so with that, Mr. Chairman, unless the County Manager wants to add anything in, if the Board has any questions about the midyear review, we're happy to take them."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any questions at this time? Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Madam CFO, thank you so much for that explanation. I don't really even know where to begin with the first question or the statements that I want to make about this because, you know, are we broke or are we not? In January, we set a budget that said we were at, all the expenditures that you put on here at zero. We had 200 million requests from our departments, which we said no to every single one because we were saving for the consent decree, a crisis. A crisis that we have because of a Federal Judge who said that our jail is unconstitutionally uninhabitable, not because we want to put inmates to work or because we should be doing something more, but because a Federal Judge said that our jail is unconstitutionally on inhabitable. So when a mother whose child has died in our jail comes here for public comment, we cannot say to her, well, we're just not going to fix it. Well, then cut somewhere else, or don't be so worried about that. Or maybe we can just do something else about it. We are under a federal consent decree to fix the jail. And we can set that money aside in 2025. We can pull it in 2026 or 2027, but it's coming. So everybody who came here today can say what they want to say and the reality will still remain the same. We are responsible for fixing that problem. That's one problem. A second problem, we have two hospitals that closed and two more need to open up, and we are responsible for that. So there was someone who came in public comment and said that their healthcare cost. They can't find adequate healthcare. We're responsible for providing that. Two hospitals closed down that we are going to have to replace in 2026. That is going to happen, so far to the tune of about \$50 million a year. So I ask, how can in January we have zero, we've zeroed out our budget, but miraculously, in August, we found \$69 million? Okay, so 15 million of it is because of performance and sales tax

and for public utility tax bill. That's fine. We've been starving our departments, but now we want to say we have \$54 million. I want to know what kind of budget process is this? If you had a checkbook in your home, and you sat your family down in January and said, Johnny cannot go to college because there's no money, and then in August, you said, you know what, we found, \$69 million. Get mom into a better healthcare home so she can be treated, her dementia can be treated. And now we can send our son to college. And now we can go on a radical vacation. That is what we're talking about here. I don't understand how we could, in one sense, starve the people in our -- who are -- we are asking to run Fulton County effectively, our Magistrate Courts, our Superior Court, our District Attorney, yes, our jail, yes, our Sheriff, who has a monitor who is deciding how much money we are going to have to spend. The Sheriff isn't coming to the County Commissioners, and saying, I need \$100 million, a third-party independent monitor from the federal government is coming. You saw that sheet right there, budget pressures, number one, consent decree. So we could not raise the millage rate this year. And you know what, I don't even think we have the votes. So everybody might be happy about that. Okay, I'll see you next August. We'll have the same conversation again, except it won't be one mil. So you can in any sort of convoluted financial structure that you want to prepare for yourself to say, we don't need it. Don't put it on us. This is where the county runs from. The money that comes in is how we run the county. We have not raised the millage rate in 12 years while costs are escalating. And right there are budget pressures, all eight of them, consent decree, risk management, premium increases, which is because of lawsuits against the county, including the one from the Sheriff, who is suing the county because he is underfunded and says he is unable to do his job. When we do things like this, and we say, we are not going to be able to fund a federal mandate that we have, that only gives strength to such lawsuits. Then there's employees. Of course, we have to consider our employees, or they'll go work somewhere else. All those wonderful counties everybody mentioned, they'll just go work somewhere else. And then we will have the staffing shortages that we already have. New facilities, two are coming, two Behavioral Health facilities. That's another pressure. New Judges, implications from federal legislation, contractual increases, and then the 200 million that our departments don't get. If we have \$69 million, Madam CFO, I want to ask, are we planning to go back and give some money to our departments that we've extracted another \$54 million from? So we didn't fund any enhancements the departments asked for in January for things that they need or maybe even some that they want. I'm not saying all 200 million was, you know, things that they absolutely need, but they needed some of those things. Now, we've taken another 54 million out of that. So are we going to go back and all the folks that came here in January, from the Arts and Culture community, from the Judges, from the all of the offices across this county, are we going to then go back and give them some of those things they asked for, the veterans, the seniors, who asked for this money? So we go from nothing to \$69 million in the surplus. Somebody has got to ask, how is that

possible? So we don't just have one problem of, oh, should we do the millage rate. What is going on with our budgets? How are we doing this? I want to see a plan for this county. I spoke to the both of you in meetings this week and talked about, why don't we have a three-year plan for our county, how we are going to operate? Because 2026 is going to fall on us, all of us, all of us. Two hospitals and a consent decree, so far the budget that -- the numbers that the monitor is talking about are \$100 million. That wouldn't -- \$69 million wouldn't cover that. That's just preliminary. That's not a final report. That's not what more will come in. That's just one of the eight pressures that we are dealing with. So I want to ask, what are -- what are we doing to plan? How are we going to deal with all of these assumptions and these numbers, mind you, because this is really about civics for the people. This is about understanding how this county operates. It's not all these fake paper-pushing numbers. These are real obligations that we will have to meet. And these numbers that are in this report, projections, not real numbers, just projections. So how do we planned -- plan to deal with the future? I know that's a very loaded question, because I think you said that we can't quantify, these were your exact words, we can't quantify costs for 2025 right now. These are just projections. So is that 69 million in another month from now, with perhaps some of the Commissioners who are against a rate increase, perhaps ask our Finance Department to find more money. And miraculously, we find it. Maybe in two months from now, we'll have 90 million available. So I just want to understand how are these projections going to turn into actual dollars? The assumptions we're making, how is that going to happen?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, Commissioner Ivory, the -- these are projections. And they are based off of assumptions. The Board's decision on the millage rate later today will be the biggest part of what results --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "-- in, you know, an actual revenue number."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Right."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I, you know, we have -- we have made assumptions, even within the projections around what will happen with our billing for property taxes this year. What we've received is a digest estimate. We have made an assumption on what the impact of taxpayer appeals will be on that. So there is -- we could have projected on the higher side, we could have projected on the lower side. So if more people appeal, then we may not make the number that we've projected. If less people appeal, we may do better than what we've projected. We've calculated what we believe the amount of property tax that is going to be given to the tax allocation districts that we would not receive. So we have to -- we have to factor

that into -- into our number when we're, you know, presenting our projections to you. And a collection rate, so we've projected a 96 percent collection rate. If tax bills are delayed, that collection rate may not materialize and each, you know, each percentage that we don't collect this year, it means we carry it forward to next year, but it won't be included in this year's numbers. So setting the millage rate is one of the things that, you know, ultimately leads us to knowing, having a better idea of what our final revenue picture may look like. Public Utility billings is another area that we have a significant estimate in here for. We've assumed that, what we try to do is we try to assume that across the year between current and prior year public utility, we collect at least one year's -- we budget for at least a full one-year value of public utilities. So that's a number in here that could change and change numbers up or down. And with regard to the expenditure projections, the speed with which departments fill their positions that will impact how these numbers look. Decisions that the Board may choose to make with regard to many of the things that are coming forward on the consent order. That \$54 million under run currently is what we would have to pull from -- to pull from to realign the budget in order to make resources available for that purpose. So it's -- the actual number from now and through the end of the year will depend in large part on some of the decisions that are made around the items that are coming out of the consent order, which is why I said it, you know, we can't really quantify what that amount is for the consent order yet because that too is still very fluid. What's being identified and sent over and recommended, and then how much of that we actually think we would be able to act on this year and implement this year. So you know, that will be a moving target through the end of the year. In my opinion, the consent order costs will be a moving target through, you know, through the end of the year --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And it is true that it could exceed \$69 million?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Through the end of this year?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Based on what -- what I have seen, some of the larger pieces of that is full-year annual costs associated with new positions. So we wouldn't expect to expend a full-year salary for a position that it's, you know, maybe created and filled in September or October. So partial -- so the amounts that are coming over, are coming over as full-year amounts. But if acted on, we wouldn't expect to see a full year's expense for that. So only partial, you know, a partial year's funding. In my -- you know, four months or less on new positions. So while the total amount may be in that \$100 million category, what we would actually need to expend through the end of this year would be less, would be significantly less."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "But we don't know that for sure?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, because we, you know, because we haven't seen everything that's --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Right. Because these are assumptions and projections?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And so when we have money left over in our budget, you said it rolls over to the next year?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "At the end of the year when we, you know, have all of our results, that is what gets carried forward as fund balance. And we use a portion of that to help balance next year's budget, and we leave a portion in reserve, based on the Board's policy that 16.67 percent of budgeted expenditures is what we leave in reserve, so --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And this year's -- I'm sorry --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, no, go ahead."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And this year, that amount that was left over, that 13.9 million that we did not give any departments any enhancements, we used towards the consent decree already; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, it was broken up into those three buckets. So one -- one-third of that was sent over to the Risk Management fund, and has been utilized by the County Attorney's Office. The other two-thirds is what's in non-agency that we have been earmarking the items that have already come up that we have already identified a cost for. A prime example would be the Board's resolution to provide resources for a -- that million-dollar retention fund and overtime resources, that came out of that, the two-thirds that was left for in non-agency in the general fund, as well as paying for the monitor's fees and some of the other things that required an expenditure on the county's part to start the compliance process with the consent decree."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you want to be heard, now?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I got to be heard, sir. Chairman, I'm not going to belabor the point. But when you give misinformation to the Fulton County taxpaying citizens, I was elected to tell the truth. And the truth of the matter is that the jail is not unfunded. The jail has a operational issue. You cannot continue to throw good money after bad. Now, with all due respect, Commissioner Ivory, you were not here when this Board had to vote for the welfare inmate fund to be removed. And it had to be removed because it was a slush fund for our Sheriff. I was one of the biggest proponents of the

