

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

July 09, 2025
10:00 AM



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



MINUTES-RATIFIED

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

Ratification Date: August 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert L. Pitts

10:01 a.m.

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

PRESENT

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

PRESENT

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

PRESENT

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

PRESENT

Mo Ivory, Commissioner (District 4)

PRESENT

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

PRESENT

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

PRESENT

INVOCATION: Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recite in unison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA**25-0488 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)**

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

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

Absent: Arrington

25-0489 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Rodney Evans, Sr. Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**
June 22, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Jim Dent Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**
June 26, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Alfred Tup Holmes Remembrance Day." **(Arrington)**
June 26, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Vijaya Nair Appreciation Day." **(Pitts)**
June 27, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Q. Parker Legacy Foundation Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
June 27, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Zenia Murray Remembrance Day." **(Pitts)**
June 30, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Fellowship of Affirming Ministries Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**
July 2, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Bishop Yvette Flunder Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**
July 5, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Sheila Barkley Quick Remembrance Day." **(Ivory)**
July 7, 2025

Commissioners' District Board Appointments**25-0490****Board of Commissioners****HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Nine (9) members serve on this authority. Seven (7) regular members (each Commissioner appoints one person to serve) and two (2) housing resident members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The enabling statute calls the Housing Authority Board members "Commissioners."

Term = 5 Years for BOC Appointees, 1 Year for Resident Members

Term below expires: 7/13/2025

Stephen Davis (**Thorne**)

Commissioner Thorne nominated Stephen Davis for a District reappointment to a term ending July 13, 2030.

25-0491**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

Richard H. White (**Hausmann**)

Commissioner Thorne nominated Jim Squire for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2027.

25-0492 Board of Commissioners
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

At the Special Call Meeting, May 30, 1973, the Board of Commissioners appointed seven (7) members to serve on this Authority. In 1992, two more members were added to this board bringing the total to nine (9) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County. Historically, each Commissioner has appointed one person to serve on this board. In addition, two persons are appointed and confirmed by the full Board of Commissioners.

Term = 4 years staggered

Term below expired: 5/31/2025
Michael Bodker (Hausmann)

Commissioner Thorne nominated Lynne Riley for a District appointment to a term ending May 31, 2029.

Open & Responsible Government

25-0493 Registration & Elections
Request approval to alter the boundaries of voting precincts to streamline election processes. To enhance the efficiency of the election process, boundary lines for precincts with no assigned voters or those with similar districts are recommended for adjustment to consolidate related precincts. Effective upon BOC approval.
(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)

25-0494 Finance
Ratification of June 2025 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0495 Real Estate and Asset Management
Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and Arkan Echo, LLC, for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of the County's existing water line easement area at 12580 Crabapple Road, Milton, Georgia 30004. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0496 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval for Fulton County to accept and record two (2) Release of Easement instruments from BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC, formerly Southern Bell and Telegraph Company and successor by merger to South Central Bell Telephone Company, a Georgia limited liability company d/b/a AT&T Georgia, for the purpose of Bellsouth relinquishing and removing two utility easements with a total easement area of 1,078 square feet from recorded property records on County-owned real property at 400 Formwalt Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30312; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Release of Easement Instruments and any related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve all of the documents as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0497 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the donation of approximately 1127.42 square feet of right of way and 10,923.24 square feet of temporary easement areas on Fulton County-owned real property located on 575 Riverside Road Roswell, Georgia 30075, to the City of Roswell for the purpose of constructing roadway improvements; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Right of Way Deed and any related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Right of Way Deed and any related documents as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0498 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 41,588 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Stonecutter Plummer Holdings, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Westlake 5950 Project at 5950 Plummer Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30336. Effective upon approval of the BOC. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0499 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 11,585 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from McDonald Westlake Partners, LP, individuals, for the purpose of constructing the Westlake 5950 Project at 5940 Plummer Road, South Fulton, Georgia 30336. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0500 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 39,378.24 square feet (0.904 ac) to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from The City of Union City, owner, for the purpose of constructing the Millennium Park Project at 0 Jones Road # Rear, Union City, Georgia 30213. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0501 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 8,252.74 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Northwinds Parkway Office, LLC and Greenstone Parkway 400 LLLP, for the purpose of constructing the WRN24-085 Project at 3000, 3050 & 3100 Northwinds Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0502 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 304.86 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Northwinds Parkway Office, LLC, owner, for the purpose of constructing the WRN24-085 Project at 3000 Northwinds Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. Effective upon approval by the BOC. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Arts and Libraries**25-0503 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Arts & Culture, SWC 99999-SPD-0000136-0008, Temporary Staffing Services with Corporate Temps Inc. (Norcross, Georgia) at no additional cost to provide temporary staffing services for an additional six (6) month period. Effective dates: July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**25-0504 Community Development**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners to authorize the adoption and approval of the 2025-2029 HUD Consolidated Plan and 2025 HUD Annual Action Plan which will allow the County to secure federal funding for projects and services that support the needs of low- and moderate-income residents. The funding includes \$1,254,161.00 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and \$590,862.29 from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). A Fulton County general fund match is not required for the CDBG Program. Fulton County uses its general fund to support the required 25% match for the HOME program. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0505 Community Development

Request approval to (a) rescind the prior 2025 Community Services Program (CSP) award to the non-profit Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services, Inc. in the amount of \$30,000.00; and (b) reallocate the rescinded funding in the amount of \$30,000.00 to the non-profit Open Hand Atlanta, Inc. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**25-0506 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to adopt the First Regular Meeting as amended by revising item #25-0531 as requested by the County Manager; removing items #25-0483 and #25-0540 as requested by Commissioner Ivory. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Absent: Arrington

25-0507 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

First Regular Meeting Minutes, June 4, 2025

Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, June 18, 2025

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

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

Absent: Arrington

25-0508 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Fulton County Police Department 50th Anniversary Appreciation Day." **(Pitts/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "Disability Awareness Day." **(Thorne/Barrett/BOC)**

Proclamation recognizing "Amplify Your Music Youth Initiative Appreciation Day." **(Barrett/Ivory)**

PUBLIC HEARINGS**25-0509 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)

28 Speakers: Mayor John Bradberry (Millage Rate); Jody Reichel (Millage Rate); Jamie Parrish (Millage Rate); Eloisa Klemeutich (Westside TAD); Leonard Adams (Westside TAD); Kaydion Pressley (Food Stamp Fraud); Leonard Watkins (Westside TAD); Perrin Bostic (Westside TAD); Colette R Haywood (Westside TAD); Margie McCloud (Veterans/HIV Funding); Kimberly McMichaels (Westside TAD); Charles Rambo (Sheriff); Kelsea Bond (Millage Rate); James Martin (Millage Rate); Devin Barrington-Ward (Millage Rate); LA Pink (Millage Rate/Sheriff); Diana Sow (Haven 4 Hope Housing); Damita Chatman (Millage Rate); Valeria Weaver (Westside TAD); Grace Roth (Westside TAD); Dominique Grant (Millage Rate); Steve Labonitz (Water Contract); Jeanne Simkins Hollis (Water Contract); Andrew Appleton (Water Contract); Amanda Rhein (Westside TAD); Richelle Patton (Westside TAD); Joseph L. Crawford (Millage Rate); Wole Oyenga (Westside TAD)

22 Zoom Speakers: Kevin Muldowney (Millage Rate); Garland Favorito (Millage Rate); John Ahmann (Westside TAD); Matt Rowenczak (Millage Rate); Fawn Ortega (Film Industry/Millage Rate); Charles Kreiger (Millage Rate); Ping Young (Millage Rate); Lucia Frazer (Millage Rate); Ember Hocksens (Millage Rate); Sherree Hung (Westside TAD); Cynthia Powell (Westside TAD); Jessica Johnson (Millage Rate/Westside TAD); Jennifer Green Williams (Millage Rate); Donny Knight (Millage Rate); Kate Whiteneck (Millage Rate); Keith Gibman (Millage Rate); Lucestor Asmore (Millage Rate); Megan Bowen (Millage Rate); Fawn Ortega (Film Industry/Millage Rate); Saba Asfa (Millage Rate); Juyeon Sun (Millage Rate); Diane Porter (Millage Rate)

25-0510 Police

Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Request public hearing and approval for license application submitted by LG Drinks LLC DBA Crispy Cool, for the manufacturer of Distilled Spirits at 3700 Wendell Drive, Ste 21, Atlanta, Georgia 30336.