Sheriff having the amount of money that the Sheriff needed to do his job. But I am not going to advocate waste of funds, no matter whether being Democrat or African-American or from Southwest Atlanta or somebody's friend or special interests. We know that the jail has problems. But the Sheriff did spend quite a bit of money on a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter that he sat at the, allegedly, Mercedes-Benz Stadium with him and his cronies in it, and called it a command center. And so what I'm saying to you is, do not come here and make us look like we are not funding the Sheriff, because we are. But there is accountability that comes with taxpayer's dollars. And if you're not willing to stand up and say, I have to ask for accountability. We have a high-ranking employee of the Sheriff's Department that life was threatened and has had to quit, allegedly. Trackers was allegedly put on his car. His home was threatened because he was doing his job, and he got absolutely no support from the Sheriff after his life was threatened. And now he's headed to another jail to work. So what do we do as legislators? We continue to throw good money after bad? We continue to come and ask the taxpaying citizens that operationally, we got an issue. We can give the jail a billion dollars today, and it will still be poorly ran. And so on behalf of me and my constituents and those that may not be a part of my district, but have sent me down here to be a taxpayer steward of the taxpayer dollars, no, I will not give money without accountability. Unfunded is not true. We have given him the money, he has not spent the money in the best interest of the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County. And if I have to stand up here and tell him no again, I will do it every day, because it's not my money."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I want to first of all, thank Commissioner Ivory for your questions and comments relating to the under runs in particular on the expenditure side, and sort of the lack of good information, I think, certainly at the June 18th meeting, and also in the budget process. Because -- and by the way, I think the frustrations you're expressing, Commissioner Ivory, I've been feeling and expressing since I got here at the budget time. There's a lot of things in the process that I think could be improved. I will say that, I think under normal circumstances when we're setting the millage rate, if we're looking at making sure the millage rate will cover our planned expenses, as you and I discussed this morning, Madam CFO, in a normal year, we don't necessarily have to know what the projections are to the end of the year, because we planned them already. We had planned expenses. This year is different because we passed the budget in January with unknown expenses by everyone's account. We had the consent decree. We didn't know how much it was going to cost in year one, 2025. So we passed the budget with unknown expenses, but we -- that were going to come sometime during this calendar year. So in June, when we were asked to set a ceiling of how high the millage rate could go, we still did not have enough information about those expenses. And because we also weren't given any information at that time, or we were given, you know,

misleading information to some extent, not that intentionally, I don't think, but about what we -- what money was available to spend. And I can't speak for everybody here, because everybody had different reasons who supported the higher proposed rate. For me, it was because there were still too many unknowns. We did not know any of the costs -- the rest of the costs that were going to come in from the consent decree in 2025, nor how much under runs there would be. And my reasoning at that time was that we would have that extra month plus, as we have, to get more information. But I think if we had been given the information in June about 54 million in under runs, we might have had a different vote. And it's -- I guess I don't understand, and maybe you can explain why we weren't -- none of that was mentioned. And you and I had a back and forth in the June 18th meeting. And at the time I was saying, you know, I don't think seven -- a \$700,000 surplus is going to be enough to cover what the consent decree expenses are going to be. And at that time, you did mention the \$10 million from the -- from the bond, the debt -- the bond, the debt, the 10 million debt on the bond that we haven't taken out yet for Jail Capital Improvement Plan. So there -- so then at the end of that calculation, 10 million, 700 and some-odd thousand, potentially to cover these costs. But we -- we had no idea what those costs were going to be. And I believe I even asked, I don't recall who answered me, but I believe I even asked at the time, can we get a ballpark? Is it -- is it tens of millions? Is it hundreds of millions? Is it 2 million? And there was not even really a ballpark at that point, through nobody's fault, it's just what it was. So all of that to say, while the process may function in a normal year, this is not a normal year. And this year, the process let us down. And you know, when we -- for just for the public's edification, we did not receive any information about this \$54 million expenditure under run until last week. And we -- we did not receive any additional information, although just some vague numbers here and there, well, we got a \$25 million this, and a -- about the jail. So but this weekend, at Friday evening, we did get some information from the Sheriff on what he's proposing his needs are going to be in and around staffing and some technology and equipment for security outside the building and things like that. But it was not for 2025 only, it was, I think, to your point, Madam CFO, it was a number that was at least into 2026 as well. So personally, for me, I spent quite a bit of time, me and my staff stay late doing a lot of calculations and number crunching. And it's at best guess, the number that I believe we got from the Sheriff was like 95 million. And there's no -- I don't think anybody is deciding right now, including me, or saying right now that all of those things are vetted or validated, or that they would all be spent. But looking at those things, if we did agree to all of them, and trying to calculate how much of it would be spent this year, my calculations came out to about, I think it was 13.5 million this year. If you add to that, the 5.9 million you have on your slide, we're talking, you know, 20 million-ish, just under. And we clearly have plenty now, because we have the 54 million in under runs. So for me, I wanted to give myself enough time to understand the numbers to make a ballot decision. And I think the terminology is unfortunate, because for me, I was voting on a ceiling, not what I was

expecting you to do. And I voted on that ceiling to give us the room to get good information to make a good decision. I personally feel like I have that information now, and while I agree with everything Commissioner Ivory said about the bill coming home to roost sometime between now and the next, whether it's the 2026 budget, 2027, the bill is coming. However, given my understanding of the way, you know, government accounting is supposed to work, what we have now, you know, hearing the citizens, I'm comfortable sticking to the 8.87 millage rate now, based on what we have learned. That said, I do think the process needs fixing. And I also think that I -- I just feel like I have to express my frustration because, and again, to Commissioner Ivory's point about how this whole budget is developed, and where these under runs come from. Because when we passed the budget in January, I specifically asked for a list of budget enhancements, 14.9 million of them were for justice, in general, a variety of agencies: Sheriff, District Attorney, Solicitor General, Public Defender, Superior Court, Magistrate Court, Clerk of Superior Magistrate Court, State Court, and then some additional -- and another additional million for Juvenile Court and Marshal. And then there were other things in that list, too: County Attorney, Veterans, Arts, et cetera, and the federally qualified health center copay pilot. And I asked if we could do that using the 13 -- those things, which, by the way, all the money for justice that I'm talking about, or the majority of it, was to address the throughput in our justice system, to try to reduce the population in the jail or assist with reducing the population in the jail. And to Commissioner Ivory's point, those were things that were requested. These were less than what was requested even by those departments. And I asked to do that out of the 13.9 million in under runs and a 4.5 percent reduction in non-agency, and I was told it cannot be done. That money is committed, it cannot be done. None of that money can be used for what you're asking it to be used for. But clearly it could have been, because this total list I had was under 25 million. What I'm -- what we see coming from the Sheriff for this year is maybe 20 million, maybe, maybe not even nearly that much. So we could have funded all of those things without breaking a sweat. And so it's frustrating that we're sort of making decisions with not great information. The other thing I want to point out is when I'm talking about non-agency, and the reason I keep bringing it up is I had, I asked for, after we met a breakdown by department of the midyear projection and -- and I got a copy of that. And the bulk of the under run is from non-agency. It's 42 million of the 54. So it's really, really confusing to me that we couldn't tighten that that budget by 4.5 percent minimum at the beginning of the year, so that we would not have had to say no to departments who were asking over and over, year after year after year for additional funding. I used the example then of the Public Defender's Office, who's asked year after year after year for more staff, and year after year, we've said no. And them not being staffed enough is part of the reason that the jail is crowded, overcrowded. So I could go on and on, but I think, you know, it's -- you know, if Commissioner Arrington was here, he would -- he would, you know, say, well, Sharon always has the money in non-agency, that's where it goes. That's been the sort of, you