(APPROVED)

**PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED
NO SPEAKERS**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

25-0511 Finance

Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Millage Rate Public Hearing. **(CONDUCTED)**

13 Speakers: Ashley Burgess, Patrick O'Connor, Dorothy Harpe, Mike Russell, Brian Allen, Devin Barington-Ward, Jim Martin, Charles Rambo, LA Pink, Diana Sow, Glenn S. Wrightson, Cat Harthey, Victoria Salvia

3 Zoom Speakers: Anwar Gonswala, LaTanya Harris, Nancy Quan Cellars

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Housing Authority of Fulton County

25-0512 Board of Commissioners

Presentation: Housing Authority of Fulton County Update **(MOVED TO THE AUGUST 20TH SECOND REGULAR MEETING)**

HEARING**25-0513 Board of Commissioners**

To impose penalties against Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington, Jr. (District 5) for violation of the rules of decorum pursuant to Fulton County Code Section 101-68.

(APPROVED)

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

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

Did Not Vote: Barrett, and Arrington

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to impose penalties of public reprimand and a \$500.00 fine. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Barrett, and Arrington

LATER IN THE MEETING:

Commissioner Arrington raised a point of order regarding agenda item #25-0513, asserting that both the Board's action and Fulton County Code Section 101-68 are unconstitutional.

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****25-0514 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Sourcewell Contract RFP #080420, Elevator, Escalators, and Moving Walks with Related Equipment, Services, and Supplies, in the total amount not to exceed \$1,700,000.00 with Thyssenkrupp Elevator (Marietta, GA), to remove and dispose existing escalators and install two (2) new Velino Escalators in the Fulton County Government Center located at 141 Pryor Street Atlanta, GA 30303, in the amount not to exceed \$848,000.00 and to remove and dispose existing escalators and install two (2) new Velino Escalators in the Fulton County Justice Center located at 185 Central Ave SW, Atlanta, GA 30303, in the amount not to exceed \$852,000.00. The Schedule of Work commences upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed through 340 calendar days, with the contract ending upon completion of replacement/installation project as determined by Fulton County. **(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, Ellis, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Nay: Barrett

Did Not Vote: Thorne

25-0515 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, OMNIA Partners Contract #3341 for HVAC Products, Installation, Labor Based Solution and Related Product and Services, in the amount not to exceed \$1,929,310.00 with Trane U.S. Inc. (Doraville, GA), to provide turnkey removal and replacement of existing HVAC mechanical Chiller No. 3 located in the Justice Center Complex at 185 Central Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303. due to the unit having exhausted its useful life (32 years). Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed for 12 months, ending upon completion of the replacement/installation project as determined by Fulton County. **(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

25-0516 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Sourcewell Contract #012825-ORK, Pest Control Services with Related Products in the amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 with Orkin, LLC (Atlanta, GA), to provide continued comprehensive pest control services on an as-needed basis for Countywide facilities. Effective June 19, 2025 through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0517 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138304C-JNJ, Standby Fencing Installation and Repair in the amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 with Osborne & Witt, Inc., d.b.a. Allied Fence Company (Mableton, GA), for a one-time capital project to enhance perimeter security at the Juvenile Justice Center Judges' parking area by installing 8-foot-high security fencing to deter ongoing vehicle vandalism. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0518 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Bid#22ITB134894C-MH, Maintenance and Testing of Fire Intrusion Alarm Systems in the total amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 with Entec Systems, Inc. (Suwanee, GA), to provide immediate repair/or replacement of malfunctioning fire alarm systems located at three (3) Fulton County facilities: HJC Bowden Senior Multipurpose Center, Adamsville Regional Health Center, and Auburn Avenue Research Library. Effective upon BOC approval. **(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

25-0519 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB135025C-MH, Generator System Maintenance and Repair Services in the amount not to exceed \$28,287.00 with Power and Energy Services, Inc. (Powder Springs, GA), to provide immediate replacement of an identified malfunctioning Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS), a component to Generator System -1 located at the Fulton County Government Center, supporting the Public Safety Building 130 Peachtree Street. Effective upon BOC approval. **(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, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis

25-0520 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to close out a contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 21ITB130447C-GS, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups E, F, G, H & I) in the amount not to exceed \$69,032.00 with (A) Chi-Ada Corporation, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to cover the final payment for continued janitorial services rendered in April 2025 for Group E (South Libraries), Group F (Other Offices North) & (Other Offices South), Group G (South Senior Centers), and Group H (Arts Centers) until new contracts under 24ITB110124C-MH were fully executed for FY2025. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0521 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to close out a contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Bid#21ITB130447C-GS, Janitorial Services for Selected Fulton County Facilities (Groups E, F, G, H & I) in the amount not to exceed \$28,868.00 with American Facility Services, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA), to cover the final payment for continued janitorial services rendered in April 2025 for Group I (North & South Service Centers, the new Animal Services Facility & Airport Rescue Fire Fighting "ARFF") until new contracts under 24ITB110124C-MH were fully executed for FY2025. Effective upon BOC approval. **(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, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0522 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 25ITB1319064C-GS, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) System Maintenance Services in an amount not to exceed \$112,900.00 with Levonne Industries, LLC (Atlanta, GA), to provide standby on-site preventative and full-service maintenance services for uninterrupted power supply (UPS) systems for Fulton County upon execution of contract through December 31, 2025, with two (2) renewal options. **(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, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Arrington

25-0523 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 25ITB1366580C-GS, Modular Workstations and Free Standing Furniture Countywide, in an total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, with Group A: (A) Office Design Concept GA, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$433,330.00; (B) Bright Interiors Group (Decatur, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$433,330.00; (C) Corporate Environments (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$433,330.00 to provide office modular workstation systems and free standalone furniture for Fulton County agencies on an "as needed" basis; and Group B: Office Design Concept GA, LLC (Atlanta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$200,010.00, to provide all labor for breaking down and reconfigurations of existing workstations and office relocation by requested user departments for Fulton County agencies on an "as needed" basis. Effective upon execution of contract through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0524 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of statewide contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000203-0001, and SWC#99999-001-SPD0000203-0003, New Tires and Retread Tires in the total amount of \$100,000.00 with (A) Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC through Authorized Dealer Southern Tire Mart (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$30,000.00; and (B) The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company through Authorized Dealer NexTire Commercial, Inc. (Decatur, GA) in the amount of \$70,000.00, to provide tires, tubes, accessories and repair services for Fulton County fleet vehicles for the remainder of FY2025. Effective July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

(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, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis

25-0525 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC #99999-001-SPD0000154-0001, Facility Maintenance Solution in the amount not to exceed \$505,000.00 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (Fayetteville, GA), to provide preventive and corrective maintenance services for the Fulton County Animal Services Facility located at 1251 Fulton Industrial Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA 30336. Effective July 15, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

(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

25-0526 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC #99999-001-SPD0000154-0001, Facility Maintenance Solution in the amount not to exceed \$266,311.16 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (Fayetteville, GA), to provide preventive and corrective maintenance services for the County-owned facilities currently leased to the State of Georgia, (1) Department of Human Services located at 5710 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park, GA 30349, and (2) Department of Family Children Services located at 515 Fairburn Road SW Atlanta, GA 30331. Effective July 15, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

(APPROVED)

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

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

25-0527 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC #99999-001-SPD0000154-0001, Facility Maintenance Solution in the amount not to exceed \$428,860.50 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (Atlanta, GA), to provide preventive and corrective maintenance services for the Fulton County South Annex Jail located at 6500 Watson Street, Union City, Georgia 30291. Effective July 15, 2025 through December 31, 2025. **(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, Ellis, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Thorne

25-0528 Information Technology

Request approval of a statewide contract - Fulton County Information Technology (FCIT), SWC98000-GTA Direct -CONTRACT-4666-ATT, Telecommunication Services in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 with AT&T Corporation, (Atlanta, GA) to provide telecommunication services and products countywide. Effective upon BOC approval, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0529 Information Technology

Request approval of a statewide contract - Fulton County Information Technology (FCIT), SWC98000-GTA-4666-COM, Telecommunication Services in the amount of \$500,000.00 with Comcast Corp, (Atlanta, GA) to provide telecommunication services and products Countywide. Effective dates: July 1, 2025, though December 31, 2025. **(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, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Ellis

25-0530 Information Technology

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Department of Information Technology, Advantage Academy CGI 4X Cloud upgrade, in an amount not to exceed \$110,000.00 with CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc. (Fairfax, VA) to provide ongoing on-demand, self-paced training for the CGI 4X Cloud upgrade. Effective upon BOC approval until final acceptance or the final delivered product is fully implemented in the County's live production environment as determined by the CIO. **(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

Health and Human Services**25-0531 Public Works**

Request approval of a Resolution to approve to authorize Public Works staff to provide the necessary notification and hold a public hearing in anticipation of a five percent (5%) water and sewer volumetric rate increase for each of the next two (2) years; and for other purposes which are necessary to complete the projects included in the 2025 Water Masterplan and the Public Works Capital Improvement Program. to make the necessary increases to the water and sewer fee schedules; to approve modifications to the water connection fees for North Fulton; to provide for an effective date; and for other purposes. If approved by the BOC, the increases in the water and sewer rates, fees and charges will be effective January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027. (APPROVED AS AMENDED)

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

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

25-0532 Public Works

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 20RFP123061K-DB, Operation and Maintenance of Fulton County Flow Monitoring Equipment in the amount of \$566,873.00 with ADS Environmental Services LLC (Marietta, GA), to provide comprehensive operations, preventive maintenance, and repair services for flow monitors and rain gauges, along with sewer system evaluation services for an additional 149 day period effective August 5, 2025 through December 31, 2025. **(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)**

25-0534 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fulton County, on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and Way Shape Form, Inc. to conduct the TextForHelp program in Fulton County by providing clinical management responsibilities and delivering the necessary data and reports generated by the program, in the amount not to exceed \$23,500.00. The MOU will be effective May 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(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

25-0535 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Requesting approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, 22RFP0388A-CJC (D), Fulton County Behavioral Health Network with Grady Memorial Hospital d/b/a Grady Health System (Grady) in an amount not to exceed \$12,620,456.89 to expand services to provide full-service operation and management of the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC). This action exercises the second of eight renewal options. Six renewal options remain. Effective upon BOC approval through June 30, 2026. **(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

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**25-0483 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution requiring department heads perform and submit an annual training assessment during the budget preparation process; directing an amendment to Fulton County Personnel Procedure 209-16 "Travel, Training, Parking and automobile allowance/Mileage Reimbursement Policy," and for other purposes. **(Ivory) (HELD ON 6/18/25) (REMOVED)**

ITEM REMOVED AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER IVORY

25-0536 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution to improve the safety of the Fulton County Jail by expediting the transfer of funds from the Detention Services Overtime Fund and the Detention Services Staffing Incentive Fund to the budget of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) to aid in the recruitment and retention of Detention Officers; to remove extraneous reporting requirements that have delayed the use of urgently needed funding; and for other purposes. **(Barrett) (FILED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

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

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

Nay: Barrett, and Arrington

25-0537 Board of Commissioners

Request approval of a Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to decline participation in new projects in the Westside Tax Allocation District; to direct the Tax Commissioner to cease the remittance of the County's tax increments to the Atlanta Development Authority related to the Westside Tax Allocation District; and for other purposes. **(Ellis/Abdur-Rahman) (HELD)**

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

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

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

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**25-0538****Board of Commissioners****FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS (APPROVED)**

The Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors shall be a five-member board, whose members shall be appointed by the full Board of Commissioners of Fulton County upon nomination by any member of the board of commissioners. Of the five members, at least one shall be a resident of the City of Atlanta, at least one shall be a resident of that portion of Fulton County that lies north of the municipal limits of the City of Atlanta, and at least one shall be a resident of that portion of Fulton County that lies south of the municipal limits of the City of Atlanta. Each such member of the board of tax assessors shall meet all eligibility and other professional and other statutory requirements and qualifications provided under Georgia law and shall, upon appointment, take an oath and shall be otherwise appointed as provided by Georgia law.

Term = 4 years

Term below expired: 6/30/2025

Edward C. London (**BOC/Post 4**)

Commissioner Abdur-Rahman nominated Edward C. London for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2029.

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

25-0539 Board of Commissioners**REGION III EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL (APPROVED)**

The Bylaws of the Region III Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council requires that its members be appointed by County Commissioners and must constitute a minimum of two thirds of the voting membership. Council members serve terms of appointment of three (3) years. The Council year will be from July 1 to June 30. The term of each appointment shall be for three years with one-third of the Council to be appointed each year. In order to have one-third of the Council appointed each year some appointments may be made for 1 or 2 years until such balances achieved. Members may be reappointed to the EMS Council with no limit on terms.

Term = 3 Years

Term below expired: June 30, 2024

Henry W. Argo (**BOC/Position 6**)

Commissioner Arrington nominated Chad Jones for a Full Board appointment to a term ending June 30, 2027.

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

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

Did Not Vote: Barrett

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**25-0540 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Non-working escalators and repair status (**Ivory**) (**REMOVED**)

ITEM REMOVED AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER IVORY

25-0541 Board of Commissioners

Discussion: Outstanding water bill from City of Atlanta (**Pitts**) (**DISCUSSED**)

EXECUTIVE SESSION**25-0542 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, CYBER SECURITY AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice-Chairman Ellis, Commissioners: Thorne, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; Chief Information Officer Kevin Kerrigan; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

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

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

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to approve the requests for representation in items #1, #2, #3, #4 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Ellis

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the request for tax refund regarding tax parcel number 14-0147-0002-015-1 for tax years 2017 to 2022 in the amount of \$824.10. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Ellis

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve the request for tax refund regarding tax parcel number 14-0213-0005-020-7 for tax years 2021 and 2022 in the amount of \$475.42. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve a contract for expanded functionality of Odyssey System to include a detention classification system function in the amount of \$282,900.00 as discussed in item 12a in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

f. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve a contract with EMSI for six (6) months for data collection services in the amount of \$244,724.60 as discussed in item 12b in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

g. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the Information Technology Contract in item #15 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

h. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the Information Technology statewide contract in item #16 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
FIRST REGULAR MEETING
JULY 9, 2025
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC
"A Court Reporting Firm"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone and welcome to the first and only meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County in July. Today is July 9th, 2025; it is 10:01 a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

CLERK GRIER: "Chairman Robb Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Vice Chairman Bob Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Mo Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Present."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr., Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman. 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: **25-0488**, 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."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any items on the consent agenda to be removed? If not, I'll entertain a motion to adopt the consent agenda. All right, motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 6, Adoption, First Regular Meeting Agenda, **25-0506:** Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, there are amendments to today's First Regular Meeting Agenda. On page 12 item to be revised, 25-0531: Public Works: Request -- the item has been amended to amend the requested action. The item should read request approval to authorize public works staff to provide the necessary notification and hold a public hearing in anticipation of a five percent water/sewer rate increase. Items to be removed: First item on page 13, 25-0483. Commissioner Ivory has requested to remove the Resolution requiring department heads to perform/submit an annual training assessment during the budget preparation process, 25-0483. Also on page 13, 25-0537: The Resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to decline participation in new projects in the Westside Tax Allocation District. This item is sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis along with Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. The next item to be removed is on page 15 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- wait. On 0537 what's the correction?"