know, running joke since I got here. But it's not funny. Like, at the end of the day, we had these funds. We put the fear into the citizens about their taxes going up and them not being able to pay their bills. And we didn't have to do that, like, that wasn't necessary. If we've been good at -- given good information, we would have probably made a different decision on June 18th. So it's frustrating, and I think, you know, we can do better as a government. We should do better. And frankly, we owe the citizens better when it comes to this information and how we do this budget and how we decide on this millage rate. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory, you want to be heard again?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. We are in the middle of a crisis, not a future one, not a theoretical one, a real and present crisis that is in folding -- unfolding in our jail, in our courts, in our behavioral health system, and in every department that has been asked to do more with less. I'll be honest with you right now, with the public, that I may be the only Commissioner planning to vote for the increase, and I am not afraid to stand alone. I know an increase is coming. It will be dealt with this year, which it doesn't seem like it will be, but you will have it on your plate next year. We have eight critical pressures to deal with. And whether we push it off or not, you will see it one day. And please have that on the record. Let's talk about the Sheriff. I'm not talking about the Sheriff. I'm not talking about Mercedes-Benz Sprinter vans, whatever. I'm talking about the monitor from the federal government, who is independent, who has been sent here, not for the Commissioners, and not for the Sheriff, but to take a look at our crisis in jail from a Federal Judge who has deemed it to be unconstitutionally uninhabitable and to tell us what needs to be fixed. That does not include new vehicles for the Sheriff of all of the things that he wants. If you don't like the job he's doing, vote him out. We are talking about what we as the Commissioners are responsible for doing, and the jail is our responsibility. So I will not tell a mother who has a child in the jail that we don't have to treat this like a crisis. I get those phone calls every day, and I will listen to those constituents who want to tell me about that. Let's let -- let's go back a little bit to our June 18th meeting, and let the record reflect a little bit about the four that voted for an increase. At the 2:43 mark on June 18th, one Commissioner said, I think raising the millage rate is much wiser than the 8.87, and I am in support. Let's go to another Commissioner at the 2:25 hour mark that said, I do not want my taxes to go up, or however, I do not want one citizen of Fulton County to go homeless to have an issue with behavioral health, to have issue with anything that we can step in the gap for. Because remember now, we serve all of Fulton County. So in good conscience, I would not be able to go with an 8.87. I would not, because we have too many unknowns. The third record should reflect at 2:56 minutes, Commissioner Ivory is right, I really don't know if 9.87 is even enough. So I am a Commissioner that will always remain steadfast in my word even if I have to stand alone. And that my constituents, you can count on."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Wow. I did read the consent decree. I did read the hundred pages that it was. Majority of the consent decree, probably 90 percent was management issues. It didn't have to do with the actual jail. People are dying in the jail because of management issues. It's not because the building's crumbling on them. It's because they're not being supervised correctly. We have a consent decree, yes, we don't know what we're going to spend. We have no idea what it's going to cost us. But do we go ahead and budget for, we don't know? There's forecasting models. You have to forecast on what you do know, and try to predict the future. And I trust, Sharon, that your team has used to their best ability to forecast correctly what our expenses are going to be. And as we know, we don't do very good just setting aside money for a future jail. I believe the year before I came in 2022 when they're having the millage rate discussion, they actually voted to rollback the millage rate. And we were going to have a \$103 million shortfall. That's what was told, because we decided, or the Board at that time decided to rollback that the millage rate. Well, interesting, I come in in January, I get presented a budget that has a \$22 million surplus. How's that? We were going to have a \$103 million shortfall coming, that's in August, in January, come in, and we have a \$22 million surplus. Commissioner Barrett I were brand new. I was shocked that Commissioner Hall read off a list of items that she wanted to spend money on. Commissioner Arrington read off a list. I couldn't even keep up. I didn't even know what the items were, but then, boom, there was a vote, and we passed a budget that was \$37 million over the millage rate, just like that. So you know, you can say, I don't know where the two hospitals that closed that's going to cost us 50 million a year. Commissioner Barrett put in 5 million for reserve, and magically, someone comes forward with, for \$5 million, I can do this and solve your health crisis. It didn't solve our health crisis. We still have health desert. Yeah, I predict we are going to have to put some money in the future. We had discussions about the federal government cutting our funding, and what's going to happen. Oh, we're not going to get these grants. Oh, no, you know, we need to stock up money. Well, then last week, the HIV grant came through, that's our largest federal grant we have, and we actually got more money than we thought we would. Yet, we were counting on not getting money, because I don't know, just in case, just in case. We're in the middle of a crisis, yes, we are with the consent decree. There is an increase coming, but we looked at building a \$2 billion jail. We looked at projecting to the future and what the tax implications would be if we built that \$2 billion jail. You think the one mil increase, no, it was like a two mill increase the first year, three mill the next year. It was going to cost the taxpayers a 30 percent increase in their taxes to rebuild the jail. That's why I voted to not rebuild. Once I found out that we don't need in -- direct-supervision jail. We can use our current jail under indirect supervision. We can remodel it. We can potentially build a mental health facility at the jail on the grounds where they were going to build the new jail to help the 40

percent of our inmates that suffer from mental health and substance abuse, because I can't burden the taxpayers. You know, you say we need money for seniors, we need money for veterans. We have seniors and veterans that are barely able to stay in their homes with the current taxes. I heard a young woman crying in public comment that her taxes have gone up so much that it's a third -- her property taxes are a third of her mortgage. That shouldn't be the case. You should be able to have the dream to own your home and then be able to afford the taxes on it. I live in the -- I border Gwinnett County and Forsyth County, and I literally have friends and neighbors that move across the county line to save on their taxes. How are these other counties doing it? How are these other counties providing for their people, but somehow we're underfunded? You look at the budget pressures, the unfunded 2025 enhancement requests. We're not funding them, our county is being deprived. Look at the word enhancement. Those are adding to their budgets. Those are enhancements, those are new programs, new hires. Now, are the taxpayers able to enhance, do enhancements? No, because they're going to have to pay more in taxes. When you're at a time where you have inflation, we have record inflation, 40-year record inflation last year, people are dealing with a lot of costs coming at them. It may only be, you know, \$40 here, \$50 here, but it all adds up. They're not able to enhance. They're not able to spend on enhancements. Right now, we just shouldn't fund enhancements. We need to tighten our belt just like the other departments do -- tighten their belt. So with that being said, you know, projections, we can't ever get real numbers, correct? Sharon Whitmore, you're -- you can only forecast, you can only predict?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, until I give you the actual results at the end of the year."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And could you give those -- because you -- doing a midyear, because you give those in the midyear, right, a week after July, the 1st week of July? Because you have given us that information."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Would I have been given -- been able to give you the midyear analysis the 1st week of July? No, it takes us a little longer to run through the work that we do to provide the projections. We actually do, in some cases, reach out and speak with departments about what we're seeing and things like that."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So we're doing the best we can in making decisions. We're getting the best information we can in making decisions. And yes, we don't live in a certain world, and we don't know what the consent decree is going to cost us. Perhaps, we have enough already. Why ask people for more at a time when they don't have more? Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. It's my understanding that Commissioner Arrington wants to speak. Now, why isn't he on video? I mean, when you're on Zoom, what --"

CLERK GRIER: "I'm not sure if he chose to be on video."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington, can you hear us?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, I'm here. Can you -- you should -- can you see me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, sir. We can hear you though --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, it may be --"

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, thank you. Yeah, they may just need to show my screen. But I am on screen."

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

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, thank you. You know, I've been here, we had this conversation, and I think it's important to look historically. Since 2015, the millage rate has been lowered from 10.5, and it was on one of those earlier slides. But, you know, from 10.5 down to 8.87. And so -- and that was all during COVID and after COVID. And we saw obviously that since COVID, we've seen that since COVID, you know, the prices for everything have gone up. And those are not just the prices for individuals like myself and the other taxpayers in Fulton County, but those prices have also gone up for the Fulton County government. And so, you know, I want to thank all of the people that came out and spoke, because -- I think I need to turn my volume. I'm sorry. Okay. I want to thank all of the people that came out and spoke, certainly have heard from the taxpayers loud and clear that they do not want a property tax increase. They -- the vote on June 18th was a vote for the advertisement. And my vote was based partially on the fact that I knew that we would be getting the midyear budget review prior to taking the actual vote today on the millage rate. And so I think again that the -- the wording gets a little convoluted sometimes. Because I don't know that anyone necessarily proposed an increase in property taxes or the millage rate. But there was a vote on whether we should advertise a one -- an increase. And we voted to advertise that increase, again, at least partially based on getting the results of the midyear budget review that we knew that we would be getting today. You know, I said back during the budget time that, you know, since I've been here, we always have 50 -- I mean, under \$50 million left over at the end of each year. And I think again, one the earlier slides indicates that as well, an average of about 75 million left over every year, you know, which is right in line with the \$69 million that we're now showing will be left over. And so knowing that we'll have, you know, that money left over, I don't know that there is a need

to have a millage rate increase. We do have expenses, I guess what I would like, and I see they had to take down the PowerPoint. But I would like to know the numbers that Financial, from our CFO has anticipated for those budget pressure areas. You know, what -- what amounts are you anticipating for those for the 2026 budget. Looking at those different pressures, there are certainly a lot of things that we're going to have to look at. And I agree, you know, we never should have had to cut a million dollars in veteran services. We never should have had to cut the 1.8 million for the Arts. We never should have had to cut the \$500,000 a year Summer Youth Jobs Program. We never should have had to cut money for our seniors. And you know, I argued for that during the budget season, because I know, I knew then and what I know now, we, every year, we have on average, about \$75 million left over at the end of the budget cycle. So we could have afforded to fund Arts. We could have afforded to fund veterans' programs that would help veterans keep staying in houses. We could have afforded to fund the Arts that would help Arts people pay their -- pay their bills, pay their rent. Hey, you know, and so a lot of this stuff, you know, benefits everyone. And certainly, we could have afforded to fund our part -- our departments. Public Defender's Office, request for additional attorneys could have been funded. We could have funded a lot of other things, but you know, we chose not to. And so hopefully, we can make better choices going forward. So I'll just stop there for now."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Ellis --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I would like to know, Madam CFO, some of the numbers if you have any of those budgeted or any idea of those. If not, you can send over."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. We don't have full -- fully vetted numbers for each of those areas. If it's okay with you, we can work on that and send it to you, you know, like, off of the top of my head, some of the -- some of the costs like the State Court Judgeship, I think we were looking at about \$5 million plus. But that would depend on what ultimately is decided relative to providing the ancillary courts, I mean the ancillary agencies that have to support the Judges like the Public Defender's Office, the Solicitor General, State Court Administration, the Marshal's Office. So, you know, we're still working on -- on those costs. But I can send you what we do have even though it's not fully finalized yet. But it's what we're working on in preparation for the '26 budget."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No, that's fine. I mean, that makes sense. Obviously, you got the Judges, you need more Solicitors, you need more Public Defenders, more Court Reporters, and all the court staff, the ancillary court staff. So yeah, it would just be good to, you know, have some rough idea of those numbers. But I understand if you don't have them prepared or not ready to share them yet. That makes sense."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I think we've received a great civic lesson over the past few weeks, and at that -- that is that we answer to you, the people. And I want to thank all of you who came down and spoke, people that have written us emails and so forth. And collectively, individually, maybe there's some comments that, you know, some of the stuff might be a little bit off or something like that. But collectively, the citizens that have spoken are right in the remarks that you have made. We've got -- we have a sound budget process. This county is not in a state of crisis. We've gone through situations, we're just like any other government, any other business, whatever, you're going to have pressures. They're different each year. You work for those things that are unexpected, you know? And to attempt to sort of gas light an issue into a tax increase is disingenuous and irresponsible. And as we learn here, it's not needed. And we didn't need to have this discussion. Hopefully, we're going to wind up in the right place. But we know, even back when we were having these discussions, you know, that we were under running our expenses. We get this data. We didn't need a midyear review to tell us that we were going to under run our expenditures. We get them each month. You send us financial reports, they're part of our operational report. I think on the day we voted, we had one, and said that 42 percent of the year, we run at 35 percent expenditures. You know, I mean, we all have been down here, I think even long enough, even if you only been down here one year, to know that, you know, we get these demands that come in that aren't well vetted out, that you can't respond to until they're vetted out. And even if you just listen to the conversation today, you'll hear the incongruence and stuff related to one of the biggest pressures we get, and that is related to our Sheriff. And we have one Commissioner indicate that we're getting -- we're getting told what we have to spend by a monitor. And then another Commissioner say that on Friday night, which is news to me, information I got, that we got information from the Sheriff about what his 100 million ask is, his, not the monitor's. Notice the incongruence right? So reality of it is, this is just normal stuff that we have to go through in terms of vetting asks and figuring out what we're going to commit to. And as, you know, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you know, pointed out too, it's like, you don't solve operational issues necessarily through spending more. Sometimes you do, sometime -- and a lot of it a lot of times, you don't. A lot of times you just -- you're just -- you're just throwing money at a situation that will never improve, and will certainly not improve on the basis of money. But I just want to -- I -- you know, you all have been sort of picked at a little bit with our Finance staff and our budget process and so forth. And I want to say that's, I don't -- I don't feel like that that was appropriate at all. We have a good budget process. People had a chance to say their peace in this and understand it. And we made the decisions, and we got to a millage rate point in time where we had a millage rate to support what -- supported what we

adopted. And then we tried to take something in a different direction, and hopefully, we're going to go back in a few minutes here and approve that 8.87 rate. So again, I want to thank the -- thank the taxpayers and the citizens and everybody that came down here and spoke. I've not heard one person come down here and make a solid case as to why we need to raise our millage rate. In fact, I've got the hundreds of so-forths of emails I've gotten, I've gotten one in support of. And that individual, you know, receives funding through parts of the organization that they're associated with. And the only other folks that seem to want to make a side back-in-the-door case for pennies are people that don't want to come down here and clearly articulate why it's needed and let you, the citizens, know that they are many times the push behind some of this stuff, i.e. our Sheriff and our District Attorney. And we had another individual that came down here representative of another city last -- last week, seemingly -- or at last meeting, seemingly trying to gaslight on an issue and telling us that we should make raise our millage rate, okay? I don't respond to that. I don't respond to special interests. I don't respond to developers. I respond to the citizens. And if there are other elected officials that want to come down and they want to make their cases for certain spending, we are going to vet that, and I am going to vet that in the eyes of the citizens that elected me as their representative. And I will give it a thumbs up or thumbs down. And I am going to expect accountability associated with it. I am going to expect that their information is provided to us so we can make a reasonable decision. You know, we will probably have this come back up later on. But we've talked about -- people have talked about this crisis at our jail and a need for more money -- money and so forth. We have something like a hundred and something open positions over there. We have the Sheriff making asks for overtime expenditures and all that. All he had to do to sort of activate a fund, he needs to give us a roster and say who's working full time in detention at your jail. And for some reason, two -- over two months later, we can't even get that basic information, okay? So they're operational stuff that go on, let's not -- let's not create that into a situation where we're trying to create a crisis to throw on to our citizens when the issues are operational in nature, and those people need to be responsive and accountable for. So I appreciate the discussion we've had. And I definitely appreciate the citizens coming down and making their voices heard and expressing that loudly, clear, clearly and correctly."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah. Thank you so much, and I will agree with Commissioner Ellis that this will probably come up later on. It will definitely come up later on, and you will pay for it later on. So if you prefer a larger increase next year and the year after that, to deal with all of our eight pressures, that's what will happen."

Because it is likely not going to happen this year, which I've already stated. And that, we will live with. And then we will have the same discussion, many emails I received in -- in support of an increase. Not maybe all the way one mil, but in support of an increase, so that a huge increase would not come down the line. But we will -- the truth about the way this system works is, you need four votes. And I understand that when I ran for office. So this will not pass, and we will deal with it later on. I just want to clear up a couple of things. This is not a normal or a sound budget process. To say in January that we have zero surplus, and then to say in August, we have \$69 million, is not sound or normal for our budget process. And what we do need to examine is how we do our budget. We need a long-term look at our expenses and our revenue. And this is in agreement with the -- our Finance folks, who I spoke to for hours these past -- this past week, about moving forward in a different way. We cannot continue to budget half-year by half-year, and come in January with assumptions and projections that end up being \$69 million off by the time we meet six months later. Nobody in any household would operate their household that way, nor should governments. So I disagree it is sound or a normal way to do a budget. And that is not at all a slight against my colleagues. That is what the budget process that Commissioners voted to use. So that is not a criticism. That is not attacking our Finance Department. That is saying that Commissions -- Commissioners in the past vote to use that -- voted to use that kind of a process. We keep talking about the Sheriff and the -- and the monitor. If you don't like the Sheriff, then vote him out. Let's -- let's quit talking about what the Sheriff is proposing. We don't move our money based on what the Sheriff proposes. Our Finance team goes through those documents with a fine-tooth comb, and makes a recommendation to us. And then we decide if we are going to vote for that recommendation or not. So if we're going to tell the truth and give real civics, then let's do it consistently. We decide what the Sheriff gets, not the Sheriff. Our Finance team recommends something to us, and then we, four people can decide it, or three -- four people can decide not to do it. That's how it actually works. Commissioner Thorne said that, you know, well, there's a lack of supervision, so why don't we just fix the supervision? That supervision requires people. In 2016, I would like to remind the general public that we were under a consent decree before. This is not the first time our jail was deemed unconstitutional. We are here again. In 2016, a staffing plan was put in place to recommend that we increase our staffing. If we go back to the 2016 recommendations, in 2025, we have not even met the 2016 recommendations. He was not Sheriff then. We did not meet what was recommended to us by the federal government in 2016 staffing requirements. Now we're in 2025 and we're receiving or undergoing a staffing report that has been estimated, not actual projections, but estimated, not by the Sheriff, by our Finance team, to be in a upwards of \$35 million. We didn't even get it right in 2016, which is why we're here again, people dying in the jail, not getting the medical care they need. So talk to that family, ask them if they would like us to take bold, courageous action, which costs, which we are going to spread out