CLERK GRIER: "We're adding Commissioner Abdur-Rahman as a sponsor."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

CLERK GRIER: "And on page 15, items to be removed, as requested by Commissioner Ivory, 25-0540, Discussion: Nonworking escalators and repair status. That's all I have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it? All right, Commissioners, any other items?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion to do so by Commissioner Thorne; second by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0507:** Ratification of Minutes: First Regular Meeting Minutes June 4th; Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes June 18th, 2025."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a motion? Motion to ratify by Commissioner Ivory; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, **25-0508**: Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Fulton County Police Department 50th Anniversary Appreciation Day' sponsored by Chairman Pitts with full board support."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Can I get all of law enforcement to please -- and all of their supporters -- to please join me and my colleagues. And don't be shy; some of you all come on the other side. Boy don't y'all look good this morning. I feel so safe. All right, we got everybody? All right. Good morning. This proclamation: WHEREAS, in 1975, the Fulton County Police Department was formed to patrol the unincorporated areas of the County with the mission to preserve life, protect property, and maintain order through a partnership between the department and the citizen; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County Police Department serves as a vital part of our community working closely with municipalities in South Fulton County to prevent the loss of life and property; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County Police Department exemplifies leadership and community service; and is one of few the police departments to be nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, CALEA; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County Police Department strongly embraces the philosophy of building partnerships with the community in all its daily operations and functions to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to the public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime as well; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County Police Department strives to create positive relationships with the residence of the businesses they serve every day by sponsoring such events as Camp 911, National Night Out, and the Citizens Police Academy to build community trust and support. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County applauds the Fulton County Police Department for 50 years of tireless commitment and dedication to the residents of Unincorporated South Fulton; and does hereby honor the department on Wednesday, July 9th, 2025, and proclaim it as 'Fulton County Police Department 50th Appreciation Day'. Please put your heads together for these individuals that don the uniform every day, and thank you for standing. These individuals put their lives on the line and do so much for our community, seen and unseen, and I am so proud with my colleagues to be able to announce this day."

CHIEF WADE YATES, RECIPIENT: "Thank you, Commissioner Khadijah. I'd like to thank all of the Commissioners for the proclamation today. Herbert Jenkins was our first police chief and 50 years ago -- it doesn't seem that long ago because 32 years ago I was hired by this Police Department. I was only years 18 years old, and now we're 50, and I know I don't look that old. Thank you. I would like to honor our four 'Line of Duty Deaths': David Hagins, end of watch, December 14th, 1980, Christopher May, August 19th, 1991, Aaron Blount, February 22nd, 2023, and Terence Green, March 4th, 2025 [Verbatim.]. We have served what is currently cities known as Milton, Johns Creek, Sandy Springs, the city of South Fulton, Chattahoochee Hills, and Mountain Park. We

still have a strong footprint supporting Fulton County as a whole. We handled 911 services for the Fulton Industrial Area near the Fulton County Executive Airport. We provide security for a hundred and twenty-five Fulton County facilities that are located in all of the 15 cities. We handle animal cruelty investigations countywide, regional police academy service, which handles all 15 cities in Fulton County. We have a Tier I SWAT team that I'm proud that I helped build to be a Tier I SWAT team; and we provide services to every city in Fulton County. The one thing that is never changed is our mission statement, which is to preserve life, protect property, and maintain order through a partnership between our department and our citizens. On behalf of the Fulton County Board of Commission, I'm very proud to be the police chief, and I hope that this Police Department remains another 50 years. Thank you very much for having us."

CLERK GRIER: "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Disability Awareness Day' sponsored by Commissioners Thorne, Barrett with Full Board support."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Do we have the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance coming down? I think they're coming in. I just want to take a moment to explain, the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance that Fulton County has. It's your one-stop shop for ADA access at Fulton County government. The office works with both internal and external parties to ensure that all people, regardless of disability, have equal access to County services. Some of these services provided include sign language, interpretation, and development of workplace accommodation plans. Additionally, the BOC in 1992, established a citizen panel known as a disability -- Commission on Disability Affairs to consider the needs of Fulton County residents with disabilities and make recommendations to the BOC for ways to improve access. This group meets on a monthly basis to engage in ongoing review of County policies, bringing the valuable input of respected community leaders to meet the needs of those with disabilities. So it gives me great honor to do this proclamation. WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed on July 26, 1990, as a piece of groundbreaking civil rights legislation protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities in many areas of American life; and WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that nearly 70 million US adults live with a disability; and the US Census Bureau estimates that roughly 81,000 Fulton County residents under the age of 65 have a disability, recognizing that most individuals will experience a disability at some point in their lives; and WHEREAS, Fulton County upholds the provisions of Title I of the ADA affirming its commitment to a workplace free of discrimination by providing equal employment opportunities, reasonable accommodations, and an inclusive environment for qualified individuals with disabilities across its workforce; and WHEREAS, Fulton County is committed to ensuring that all programs, services, activities, and facilities are accessible to citizens with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the ADA; and WHEREAS, Fulton County recognizes the rights of individuals with disabilities to live independently, exercise self-determination, make choices, and contribute skills, talents, and abilities to society; and WHEREAS, Fulton County has invested substantially in barrier removal, digital and physical accessibility, and inclusive practices. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fulton County recognizes the 35th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; expresses support for their invaluable advocacy and continued efforts by

the Department of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance and the Commission on Disability Affairs to improve the quality of life for citizens who have disabilities; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 9th, 2025 as 'Disability Awareness Day' in Fulton County Georgia."

MELISSA CUTHRELL, RECIPIENT: "I want to first thank our sponsoring commissioners, Commissioner Thorne, Commissioner Barrett, and thank all of the Board of Commissioners for their support of our office and the Commission on Disability Affairs. I wanted to just recognize that the month of July is known as 'Disability Pride Month', a time to reaffirm our commitment to fulfilling both the letter and the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Acts and its amendments. Disabilities are a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminish anyone's right to live independently, to enjoy self-determination, to make choices, to fully participate and to contribute to society. The Fulton County Department of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance recognizes the tremendous value and potential of people with disabilities; and along with our Commission on Disability Affairs, remains committed to empowering, opening new avenues of access, removing barriers, and ensuring the full inclusion of our employees and citizens with disabilities in Fulton County. So thank you; and I want to recognize our Code of Chair who I want to give the opportunity to give comment, Ms. Vernitia [Phonetic.] Shannon."

MS. SHANNON, RECIPIENT: "Thank you. We're so appreciative of everybody who's kind to people with disabilities, at home and in the public. We're so glad that you're here today. Thank you for your Honor. Commissioners, thank you for your honor. We appreciate it. And God bless all of you who continue to be advocates for the disability community."

CLERK GRIER: "The last proclamation is recognizing 'Amplify Your Music Youth Initiative Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioners Barrett and Ivory."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "All right. While Mr. Sean Garrett is making his way to the podium, I just want to say it's an honor to have such a celebrity in the house, but it's even more of an honor to have a celebrity who cares so much about the community that he's giving back in the way that he is, and we're really excited to have him do such great work in Fulton County. All right, we've got a proclamation today which reads: WHEREAS, Sean Garrett, a native of Fulton County, Georgia and my district, is a Grammy award winning super producer, songwriter, recording artist, inspirational speaker, and philanthropist, who's creative legacy has influenced modern music and inspired artists around the world; and WHEREAS, Mr. Garrett who signed his first record deal at 14, and went on to write and produce for Beyonce, Usher, Chris Brown, Sierra, Ludacris and many others, remains grounded in service, mentorship, and youth advocacy; and WHEREAS, Mr. Garrett has used his platform to educate and empower aspiring creative. speaking at respective institutions including New York University, Berkeley College of Music, and Georgia State University where he encourages students to dream boldly and work with purpose; and WHEREAS, inspired by his late mother, Sean Garrett, launched the Amplify Your Music Youth Initiative to provide underserved communities with access to musical instruments, education, mentorship and leadership

development; and WHEREAS, Amplify Your Music provides Atlanta and Fulton County Middle School Students with hands-on resources, encouragement, and pathways to explore their potential through music; and WHEREAS, Sean Garrett and Amplify Your Music are standing in the gap as funding for music and arts education continues to decline and ensuring that the creative voices of Fulton County's younger citizens will be heard for generations to come. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Sean Garrett for his service to the community and his commitment to arts, education, and youth empowerment; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 9th, 2025, as 'Amplify Your Music Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia."