all the way from Atlanta to Alpharetta, everybody together, working to make our county better. That's what I know I got elected for, to make hard decisions so that we all could bear the cost of making our county better. So the south side is as good as the north side. That costs money that we all should bear the cost of. So I will stand every day on that principle that we want Fulton County to be better for everybody from Atlanta to Alpharetta. And that is going to entail us making us hard decisions. I am a taxpayer. My assessment went up, has been going up. My taxes are in the five digits. I am willing to pay that extra money to get this situation fixed once and for all, because we have not done it. And that is the civics for the people, the truth. And if anybody has any questions about that, I will be having a town hall about this. I want to talk to every single person that wants to talk about it more. So find me. Very easy to find, and I look forward to talking to you about it today, tomorrow, and next August when the millage rate goes up."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, you really want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Just short, short. I got hundreds of emails. I did not get one telling me I need to raise the millage rate, not one, hundreds, so Commissioner Ivory, maybe you need to, like, forward some of those my way. You talked about we need to fix the supervision. He has 100 open spots, and he wanted a direct-supervision jail built that requires even more staffing. He can't even staff what he has right now. So we have to look at the whole picture. Maybe -- maybe we need to have a conversation about what happened before you came onboard, previous with jail discussions and management discussions and purchasing requirement discussions that we've tried to control the spending. We had a \$22 million surplus my first year. And Commissioner Ellis proposed that we put that in a reserve for the jail. Oh, no, can't have that. We spent 59 million, went 37 million over budget that year, zero going in reserve for the jail. So if you think we're going to create 79, \$78 million in surplus, and save it for the jail, good luck with that. Because it tends to be that Commissioners start adding on those spending, 500,000 here, you know, 1.7 million for the Arts, a million for the veterans, all of that just starts getting throwing in the budget right away. So and yet you talk about projecting three years out. We can't even project one year out. We have -- we have a consent decree. We don't know. We have too many unknowns. I mean, to look at -- I'm not a -- I'm not a finance person at all. But I did have to build forecasting models for engineering. And if you don't have a good, strong basis point to project out, you can't project that far out. It is ridiculous to try. You can do it for particular things. Like, we knew if we spent 2 billion on a jail that everybody's taxes are going to go up 30 percent. For the less than 3,000 people that we have incarcerated in our jail, the entire county from Atlanta to Alpharetta, let's put Chat Hills in there. There will -- let's get the south side in there, would be spending for that new jail, 30 percent. That poor woman that can hardly stay in her condo that she just bought, that young homeowner, her costs would probably be 50 percent of her mortgage if we did that. So I thank you. I

apologize I didn't thank you earlier. I thank all the people that attended town halls, people that came down here, people that came on Zoom to speak. I've been through this a couple years now. I came to the 6:00 o'clock meeting hearings the last two years. We had zero people speak. Zero? You maybe have a few, a handful come down and speak. So this year, to have so many people, so many people send emails, so many people on Zoom, so many people giving public comment, it's really amazing. And it speaks volumes, considering the past two years, I came here for a 6:00 o'clock hearing, we called the meeting, and then we adjourned, because there was nobody online. So thank you all."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "To call planning three years for a county with a billion-dollar budget to forecast what our expenses might be ridiculous, is very irresponsible. Corporations, other governments plan out three years. They don't budget month by month, six months by six months. Not even a household does that. So I think it's important that we think about doing that in the future. And I would be glad to sit down and talk to you about things that happen when I was not here, and one of them would be the vote in December of 2023, when you and five other Commissioners all voted to build a new jail. Everyone except the Chairman voted to build a new jail in December of 2023, the record will reflect. And I can pull that for anybody. So to say that you were not prepared to spend billions on a new jail is disingenuous, is untrue, and does not match the vote of December 2023. So please pull that if you need a refresher, but that is what happened in December of 2023."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's see. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm going to be really quick. I just want to say that I, I definitely got a lot of emails of people who did not want to raise the millage rate, and I certainly hear from everybody here. I did actually get a couple in favor, only a couple by comparison, to be fair. But -- but I wanted to just get back in the queue and speak for a moment, because I spent a lot of time over the last several weeks looking up, answering very specific questions that were sent about the millage rate. And if I didn't get to yours, I apologize. But I -- and I spent a lot of time on the Assessors website looking up individuals properties to try to help them understand that if we did do an increase, what it would look like. And I -- I'm saying all that because what I saw -- and I even was trying to do it today while people were standing up here. It's all public information. I was trying to look up people by name to see if they had their homestead exemptions and those kind of things. And what I saw was that a lot of people, in particular seniors and some of our lower-income residents, did not have the right exemptions in place. So please check your bill, make sure you have your homestead exemption if you're supposed to have one. If you're a senior, our earliest senior exemptions take place at 62, those are financially tied to, you know, tied to your income. But even the basic

senior homestead exemption is at age 65. And a lot of people did not know that they had to apply for that. So please spread the word to the community. Apply for the exemptions. I think we have a lot of sort of, you know, people being told that they were the most vulnerable and that they were going to hurt -- be hurt the most if there was an increase. But the truth is, we have a lot of programs in place with our exemptions and our floating homestead exemption that we've had in Fulton County for 20 years to try to help the most vulnerable populations. And so, you know, I just really encourage everybody to check into the exemptions and make sure you have the right ones for you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioners, anybody else? Anybody else? All right, Mr. Manager, you've heard a lot about misleading information coming from you and Finance and lack of good information. I'm sure you're chomping at the bits to respond, so."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "You're not going to ask me, do you really want to say anything?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Do you really want to say something? I hope you do."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No, I can say three, three simple things. And again, I don't, during a budget process, I take no offense in it. I've been through 40 years of them. I would say, first of all, just reality check on the notion of we're starving departments. We spent 867 million last year. We budgeted 990 million this year. That's a \$123 million increase. That's a 14 percent increase year over year. It's hard to imagine that that would be considered starving across the enterprise. Had we funded 200 million incremental in asks, that would be a 37 percent increase in what we would budget it for -- what we would budget for in 2025 versus what we spend in 2024. So, you know, part of the reality check is keep in mind what we're actually spending, not what is budgeted and then not versus what it's asked for. Now, we have spent 69 million more this year, now projected, that we have solid protections that what we would spent or what we spent last year, that's 8 percent increase. So again, in any normal organization, an 8 percent year-over-year increase is, is I think, pretty, pretty healthy. Number two, I don't think it's useful to cast aspersions about the process, or much less the people involved. The process, I was told, taught, years and years ago, is designed to produce what it produces. It produces, you know, a bond rating that goes to AAA. It produces a doubling of the fund balance. It produces 68 percent more from my appointment till now, in increased services. I think that exceeds the per capita growth in Fulton County by a significant amount. But that is reality. Those are real numbers, 68, which we represented, of course, on this summary chart. I'm nonplussed by the notion that a 5 percent variance is some fundamental flaw in the process. Again, I've only done it 40 years, and under running budgets by 5 percent would generally be considered healthy. What's the opposite of that, overrunning it by 5 percent. And you

don't have to go but just down the street to see that happen last year, and then a complete fire drill, trying to figure out how they would close a \$40 million budget overrun. I don't think any of you want to be in that position, nor do we want to put our employees in the position of potential reduction in force or suspension in pay, or anything of that nature, which is about the only thing you can do to close a gap that occurs like that and with a short period of time to react to it. So again, I don't think it's useful. Any process can be improved, but if you believe that you're going to get a billion dollar process down to something that's one or 2 percent variance, I'd suggest that that most likely will not happen, not in my experience. The thing I'm in very much agreement on is the necessity for long-term planning. Because not only is a good practice, but I'm - - and I wrote down some notes to myself, thinking ahead now, we will never have these types of issues confront us that do need for a -- or do require a long-term financial plan with strategic decisions, if you think about them. Number one, it's the renovation of Rice Street and the construction of a Special Purpose Building, so all of the costs that will accrue to that. Number two, the construction of a new hospital in South Fulton by our partner and who we have an ownership stake in, that's been proposed by Grady Memorial Healthcare, and underscored by the study that we did that showed the health equity gaps and lack of access that exists there. Number three is the implementation of all the DOJ consent order items for staffing, operation and systems. And quite frankly, they are more in the process of being revealed, we'll bring more forward today. But they're not fully known yet and much less vetted. Number four is the decision to exit the TADs as they naturally expire. That's a multibillion dollar decision that will need to be made. And then fifth is all of the other priorities that normally accrue, facility needs, employee needs, and the like. So I would urge you as a Board to give serious consideration to undertaking that sooner rather than later. And yes, some of this is not fully known, but each day that goes by, and as we'll be presenting to you in short order, they are becoming more, more known. That would be the most helpful process to giving citizens some degree of certainty about tax rates, as well as giving operations within the county some certainty about future investments. And I think that's all I have, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam Clerk, next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 7, **25-0563**, Finance request approval of a resolution adopting the 2025 Millage Rates for the General Fund, General Obligation Bond Fund, and the Fulton Industrial District Fund."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. I want to thank the public. I counted mine. I've got -- I got over 300 and something emails. I got over 80

texts. I couldn't even get the number of individuals that decided to reach out to me on social media, and the three different people that stopped me in my local Publix that I had no problem talking to them while I was shopping. And even though, overwhelmingly, the individuals did not want a increase, but the ones that said, Commissioner Khadijah, if you think we need one, I'll support it if you could show me in black and white that we need it. I could not show the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County \$72 million that needed -- they -- that would be forth on the backs of the taxpayers. And I'm not going to run away from that. The conversation started with me proposing a 8.9. And the only reason that was proposed was what I saw in the future. But I wanted to keep the conversation going. The problem in my estimation, and this is my opinion, is that any time there's a conversation about the millage rate, it becomes a sausage contest, or sausage making. Nobody likes the process, but they love the taste of sausage. What happens and what I, in my opinion, happened, is that I had an opportunity to look at the process, understand the process, and listen to the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County. As legislators, we will make decisions that we will have to change, because you sent us here. In all honesty, I don't understand how a process that's supposed to be for the people, by the people, and people stand on their personal feelings about it. I get it, I'm one of the people that is very strong-willed, and I know a lot of us are. But in being strong-willed, you have to be accountable. Nobody is going to take a budget, give you all the money, and say, spend all the money in the first six months. That is not a prudent business model. And so I want to go on record saying to the county staff, I don't have a problem with the budget process. Because guess what, when I talk to them, they give me the information. As the legislator, I take the vote. So I'm not going to throw you all under the bus, because I've decided to change my decision. I changed my decision well before today, and was very adamant why I changed it. And so what I would say today, right now, while I'm thanking all those people from the north to the south, those individuals that wanted to become part of the process, thank you for that. Because it's only when you do your civic duty, we can have healthy dialogue, and we can agree to disagree respectfully. But at the end of the day, I stand on, this is taxpayer's money. And I must go the extra mile to make sure that I am prudent in my decisions for your money. So having said that, I am going to put the motion before for a 8.87."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And I'll second that. Yeah, I'll second it. Did it work? All right. We have a motion on the floor now for eight -- yeah, I'm just going to put the motion. Motion on the floor by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman is 8.87, which I seconded. Now, Commissioner Mo Ivory, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes, thank you. Ms. Whitmore, just C -- Madam CFO, for the sake of clarity, can you walk us through the difference between the three millage rates that appear on the agenda item, the general fund, the general obligation bond, and of Fulton Industrial District millage rate?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, thank you, Commissioner Ivory. What's before the Board is the recommendation, final approval of the three millage rates for the county, the general fund, which, of course, is the primary operating tax base fund for the county. The motion is for 8.87. Followed by the county's bond fund, which is a separate fund that is established specifically to retire the debt associated with the general obligation library bonds. The rate is .169. And then lastly, is the Fulton Industrial District, which is the unincorporated special taxing district in Fulton County. And the rate that is recommended is 9.431, which is the rollback rate, statutorily calculated rollback rate for that taxing district."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "So the general fund millage rate, if -- when it's voted on in the motion for 8.87 is just the general fund millage rate, it will be higher when you add in the general fund -- the general obligation bond fund, as well as the Fulton Industrial District millage rate --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "That's on the -- on the tax bill, an individual who resides in Fulton County would see the county's general fund, the county's bond fund, and if they reside in the county special taxing district, they would see that. If not, then they would see the municipality that they live in along with the school district."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So just wanted to make sure that when people see that on their tax bill, they're -- we're having a lot of conversation about 8.87, which is only the general fund millage rate. There are two other millage rates that also will be calculated into that."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, depending on the location where the individual --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Locate -- that's depending on -- right. And County -- Mr. Anderson, our County Manager, can -- thank you so much for your comments that we should plan forward, that we should have a revised budget process that looks ahead more than how we do it. Now, I really do appreciate that strong financial leadership. Can you speak to Fulton County's current approach to setting water and sewer rates, specifically the decision to increase rates by 5 percent annually?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am. It's -- it started first, and is driven by growth forecasts from each of our cities. We did that over approximately 10 years ago. We've updated it since then. We've done a lot of work in North Fulton, where that growth was already being realized. Big Creek being the most significant expansion of a wastewater treatment plant that was financed by those 5 percent rate increases. Now, we have confirmed very clearly that the growth rates projected out of South Fulton cities are being realized, and in some cases, being exceeded. That's obviously good news. The continued rate increases will allow us to do the same

expansion at the Camp Creek Water Creek facility that we've done at Big Creek using the newest technology, and of course, significantly increasing the billions of gallons a day that we could treat. It also, because in parts of South Fulton, sewer was not extended. In fact, there's a item coming up on the agenda for a pump station on Campbellton Road. That will also then fund an extension of our sewer system into those communities to support that anticipated growth. Lastly -- so it's all driven by growth meeting capacity. However, the good news is, even with these projected increases, we remain very much in the lower tier of cost or price of all water service, water treatment providers in Metro Atlanta."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "We discussed in relating to the millage rate, the idea of for the past nine years, we've gone up 5 percent each year on our water and sewer rates, and we're proposing 5 percent more for the next two years. And I wondered that we are -- when it comes to our millage rate, which hasn't increased in over a decade, some are calling any adjustment unacceptable. But for the nine, past nine years, we've increased our water and sewer rates 5 percent each year. And we are doing that in the next two years. So when you went to -- you and I talked about that there were hearings for that millage rate this past week, and you said that you went to some of those hearings, and there were no citizens there to discuss --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- about this millage rate. Is that -- is that not correct?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What is your point of order?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point -- point of order. We are getting away from the topic of discussion of what we're dealing with now. I -- Commissioner Ivory, you can ask him that, but I think it's -- it's not in the context of what we're dealing with right now. And that is my point of order, that's what's before us. That is not relevant to what's before us."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "It's completely relevant."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute, everybody. So what's before us now is a motion to approve the 2025 millage rate --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- for the general fund, the general obligation bond fund, and the Fulton Industrial District fund."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Sure. And in the context of that --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And we'll take care of the others in a minute --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Sure. And this is not at all a conversation about the water and sewer rates. It's in context completely to compare that we have been raising the water and sewer millage rate 5 percent per year for the last nine years, and --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order, Chairman."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- plan to do that for the next two years."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Commissioner --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And at those millage rate hearings --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- there was zero --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- attendance."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "It's in context."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor, once again, is to adopt the 2025 general fund, general obligation, and the Fulton Industrial District Bond fund at 8.87 mils. Let's vote. Just a minute. Before we vote --"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm sorry, Commissioner Arrington, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Oh, no, I was just saying I vote yes for the 8.87."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What did he say?"

CLERK GRIER: "He's voting yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, wait a minute. Before that, now, anybody -- let's be real clear. I don't want to be accused of not having allowing everyone the opportunity. Anybody want to increase it beyond the 8.87? No. All right, let's vote, the 8.87."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. It's 2:25. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch, Executive Session. We'll consider items of personnel, litigation, and what's the other one? Real estate, yeah."

CLERK GRIER: "Motion? Second? Okay. Commissioners, would you please vote for me before you go down? We got four? Who are we waiting on? Chairman. And the motion passes; four yeas, zero nays."

Recessed for Executive Session at 2:26 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 4:39 p.m.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good evening. We will resume the regular order of business without objection. Before we begin with taking issues from Executive Session, we've been informed that there was a shooting at Fort -- Fort Stewart, and there were some soldiers that were injured. At this point, it's all we know. But let's have a moment of silence for those, please."

Observation of moment of silence.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Madam County Attorney, items from Executive Session."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in items 1, 2, and 3 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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 request for settlement authority in item 5, which is an opioid settlement with Purdue Pharma?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for settlement authority in item 6 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the request for settlement authority in item 7 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve a contract with the Whalls Group for recruitment services in an amount not to exceed \$788,000 and extending through December 31st of 2025, as set forth in item 10.2 -- excuse me, 10a.II of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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 a contract of employment with Richard Anderson, County Manager for a term of four years, with the annual salary of \$371,000 with specific terms, as stated in the written contract?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "No further action items from Executive Session."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is that it? All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 7, **25-0565**, Human Resources Management request approval of the proposed benefit summary for the Childcare Pilot Program for 2025."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Mr. Hermon."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Good afternoon, Commissioners and listening audience. Kenneth L. Hermon, Jr., Chief HR Officer. Could we put up the presentation, please? Thank you very much. Commissioners, I stand before you to provide you with an overview of what the HR Department has been able to put together to implement the provisions of the resolution that you adopted to allow for of a pilot childcare program. Just to quickly go over the overview of what you adopted back in June, would allow for up to 100 employees to participate in the pilot. Those employees who are selected to participate in the pilot will be eligible to receive up to \$500 per month in eligible childcare reimbursement at an eligible childcare facility. The childcare facilities must be within a 10-mile radius of the Government Center or the employee's primary residence. The budget for this program is \$300,000 between July 25th and December 25th of this year. How HR went about developing the format for the program is we thought it best to meet with the stakeholders, to get their input and insight into how we could tailor something that would meet their needs. It's been a while since I've had to worry about a child in childcare facility, so I needed a reeducation myself. And