SEAN GARRETT, RECIPIENT: "I just want to say thank you so much, Commissioner -- all the Commissioners. This is an amazing day for me. I have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to work with so many different amazing artists; and one of the things that was so important to me in school was the fact that I did have the ability to not only study, but have music. Music is something that has been really, really influential in my life and it's keeping me out of trouble, but it's also inspired so many different people around the world. I just want to say thank y'all so much, and I appreciate this opportunity and thank you for your kids that are in school. Music is -- I remember when I was in first grade, I really didn't get math, but in third grade, I became excellent in math. And music is numbers to me, so it's such an inspiring tool, so keep music in your life, keep music in your kids, and thank y'all so much."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 7, Public Hearings, **25-0509**: 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 submitting or registering on the County 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 in Assembly Hall. We have received 29 speaker cards. Will the first six speakers please come forward: Mayor John Bradberry, Jody Reichel, Jamie Parrish, Eloisa Klementich, Kimberly McMichael, and Leonard Adams."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, speakers, come forward. Again, when you have 15 seconds left of your two minutes, I'll say 15 seconds. That'll be your key to terminate -- or conclude your remarks, rather. We have 29 here for the general public hearing. We have another 22 for the public hearing on the budget, and we have 120 on Zoom, and what we normally do is hear from as many people as we can during budget time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Mayor."

MAYOR JOHN BRADBERRY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I think I know most of you if not all. It's good to be with you, and I especially appreciate the proclamation for the Fulton County Police Department; and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I think maybe a highlight was when you said during the photograph do we need to tighten up? I think that that is maybe the key phrase for the entire day, maybe for this entire process of looking at what are you going to charge the citizens of Fulton County and what we need to pay Fulton County for property taxes? So remember that. Do we need to tighten up? I think the answer is, yes, please. I understand more than most how important it is that you fund the needs of your citizens, and there are important things being done in Fulton County; but you also know, as elected officials, we were elected by the people to be the leaders that they hoped that we would be to make the tough decisions to set priorities. We can't fund everything that we would like to. In John's Creek, and I do have to brag a little bit while I'm here, we were just recently named by US News and World Report as the best city to live in, in the United States, and that's something that all of us in Fulton County should be proud of. But we do that by living within our means. And every year, I submit a budget to the Council built on the rollback rate. And we are able to make great success and gains and quality-of-life for the people of Johns Creek --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MAYOR JOHN BRADBERRY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- by doing what we can on less. And so, please, do what you can to hold yourselves to a higher standard and please --"

JODY REICHEL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good morning, Commissioners. It's nice to see you today. My name is Jody Reichel. I serve on the Sandy Springs City Council, and I'm here today as both an elected official and a property owner in Fulton County. The proposed tax increase, a jump from 8.87 to 9.87 mills is not just a number on a paper. It's a 12.49 percent increase that would hit every homeowner, every landlord, and every tenant in this County. For many, it's the difference between stability and displacement. I own rental properties here in Fulton County. Many of my tenants have been with me for over 15 years. These are families, seniors, and individuals who take pride in their homes. I've worked hard to keep rents affordable, far below market value because I believe in housing stability, and because it's the right thing to do. But this tax hike that will force landlords like me to raise rents and tenants like mine will have no choice but to leave. Where would they go? Fulton County already struggles with affordable quality housing; this will only make it worse. Meanwhile in the Sandy Springs, we've kept our millage rates steady since 2005. We've proven you can live within your means, prioritize wisely, and still deliver excellent services. That's leadership, that's stewardship. What's missing here is commitment to physical discipline. Instead of combing through the budget for savings, you've asked the residents to bear more of the burden. You're telling seniors on fixed incomes, young families scraping to get by, and small businesses barely hanging on that they need to pay for your lack of restraint. This isn't sustainable and it isn't fair. The people of Fulton County deserve leaders who

make tough choices, leaders who respect the taxpayer's limits, not just their wallets. I urge you to reject the tax increases, and thank you for your time."

JAMIE PARRISH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Jamie Parrish. I'm here on behalf of the Fulton taxpayers that you seem to forget: the seniors on fixed incomes, young families scraping by, and small businessowners barely hanging on. This proposal, a jump from 8.87 to 9.87 is not just a tax increase; it's a gut punch to the very people keeping this county running. At 12.49 percent property tax hike, that's not modest that's outrageous. And let's not sugarcoat it; if your property value goes up, which it will, the high turns into 15 percent, 18 percent or more. That's hundreds of dollars pulled from kitchen tables across Fulton County. People are already stretched in between rising mortgages, utilities, groceries, insurance, and now you want \$80 million more? For what? We don't see \$80 million worth of results around here. We see crumbling roads, we see crime issues, we see jail overcrowding, and endless spending with no accountability. You didn't come to us with a plan to cut waste, you didn't scrub the budget, you didn't lead with reform, you went straight to taxpayers and demanded more and we are tired of that. You say this is for the future, but what about today? What about grandparents trying to age in place without being taxed out of their homes? What about young couples scraping to buy their first home? What about the mom-and-pop shops already hit from every angle? This type of tax hike says one thing loud and clear. You think you know better how to spend our money than we do, but we're here to say, no. Respect the people who elected you, respect their struggle, respect their limits, and vote no on this tone-death reckless increase."

ELOISA KLEMENTICH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, my name is Eloisa Klementich, President and CEO at Invest Atlanta. The Atlanta Tax Allocation District has been a tremendous investment for both the city and the county. The numbers speak for themselves. From 2007 to 2023, the growth in property assessed value for all the TADs had increased by over 177 percent, which is significantly higher than other parts of the city without a TAD. This means that the TAD has generated a growth from 3.9 billion to 10.9 billion. Additionally, areas just outside of the TAD within a half mile radius, which we refer to as a halo effect, the assessed property value has increased over 138 percent growing from 50.8 billion to 37.7 billion. In comparison, other parts of the city have only seen a 98 percent increase in assessed property value, which means the halo areas of the city and the county have outpaced the rest of the city and county by 40 percent in growth. This growth translates into increased revenue for taxing jurisdictions as the halo effect funding goes immediately into the county's tax base. When discussing the return on investments the TAD has proven to be a highly effective tool. Atlantic Station is a testament to the power of the TAD. Property values grew from two million in 1999 to over \$843 million in 2024. This is a remarkable increase. TADs have produced over 2,200 housing units of which 58 percent are affordable. The creation of \$2.4 billion in total capital investment and 2,200 --"

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

ELOISA KLEMENTICH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- have created new jobs; 3.2 billion in economic impact. I can think of no more powerful economic and community development tool than the TAD. Thank you."

LEONARD ADAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I'm Leonard Adams, president and CEO of Quest Community Development Corporation in the west side of Atlanta. I'm also a resident of Vine City and a business owner. Today, I would like to -- on behalf of Quest and the residence of -- I mean, the employees of Quest, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the continued partnership between Fulton County and the Atlanta Development Authority through the Westside TAD district. We are equally compelled to convey the critical importance of maintaining this relationship to ensure the ongoing progress and revitalization of this historic westside community. For over the last couple of decades, Quest has been a committed steward of equitable development working tirelessly to promote stable, affordable, and supportive housing to include services for the city's most vulnerable. With the use of the Westside TAD, we have developed over 400 units of supportive and affordable housing serving unhoused individuals, older adults, veterans, and low-income families. More recently, Quest has expanded its mission to include a for-sale homeownership model supported by the TAD resources that offer long-term residents the ability to be of wealth and remain in their communities. Our model targets families at 80 percent AMI, and provide a newly-constructed single-family home to include an accessory dwelling unit in the rear of the home. We urge Fulton County Board of Commissioners not to support any proposal that would reduce or eliminate participation in new projects in the Westside TAD. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Kaydion Pressley, Leonard Watkins, Perrin Bostic, Colette Haywood, Margie McCloud, and Charles Rambo."