through those two working sessions, we had roughly about 125 employees participate. Out of that work session, we felt that it'd be necessary to make it as easy as possible for the employees to apply, so we've created an electronic application process for them to submit their letter of -- their application for participation. Once we open up the application window, it's going to be up, they're going to have seven days to apply. But we're going to do a precursor of a five-day educational campaign to even tell them that the program is available after you hopefully accept my recommendation on the -- and the structure of the program today. One area of requirement to make it simple for my team and the employees to identify whether or not the facility within ten miles of their house is we found a free website and the presentation that is on the screen, you see a sample of how the website allows the employees to draw radiuses from the Government Center and their home, or the childcare facility and their home. And once those two lines overlap, or those two circles overlap, they're eligible to participate in the lottery process. Again, as adopted, this -- who can apply is Fulton County funded employees that are required to work on site or on a hybrid schedule, more than 29 hours per week, as approved and indicated by their department head. And we've created a very simple and small form for department heads to submit and to provide to the employees as part of their application process. Eligible employees and their dependents must be between the ages of zero and six, and they must provide proof of relationship. The employees, again, like I said, must provide the radius map from the childcare facility to their home or the Government Center. And reimbursements have to be done within a time frame to allow for Finance and HR to reimburse them within, I think we said about 30 to 60 days. The one recommendation, Commissioners, that I hope that you could adopt today is a small modification to the resolution as written. During our conversation with the employees, we've understood or came aware of, we might not have been as inclusive as possible. And about two or three employees indicated that the childcare facility that they have to send their child to because of the special needs of the child is outside of the 10-mile radius. So I'm recommending, and hopefully you adopt it that for those individuals who have special needs at a special need facility that the town -- the 10-mile radius is waived for those individuals."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is that just for those with special needs?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Just for those individuals with special needs."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Excuse me."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "That's it. So -- so hopefully, Commissioners, based on the letter that I circulated several weeks ago, and what I've been able to present, and hopefully with the adoption of that one modification to the resolution, I stand ready to answer any questions about the program that the HR Department has designed in accordance with the resolution, and working with the

employees who could benefit from that. Oh, one thing I'd like to add for -- for those employees who may be listening is, I know there might have been a miscommunication in that -- in the documents that are attached to the actual agenda where there was a date of application date of June 5th to June 17th. And I just wanted to clarify this -- and that's an oversight on myself and my team. This -- that document has been in the SIRE system for about a month and a half, and we failed to go back and take it out. So once you adopt my change today, we would apply a new application window so that no employee is missed and don't have the opportunity to apply. They have not missed anything as part of this process. I'll stop there, Commissioner --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And I think we can amend it to -- we can amend it to take care of the special needs. We have one other question, though. Is it possible to make the employees, eligible employees of the Sheriff's Department a priority; is that possible?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "It's not -- since it's -- once the application come in and they be randomly selected, there's no way for us to make them a priority. But part of the original resolution did allow for us to develop a separate distinct program for the Sheriff's, for the Rice Street location that which we're still trying to work through with the Sheriff's Department."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Well, let's do that. And I think that will be important. All right, on that, so we need an amendment to allow for eligible if dependents with special needs. Would that be the amendment?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "If you want to, I can read it, and if you want to adopt it. And Legal, please let me know if I get it wrong. What we've asked you, Commissioners, is to accept the Chief HR Officer's recommendation to amend resolution 25-0314, to waive the 10-mile radius requirement for eligible employees who have eligible dependents with special needs attending childcare facilities, providing special need care, if approved by the Chief HR Officer, and authorize the Chairman to sign a resolution capturing this amendment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right. Any objections to that amendment? None? All right, if they're no objections, we will accept.

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Thorne, did you have a -- okay. All right. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm voting, yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington is voting, yes."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HR OFFICER: "Thank you, Commissioners."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously, with Vice Chair Ellis."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0566**, Finance, presentation, review, and approval of the August 6th, 2025, budget soundings and resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The item that's before the Board today is a modification to the annual hardware/software maintenance list. It's for an increase in the Riskconnect software that's used by the County's Risk Management Unit and the Finance Department. An increase of \$25,000, no additional funds -- funding is a necessary. This is just an increase to spending authority."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, any questions? Let's vote. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington votes, yes."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, **25-0567**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval of the rate for the public's use of county-owned electric vehicle charging stations."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington votes, yes."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0568, Information Technology request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 to provide testing resources for the CGI-AMS 4X Cloud Upgrade."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, 25-0569, Public Works request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$1,451,000 to provide services associated with the program development, implementation, management necessary to meet the requirements of the Lead Copper Rule Revision."

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, Commissioner Arrington."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0533, Request approval to correct agenda item, 25-0106 to correct the not to exceed amounts for years one through five for the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resources Commission Contract."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, second by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just had some questions. David, I don't know if you could answer. So in this contract, they didn't include their profit when they bided on the project; is that correct?"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes. David Clark, Director of Public Works. The instructions as part of the RFP, which was very unique for Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You said, very unique?"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Very unique. Normally, profit is included in the cost proposal. But in this case, they were given direction not to include it, and it would be negotiated after the award."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. So -- so they could have said 20 percent profit, and you know, then we're stuck with the 20 percent profit on that contract --"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "No, it was a negotiation process. They did not ask -- they had asked for higher percentage rates. We worked it down to the 9.8, I think is the final number."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So they're two people who bid on this contract. Did both bidders not include their profit?"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "No. Way we understand that Jacobs, who the other bidder, did include profit in their overall costs. But when you look at their bid, plus the revised bid from Veolia, Veolia is still is the cheaper one with the" profit included.

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Yeah, in moving forward with that process, is it going to be so abnormal? Or in the future, will we go ahead and have them include their profit?"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "I'll let Felicia answer that."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. Felicia Strong-Whitaker. As you all realize, this is not a Fulton County contract. This is through the Atlanta Water Resource Commission, and we were the conduit for the purchasing. We were the lead procurement agency. So it is a joint venture between the Atlanta Water Resource Commission, who provides us with the specifications, Fulton County and the city of Atlanta. So in the future, we will advise them if we get to do the procurement again in next ten or 20 years. But for now, this is how the Atlanta Water Resources Commission, Kathy Crews, who is the General Manager, had the specifications in the RFP."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah. As somebody who's on the Board, it would be good for the Board to be aware contractors the --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "-- the contract as well."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I -- we need to talk about it. I don't --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Because many of us are --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- recall that ever -- us -- three of us are on there. I don't recall discussing it, and I understand Madam Purchasing Director, but, anyway."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "But it won't be for another ten or 20 years."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Potentially, yes."

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

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Is this the item -- if I'm not mistaken, isn't this the item that for the lack of a better word, it's done like -- it goes in front of one group, then it goes in front of another or something like that, Mr. Clark? You can -- you can -- I'm trying to remember. But I think part of the reason it was left out was, it was going in front of -- was it going in front of two different groups of people?"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Yeah. The way that things work for the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resource Commission is Fulton County acts on it, then the city of Atlanta acts on it, and then the Commission, who's made up of representatives both from the city and the county, as well as a citizen member, they finalize it."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Exactly, exactly. So that was my understanding that it was accidentally left off. But it was accidentally left off at a stage where it was supposed to be on there. Or was it -- I guess it went through the other two, but when it got to one, it was missing, was -- was it something -- I'm sorry, I'm just trying to remember --"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Sure."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- my notes on it. I don't have it in front of me."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "I know the Ful- Water Resource Commission Board has not acted on this yet. But Felicia, do you know if the city of Atlanta has acted on it?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "The city of Atlanta acted on this, this -- this new one, or the old one? Their initial one?"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "The initial one."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "The initial one, yes. The city of Atlanta approved it. It was approved by all bodies, which is why when the contract went from -- when we forwarded the contract after was approved by Fulton County, the city of Atlanta, and all parties, it went to the contractor to execute. That's when the contractor came back and said, our profit was not included in the annual cost. And if you notice, there's a million dollar difference between the Veolia cost and the other cost. So there was something going on there, but it was not -- we were not made aware of it until the contract went out to the contractor."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay, yeah, that's what I remember."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. Because I remember the conversation was what you stated. It went in front of all the bodies."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "And then it was agreed, but it was that part that was left out. So that was not, I don't believe that was bearing. It didn't make a difference, did it? It was supposed to be on there, but it would not have been in -- it would not have impacted because the other one was still --"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Higher."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Higher."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. That's what I -- okay, so yeah. That's what I thought, this was the one."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "It did not change --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "So that's why I didn't have a problem with it, because for the lack of a better word, Mr. Clark, it sound like it was just a formality that was looked over. But it wasn't one that was contract impacting."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "Right."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "If that's the correct terminology."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "The top --"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "I think that's fine."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC: "-- remained --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay, alrighty, all right."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion is to approve. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Page 9, **25-0570**, Request approval of guaranteed maximum price in an amount not to exceed \$20,332,906 to form all final design and construction activities associated with the installation of the new pump station and main pump lines to serve South Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. I've never heard of this company. I'm sure -- I just -- it's a 20 million, I'm sure they're a fine firm. I just never heard of it."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: (Off-mic comments.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "They have done several projects --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But nothing of this size I'm aware of."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just curious, okay."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Yeah. They've been working with us for several years."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion is to approve. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington votes, yes. Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0571**, Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Fulton County and the city of Roswell for water main betterments and relocations associated with the road improvements to Woodstock Road in an estimated amount of \$1,223,520."

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

CLERK GRIER: "The vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, for Arrington."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0572**, Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Fulton County and the city of Milton for water main relocations associated with

the Birmingham Road Culvert Bridge Replacement Project in the estimated amount of \$206,400."

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Arrington, yes."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "Under Infrastructure and Economic Development, **25-0573**, Request approval of a resolution adopting the 2045 Comprehensive Plan for Unincorporated Fulton County and authorizing the transmittal of the plan to the Atlanta Regional Commission and Georgia Department of Community Affairs."

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, for Commissioner Arrington."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Action Items, **25-0574**, Request approval of resolution urging the release of Israeli hostages and an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Israel and Gaza for other purposes sponsored for -- by Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, colleagues, I hope you got -- colleagues, I hope you all will support this. Serve -- certainly, a motion to approve by me, the need for humanitarian aid is readily apparent, and certainly the hostages need to be returned. So I hope that you all will approve this resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, with all due respect to my colleagues, I will not be able to support this. I do believe that we had something not

quite similar to this. We're urging the release of Israeli hostages and immediate and permanent ceasefire in Israel and Gaza and for other purposes. But we do have individuals that are dying of a famine there. And for -- for that, I just will not be able to support it. I did have individuals that reached out and felt like this Body was not being fair in speaking to the Israeli hostages, but not speaking to the famine of those that are in Gaza that have -- and we've seen it on the news. President Trump has talked about it. And so I just want to go on record saying that I cannot support this, and that's the reason why I cannot support it."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So this, this resolution calls for immediate humanitarian aid in Gaza. That is the main reason for this resolution that human -- now, they may have captured it a different way. But the main -- the main purpose for me introducing this was to provide immediate humanitarian aid to the residents of Gaza, also for the release of the hostages and the immediate end to the war. But absolutely, you're -- humanitarian aid in Gaza is -- is needed, and that was the impetus for me even drafting this resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any other comments? Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So if we approve this resolution, where does it go? What does it do?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, I don't know where it goes. We can, you know, talk about it, and send it wherever we want to. We can send it to the President. We can send it to the Congress, the Senate. But, you know, to see the -- the famine that is occurring in Gaza and to not speak out or say something makes me almost feel complicit in it. As an elected official, I believe particularly, we're here in Atlanta Georgia, in Fulton County, the home of Dr. Martin Luther King. And for us to see people starving like that, to see a whole country displaced and starving like that, and not to not speak up and say anything or do anything, is horrific. And so I hope that we will -- that we will adopt this resolution. And we can send it wherever you want to."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I don't know if I'm a particular, you know, expert in this because there's -- it's such a multifaceted thing. Like the Arab League of Nations, from my research, came out, and condemned October 7th massacre and demanded that Hamas disarm and relinquish control of Gaza in the call for peace, which if that's what it takes for peace, I'm totally on board anything to get the killing to stop on both sides over there and the innocent Palestinian people that are being starved to death and the hostages that are there being starved to death as well. So -- but I don't know if I'm a -- like, I don't know if this is -- what it does that's my purpose. I don't know if this is in my realm as a County Commissioner."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Any other comments? Motion on the floor is to adopt. Let's vote. I'm sorry, Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that I certainly appreciate the sentiment of getting aid to Gaza, and you know, having the hostages returned, and peace, and you know, a ceasefire and all of that. I sort of agree that it's, you know, this is not the purview of this Body. I mean, we're -- we're not foreign policy people, we're County Commissioners. But I, you know, I see both sides of it, in that, we do have the platform and this, you know, Commissioner Arrington has chose to put this up and use that platform. I also sort of agree, when we've done urging resolutions, I believe you did one years ago, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman about the Voting Rights Act. And we generally just say where they're going to be delivered, you know, to -- and to encourage a particular piece of legislation or something like that. So, you know, is this exactly how I would have written it? No. But I do appreciate the sentiment."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any other comments? All right, let's vote."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Arrington, yes."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion fails; three yeas, two abstentions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: **"25-0575"**, Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 101, Article 2, Division 2, Section 101-68, Decorum of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances, and for other purposes sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, and I will second it. Questions or comments? All right, let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Question. What is the purpose -- wait, I have a question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington has --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "What is the purpose -- what is the purpose for the increase?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "To serve as a deter --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Y'all just -- well, y'all just assessed the first one ever at the last meetings. So why is there a need to increase it?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The future deterrents. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So that -- the existing amount was not already a deterrent?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I don't think so. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, you know, I do think Commissioner Arrington is correct that we just recently approved the amounts that are there. You know, I think this is the first time we've actually, this last time was the first time someone actually was fined in this -- in this, under the plan as it stands right now. And I do think these fines are excessive for the offense. So I can't support it."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm voting, nay. I voted nay, as well. I voted nay, as well."

CLERK GRIER: "Five yeas, two nays with Commissioner Arrington."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **25-0576**, Hospital Authority of Fulton County Northside. The Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County reappointed the following appointees for terms ending April 1st, 2029: Dr. Lawrence Stone, Mark Sweeney, and Dr. Alvin Sermons."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just a question. I mean, just a point of order. Is this for a vote, or just a spreading on the minutes?"

CLERK GRIER: "It's spread on the minutes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, okay. Could we not include it in consent agenda going forward if it's just a spread on the minutes?"

CLERK GRIER: "So noted, it can be."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Did that get spread on the minutes? You don't have to vote, strike that. Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0577, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Region Advisory Council, Commissioner Thorne has nominated Cathy Murphy for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending August 1st, 2028."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Vice Chair Ellis seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: One second, before you move on. For those of you who have vacancies on the Veterans Commission, I think that's the correct name, please fill those, because we have another meeting of that group in a couple weeks. So we need to have a full attendance. They've had trouble getting a com -- strike, a quorum. But we did have a quorum at a special session last week. Continue.

CLERK GRIER: "Page 11, 25-0578, Discussion, utilization of outside counsel for commercial property assessment appeals sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What is this? Which one? Okay, motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. You've heard -- I'm sorry?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "We -- I mean, I guess it's just, there's no vote here, right? It's just discussion?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Any discussion?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I mean, what are we discussing? Who -- I mean, who brought this up?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It just says discussion."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Whose discussion item is this?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm not sure why we need discussion. Mine? I didn't even see my name on it. Well, I'm not sure there's anything to discuss. I've talked about it with the -- as a result of the comments that we heard from the public regarding the appraisal, Board of Assessors, rather, and how there is a feeling that we are out gunned, if you

will, when we go through the appeals process with respect to assessments. And therefore, I thought that it would make some sense if that were true, and it appears to be true, that we were to engage strong outside counsel that would begin to address, and it came up today if you're listening to the comments that were made by many of the people from the public, this item was discussed. So I think that this will help us in the appeals process, particularly as it relates to the -- when we get to the Superior Court. I've spoken about it with the County Attorney. And Madam County Attorney, you want to chime in? You don't have to."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I stand ready to execute the will of the Board on this topic."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Pardon me?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I said, our department will execute the will of the Board on this topic. If you want us to use outside counsel, we will."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ellis, Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I mean, so do you -- what direction do you need? I mean --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: I was ask --

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: Or do you need to make --

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "-- direction. I think the Chairman has posited the idea that the Board will direct my office to utilize outside counsel for commercial appeals. And if that is the will of the Board, then we will do so."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order, Mr. Chair. Shouldn't this be a topic for Executive Session? It sounds like the County Attorney needs to give us some advice on this, and I don't know that this public forum is the proper place for that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam County Attorney."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I'm not sure what advice is being solicited. But it's, that is -- it's up to the Board. You have the discretion to select, select or elect to use outside counsel."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I mean, I think that in terms of, like, how we -- how we're approaching these things, and it should be considered in terms of is that going to get is more likely a better outcome and also better utilization of, you know, your resources within the County Attorney's Office so that you employ outside counsel here, and you know, redirect your staff to be able to do other things that are needed. And is that an

appropriate offset? And if so, you know, can you just execute that on your own, or do you need any further direction from us?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Outside counsel is engaged with my recommendation, but by approval by the Board. And I think that's why the Chairman has brought that to the Board's attention."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What'd she say?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'm back to my point of order. Because as any time that's done, that's done in Executive Session."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Well, this is a generic, you know, as opposed to an individual case, so I think this is --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Let's do -- let's do this. I think the public was very clear about this. Let's take it up in Executive Session. We have a special meeting coming up. We'll add this to the agenda at the special meeting on next Wednesday at 10:00 o'clock. No problem."

CLERK GRIER: "So noted."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Any other items today? I'm sorry."

CLERK GRIER: "Yes, we have an add-on item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "You want to sound it, or --"

CLERK GRIER: "Okay. Add-on item, **25-0580**, Discussion, process for appointment of members of Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections in light of recent court orders sponsored by Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So in light of Executive Session and a majority of the Board to let the process, judicial process play out, I'm just going to remove this item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. You want to be heard? All right. Anything else today? Any other items to come before us?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. No further items to come before us today. But as a reminder, next Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., there'll be a special Executive Session, 10:00 a.m. No further items to come before us, we are adjourned. Thank you."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