KAYDION PRESSLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Good morning, my name is Kaydion Pressley. Good morning, Commissioner Pitts, and to all of the Commissioners. I stand before you today, July 9th, 2025, as I stood before you on June 18th, 2025, not just as a concerned citizen, but as a victim alongside of my son and others where we are demanding justice and action on a case of brazen federal fraud that implicates not only the immediate perpetrator, but also the Fulton County DFCS workers. For too long, the cries of justice for this county have gone unanswered. We have submitted evidence to you and we've heard back nothing. This is not an isolated incident. The exact crime was committed in Michigan and we've submitted all the evidence. While my son and I were busy working, our mails were destroyed our surveillance cameras. There are four active warrants on this individual; I've submitted all that evidence. We have reported this crime repeatedly to Sheriff Labat's office, his second in command, DFCS, and we have personally spoken to Sheriff Labat -- I have personally spoken to him at his reelection breakfast. There is nothing that has been done. I've spoken to Michael O'Connor who's, I think, your deputy chief of staff, and also Ms. Sequila Kirby from Mrs. Khadijah's office, and I have sent e-mails, there is no response. This is not just an individual criminal act; this is a profound failure of the system to protect citizens and taxpayer's dollars. Commissioner Pitts and all Commissioners, this is my second urgent appeal. We demand an immediate thorough

investigation into this very serious matter. We urge that you expose those in fraud including the DFCS workers. The integrity of Fulton Count --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KAYDION PRESSLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- and the trust of its citizens depend on your swift and decisive action. Thank you."

LEONARD WATKINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everybody. My name is Leonard Watkins. I'm the MPUL chairman. I represent Vine city and English Avenue who will be directly affected by you removing that TAD, the Westside TAD. What I want to say is, to take control of the Westside TAD, is overreach at best in the cities at worse. What you're essentially doing is taxing us for one purpose, and telling us that the surplus that we have, you're potentially going to use that money for another purpose that does not directly benefit my community, which came up with the TAD money. My community with all of its faults and issues is one of the few communities that is trying to solve their affordable housing crisis and in a just manner. We may stumble and sometimes not get it right, but at least we're trying to make a good-faith effort in order to affect the affordable housing crisis through the TAD funding. We have representation on Invest Atlanta and we vehemently oppose any off those TAD fundings that we don't agree with. We do not want that taken away from us at any cost. Commissioner Ellis, with all due respect, you're from Alpharetta. Your city has benefited from TAD just as much as anybody else's. My community has been historically disproportionately not benefited from TAD funding, and now that we have it, it seems that you want to take it away even though we are actively giving affordable housing to people who normally can't get it. Commissioner Khadijah, all due respect, as an MPU chair, I have six meetings per month. I'm an MPU to my two civic associations. To cosponsor the legislation and not come once to ask us how do we think this problem can be resolved --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LEONARD WATKINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- I just don't understand if we can get that done. So what I'm going to say is, look, here's this thing. Everybody has to run for reelection, and we're going to remember this when it come times that you took this development opportunity from us, particularly when we're doing our best to develop affordable housing."

PERRIN BOSTIC, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Perrin Bostic, and I'm a Fulton County resident, and I'm here today in strong opposition to the proposed Resolution that would jeopardize funding for Westside TAD projects. This is a matter of equity, opportunity, and ensuring that we're meeting the essential needs of working families and working people. The Westside TAD was designed to help correct decades of disinvestment in our communities. Removing funding now would undermine critical efforts to build affordable housing, support small businesses, and revitalize neighborhoods that have long been left behind. The Westside deserves the same level of public investment as any other part of Fulton County. Gutting the TAD

now sends the wrong message and threatens to stall progress we fought so hard to make. I urge you to reject this Resolution and recommit to a vision of shared prosperity that includes every neighborhood, especially those on the Westside. Thank you."

COLETTE HAYWOOD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Colette Haywood, and I am an advisory board member for the Westside TAD. Mr. Ellis, I think it is extraordinarily rude that I take my time to come up here and you're reading while I'm talking. I would love it if I could get your full attention. The Westside TAD impacts an area that is hit with so many issues from the lead contamination, the heat island effect, and also flooding. And then we have the impact of gentrification. So to take dollars away from us when, at the same time, dollars are being taken from the Atlanta Housing Authority without any plan put forth, without any communication -- I'm still talking, sir -- from community, how do we support that? So really, we're left with one choice, and that is to vote them out. That is to vote you out. We're looking for people who represent us, who are transparent in their representation, who actually communicate with us to see what we, the people, need, right? So how do you intend to take TAD dollars and what makes you better stewards because your actions to this point, Mr. Ellis, if I have to beg for your attention, is subpar. Why should we trust you? There is an election coming up and we can waste our time here --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

COLETTE HAYWOOD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- but you can't ignore is our voice at the ballot. Vote them out."

MARGIE MCCLOUD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. I came here because of last week about the millage rate. And Ivory, what you're saying with three services which might be cut, I don't want history to repeat itself, because HIV in a veteran -- I'm a veteran also, but HIV is very important that we need these programs, because I was a foster parent, ten years proud. I enjoyed what I was doing. They put a child in my household. Arrington know about it. Rob Pitts -- it's a true story. The child was HIV. She came when she was seven, and then why at 15, I had to find out that she was HIV. Because like you say, you got it late, fund it. If you cut the funding, we're going to have history repeat itself. Family and Children Services have children with HIV, didn't tell the foster parent. Now my children is 20 and five years old because of money. Please don't repeat the history again. Certain things that we could put money from somewhere, but not the veterans, not HIV, please. And it hurts me to revisit this because I went through -- because I fought for the children. I had Family and Children -- with the Capital nobody could do this again. Please, I don't want the increase in property tax, but whatever you can do, please do not cut these programs. Have a blessed day"

KIMBERLY MCMICHAEL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Kimberly McMichael. I serve in Atlanta as the presiding elder of 22 African Methodist Episcopal congregations. Many of my churches are here in this area. My region extends from this region, Fulton County, all the way up to the city of Dalton. I represent 22 voting congregations and their families, many of which are mega churches. We are now representing Cosmopolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, which is a major part of

this conversation today. We have worked tirelessly to do everything in our power to partner with the city of Atlanta and the communities to connect church to communities to resolve real issues. And here we were thinking that we had finally made some headway. Only to find out that the rug has been pulled, or is being threatened to be pulled out from under people who do not deserve to be dishonored, disrespected, mistreated, ignored and left by the wayside. I have here a letter from the pastor who was unfortunately untimely called out of town prior to this meeting. But she says: Dear Commissioners, I write on behalf of Cosmopolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, a long-standing spiritual and community anchor in Vine City to express our strong opposition to the proposed Resolution --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KIMBERLY MCMICHAELS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- 25-0537, which recommends the withdrawal of funds from this project. Please, the Cosmopolitan Church vision is not about building buildings, but it's about building lives and people. Please reconsider, and please think before you act. God bless you."

CHARLES RAMBO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. I rise today not just in agreement with Sheriff Patrick Labat, believe it or not, but with prophetic warning to each and every one of you. The Sheriff cites in his recent lawsuit that this Board systematically undermines his constitutional authority. His focuses on overtime, vehicles and jail operations, but guess what, believe it or not, he did not go far enough. Why did he leave out that this Board where the individual collective action interfered with his constitutional duties to provide security for the 2024 general election? Let's make the connection, November 1st; emergency management excludes the Sheriff from the election planning process. November 5th, I'm contacted by France 24, an international news outlet, on Election Day asking who's in charge of the election security. November 6th, we all watched the public clash between the Chairman and the Sheriff about the constitutional duty over elections. All of this is a pattern that a reasonable person can ask a local governing authority had that much overreach that was blatant, what impact did it have on the 2024 race for Fulton County Sheriff? Here's where the line blurs: I was a certified write-in candidate. I have the right to raise concerns, and yet I was denied access to observe vote tabulations. I was told that I could return in December to address the Board of Elections. That never happened. One board member, believe it or not, who you have castigated, questioned the vote certification, later apologized to me at the Capitol for how I was treated by your board of elections. Meanwhile, the Sheriff now suing this Body was declared the winner with 100 percent of the vote because the board never corrected the false belief --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

CHARLES RAMBO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- (indiscernible.) elected in the May primary. So I beg of you in this last 15 seconds, please make the correction because many of you are now running on this campaign about election security, it really begins --"

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Kelsea Bond, James Martin, Devin Barrington-Ward, LA Pink, Damita Chatman, and Diana Sow."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have the floor, ma'am."

KELSEA BOND, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "All right. Hi everyone, my name is Kelsea Bond, I'm a 10-year resident of Fulton County. Right now in Washington, Donald Trump is cutting billions in food assistance, healthcare, and education to subsidize one of the largest tax breaks to billionaires in history. This will cause tens of millions of Americans to lose health insurance, SNAP benefits and educational opportunities. In light of Trump's attacks on public services, our local governments need to do all they can locally to protect our most vulnerable residents. As the nation's capital of income inequality, we're already facing an affordable housing crisis, and workers are struggling to make ends meet. Trump's cuts will only exacerbate these problems. Unfortunately, Fulton County, much like Trump's administration, is no stranger to using working people's hard-earned cash to subsidize the ultrarich. Right now, to save Atlanta, Fulton County and APS are losing out on up to \$500 million a year to trophy commercial property owners whose buildings are routinely under assessed by the Fulton County Board of Assessors. Some of the most costly buildings in Atlanta are being valued at just 55 percent on average of what they're worth. Let's name a few: 725 Ponce, home to McKenzie and Black Rock, sold for 300 million, taxed as if it was just 100 million. The Google office in Midtown sold for 600 million, appraised for just 200 million. Ponce City Market worth over \$1 billion, appraised for less than 400 million. You get the picture? Costs right now are through the roof and already pushing long-term residents out of the city. How can the County in good conscience --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

KELSEA BOND, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- raise costs for regular working people when billionaire property owners aren't even being asked to pay their fair share. We deserve a County government that puts working people first. Stop letting billionaires cheat on their taxes."

JAMES MARTIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes, thank you. Jim Martin, chairman of neighborhood planning unit D. What is this tax increase for? It's not to pay for vital public services or for Grady Hospital, which you can see I'm a supporter of. It is to fund lavish giveaways to billionaires; gifts being made by systematic underassessment of trophy properties; and gifts being made as tax abatements for those same properties, by the Development Authority of Fulton County, the board of which is appointed by you. I've heard Commissioner Barrett claim to be powerless to influence this problem which could only be fixed by the state. But then I have seen her prove herself wrong by using her power to influence the problem. Unfortunately, she continues to make the problem a whole lot worse by replacing the most physically responsible member of DAFC's board with a rubber stamp for every wasteful give away that comes before it. I am sure that Elon Musk appreciates the 10 million-dollar gift of our tax money to help offset his costs in financing Donald Trump's presidential campaign, but I do not. Thank you."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Devin Barrington-Ward.

Commissioners, let me ask y'all a really plain question, what part of what we ain't got it do y'all not understand? A property tax increase when inflation is high as hell, when interest rates are brutal, when rent is through the roof, when wages can't even keep up with the cost of groceries is absolutely crazy. People are drowning, and instead of throwing us a lifeline, you're looking for our wallets. This can't be the same county that gave hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks to Microsoft and Elon Musk asking us for more money. Ain't no way. How are you asking us for more money and you're not making billionaires in this city pay what they owe? 1180 Peachtree Street sold for 465 million, but this county said it was only worth 193 million. Do the math. That's \$272 million in additional value that did not get taxed. This is a scam. You are letting the rich not pay over half a billion dollars in property taxes, but expecting homeowners, renters, small businesses, seniors on fixed incomes, and young families like mine that are just trying to stay afloat, pay more. Hell no, we won't. This is class warfare, but it is a war that you all will lose. To Commissioners Arrington and Barrett, please stop using Labat's crisis of leadership at the jail to justify building a new \$2 billion jail. We can't afford it. Support real solutions, like case management and the diversion center, we are already paying for. Let me say it louder for the people in the front and the back: anyone's pushing a tax increase while protecting billionaires and selling out the people of this county, has no business running for dogcatcher, much less chair of this County Commission --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- no tax increase."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "And y'all already know I don't come with a book nor a script. Okay? Because we are dealing with political gang bangers, we already know that. We already know we have Ike Arrington, we got Barrett, and now we have Mo Ivory to thank, because they have been to the jail. Now y'all can blame this on anybody y'all want. Y'all could say Trump, y'all could say anything about anybody, Elon Musk, but when we really think about Fulton County, we have to blame it on our Board of Commissioners. We have to. You know why, because y'all done visited the jail, y'all know what it look like. These are the same people that wanted Trump to be arrested by Fani Willis. All that money that was spent for there and now y'all talking about taxes? All the money that's spent for your Sheriff to go on luxury, hire his wife jail, that's what they call April Moore, hire his son -- her son to now work and be a part of the corruption. Y'all got all this is messed up. We tired. I'm tired of going to my elders in Grove Park and other communities hearing them complain, cry, and some of them sitting on the side right here where y'all put Shirley's -- or what's the name? Shirley's name. Ain't no way you could've put my name on no street where homelessness is laying at. Ain't no way; and all the work that I do inside the community that she claims to have done being the Mayor. Ain't no way you gone put my name somewhere where you got homeless still laying on the ground. No way. Y'all better get it together. I told y'all, there's about to be a RICO up in here, and y'all name gone be on it."

DIANA SOW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. My name is Diana Sow. I was here a couple weeks ago on June the 18th in reference to Haven for Hope Transitional Home that has evicted homeless -- illegally evicted homeless women and children such as myself. I consider myself a very hard worker. Number one, I want to thank Representative Alanna Savage from District Three for connecting me to Joshua Williams who's actually helping me. There were several board members -- representatives that said they were going to help me because this woman illegally evicted me and several other mothers. So since June the 18th, this woman illegally evicted a 22-week-old pregnant woman trying to be reunited with her child. She does have a criminal background. Come to find out, Haven for Hope has been doing this since 2014 -- rest in peace to Justina Harper. Justina was a mother of four coming out of a halfway house, ended up at Haven for Hope, and got pregnant with her fifth child. When she was pregnant with her fifth child at Haven for Hope, Tawanna Allen gave her a very hard time; that is the executive director of Haven for Hope. This woman ended up pregnant with the fifth child, the woman punished her for her fifth child; she never got reunited with her five children. This woman tragically lost her life and guess what, Tawanna Allen, adopted her fifth baby. Why am I bringing this up? This is over a decade of taking advantage of women and children -- homeless women and children. Please stop funding these organizations. Please allocate some funding for emergency housing because here I am almost four weeks later still paying out-of-pocket. There's no budget for people like me."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

DIANA SOW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "No budget. Please stop homelessness. Homelessness has a lot of faces. Here's one."

DAMITA CHATMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Damita Chatman. I'm a taxpayer, but I'm also here on behalf of the residents of Fulton County with my organization, Citizens for Excellence in Elected Leaders. What I'm going to ask the Commissioners to do, to put a pause on that tax. I had a phone call from a homeowner -- I'll say a resident, a homeowner. She said her taxes went up over \$200,000 on her house. She sent me the proof. I'm not down with these lavish bookbags, but you know what, y'all can pause that. Because see what happens is, everybody show up on election and then you don't hear from nobody no more until election again. Give one bookbag drive for the whole entire southside, maybe down at the convention center, but let's stop wasting the taxpayer's dollars. When I come down here, I don't come to play, I come to talk business. And I don't believe in folks lying to get elected and then backpedaling on something else. You have people that is hurting right now for food, paying their mortgage, taking care -- and then you want to do a 12 percent raise on the taxes? It's not going to hurt them rich folks. You know who it's going to hurt, them poor folks out there; them low income folks. That's who it's going to hurt, and it's going to hurt the city of South Fulton and South Fulton. The folks on the other side, they might can survive. I want y'all to put y'all self in their shoes. I want y'all to think about it. You know I'm tired of elected officials trying to be celebrities. Care about the people. Care about the people. And when you guys start showing me you care about the people --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DAMITA CHATMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- then I will stop addressing you. But until then, I'm going to hold you guys accountable. Thank you for your service."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Valeria Weaver, Grace Roth, Dominique Grant, Steve Labonitz, Jeanne Simkins Hollis, and Andrew Appleton."

VALERIA WEAVER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Thank you for this --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- pull the mic down, please, ma'am. Thank you"

VALERIA WEAVER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Cosmopolitan AME Church also, and the members of Cosmopolitan. Someone has already spoke on behalf of the pastor, but as a member and officer of the church, I stand in opposition of the TAD cuts, reductions, anything that's impacting the finances that can allow us to do the work in the community. Vine City is a historical area. Cosmopolitan is the oldest church in that community. And as a member of the church, I'd like to see the church continue to do the ministry and the outreach in that area. We're not just building homes. We're building the community back up. We're trying to build the people up. Our outreach is planned to grow the community. The community has been blighted for years. This is an opportunity with this funding to allow us to go forward. We've been planning on doing buildings and affordable housing, and other ministries, development center, and offering, you know, training and stuff through our ministry. And this funding will allow us to create facilities that can facilitate these programs. Please, reconsider any cuts, any reductions that are planned for the TAD funding. Thank you so much."

GRACE ROTH, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, y'all. My name is Grace Roth. I'm speaking today to urge you to vote no on the proposal to decline participation in the Westside TAD. As an employee of the Atlanta Land Trust, a nonprofit developing and delivering permanently affordable housing in Atlanta and in the Westside neighborhoods, and a recipient of TAD dollars, I can personally attest that the TAD funding is essential to providing subsidy dollars to reach deep affordability and provide quality housing to well-deserving constituents. With increasing construction costs, increasing rents, and stagnant incomes, the gap between what it takes to build quality long-lasting housing and what folks can afford is increasing every day. And the Westside TAD is vital to closing that gap in a dwindling subsidy environment. We can all agree that homeownership and housing stability are key to the prosperous and vibrant county and communities that we all aspire to, and no one knows better how to achieve those goals than the communities themselves. The TAD resource should remain in the hands of the neighborhood, and I urge you to vote no on the proposal to decline participation. Thank you."

DOMINIQUE GRANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning y'all. Nice to see y'all again and again as I say every time. I'm Dominique Grant. I'm the campaign and operations

manager with Woman On The Rise Georgia. I actually just had my three-year anniversary -- pat, pat, pat. But that also means, for the past three years, I worked closely with communities across Fulton County who are directly impacted by the decisions that are made in this room, and y'all know this. As you discuss the possibility of raising taxes, I ask you to think about what you're truly asking our communities to fund. Public Safety is not about more policing. It's about making sure unhoused people have places to go. It's about access to healthcare, mental health support, and the basic resources people need to survive and thrive. Right now, we are watching critical support be gutted by a certain administration; I refuse to say his name. People are being left without the care that they need, and that is the real crisis. We already have a diversion center that we are constantly talking about here in Fulton County. That could be a life-giving resource if fully supported. But instead, although there's argument behind my statement, it has continued to be underutilized; and while we're still considering tax increases that could place even more burden on our most vulnerable citizens. And I have to name something that deeply, deeply concerns me. There are two Commissioners that I will not say their names who have constantly betrayed the needs of their communities. People have come out and spoke against y'all repeatedly, especially today; but yet, had the audacity to encourage another Commissioner -- and nobody innocent -- but to encourage another Commissioner who is one of the few who has actually listened to leave their seat. That is not leadership that is not a good thing for the community. That's political maneuvering at the expense of community trust. And when some of you were elected, we reached out to build with you --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DOMINIQUE GRANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- we showed up, we offered real solutions. Some of you didn't listen, we are still here, and we are still demanding care, not harm be at the center of your decisions. Please, I'm tired of coming up here, y'all. Please."

STEVE LABONITZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, my name is Steve Labonitz, and I am here today to talk about the wastewater RFP that was canceled. We heard for the first time at the last meeting the only reason that this RFP was canceled was because the failure to comply with 36-60-15.1, and specifically, the need to ask questions about an environmental compliance, the five-year look back. We think the interpretation is totally incorrect; but nevertheless if that's a concern of yours, a simple cost-saving measure would simply be to ask for the Attorney General's opinion. The worse thing that can happen is if the county is correct, the worst thing is a few days it would be delayed. On the other hand, if our interpretation is correct, then the county -- excuse me. If our interpretation is correct, we would be better suited for future procurements to go forward with the right interpretation. That's the right, there's no question about it, and it would be a great cost-saving measure. On the other hand, if you don't want to ask the Attorney General, then simply, you have the power to ask a supplemental question. On the RFP ask the supplemental question to all of the folks. Think about it. Think about how simple that question would be. It would simply be seeking information over a five-year period. If you don't do one of these things, you are wasting taxpayer money. We are listening here to help people who are talking about --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

STEVE LABONITZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- this is of two simple alternative solutions that we can rectify the mistakes that have been made. Please, please consider these alternatives, thank you."

JEANNE SIMKINS HOLLIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Jeanne Simkins Hollis, and I'm here today on behalf of the Inframark-Slater joint venture, the selected vendor for the North Fulton County Wastewater Operations RFP. Let me be clear, we believe in healthy scrutiny is vital to the public trust and ultimately for the utility rate paying residents of Fulton County. We welcome accountability, and we stand firmly behind the integrity and goodwill of our proposal and the expertise that lead to our selection as the winning bidder. During this process, we've been told several different reasons for the revision of RFP for which none have been truly substantiated and called into question the integrity of the county's procurement process. So to be fair, we ask that any attempt to rebid this RFP simply add any questions required by Georgia law and leave all other factors including scoring criteria and makeup of the evaluation committee the same. Changing the members of the committee and the substance of the RFP other than to supplement it with the narrow question allegedly required by Georgia law would not only be inconsistent with this Commission stated reasons for canceling the prior RFP, it would be unfair to good-faith bidders like Infomart Slater and the people of Fulton County. If the RFP must be rebid to comply with Georgia law, we simply ask that all competitors be given the same level playing field that has been given previously. We ask you as the Commission and the governing body of Fulton County to review the hands-on and take a hands-on approach --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "--15 seconds."

JEANNE SIMKINS HOLLIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- to ensure that it's a fair and equal process and not unduly influenced by losing bidders, favoritism, or malpractice. Thank you very much."

ANDREW APPLETON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Andy Appleton. I'm the President of Inframark and the executive director of Fulton County Wastewater Partners. I'm here today on behalf of our employees whose lives are currently on hold while we resolve the RFP process for the wastewater treatment plant. In my more than 20 years of operating and maintaining water wastewater utilities, this is the first time I've ever seen a procurement canceled after a winning firm has been identified and recommended by county staff. As Mr. Labonitz mentioned, we do believe there's a simple way to resolve this with supplemental question that doesn't require the effort of going through an entire recompeting process, especially as all the firms have submitted proprietary information that's out in the public space now for each other use. I am confident that if by Georgia law it does have to go through a procurement, we will win again. We won by a, you know, a big enough margin that I'm not concerned that the results would be different. But in the meantime,

we stand ready to serve the county as soon as this is resolved, and letting our people who thought they were going to go to work on Monday start as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your time."

CLERK GRIER: "Last four speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward: Amanda Rhein, Richelle Patton, Joseph Crawford, and Wole Oyenga."

AMANDA RHEIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you for your time and attention. My name is Amanda Rhein. I am the Executive Director of Atlanta Land Trust. I am here today to express my support for your continued participation in the Westside TAD. The Atlanta Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that works to create permanently affordable housing to support inclusive and equitable communities across the city of Atlanta and entirely within Fulton County. The Westside TAD is a critical funding source for us. We've used it for many of our projects in the past and hope to continue to use that resource in the future. In 2024, on average, we sold our homes for \$130,000 below market value. The only way we're able to do that is with public investment. The Tax Allocation District program is the best source of public investment for our work across the city. We intentionally purchase properties within the Tax Allocation Districts because that critical resource is there. In an environment today where very limited federal funding is at risk of being eliminated or reduced, it is critically important that we preserve the flexible local funding that we currently have in place to ensure that Fulton County and the city of Atlanta can remain a community that is accessible for all who choose to live here. Thank you."

RICHELLE PATTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. My name is Richelle Patton. I'm the founder and owner of Collaborative Housing Solutions. We're an affordable rental multi-family developer. I'm here today to also speak in support of you all continuing to fund the Westside TAD. We are a private developer that builds apartments for low income families. We are partnering with the Cosmopolitan AME provide affordable housing is because of the subsidies such as the Westside TAD. Really, that is what incents private developers to build affordable housing. We have to pay construction costs like any other developer, whether you're building affordable or market rate. However, where were able to keep our rents low and serve the folks that really need it the most, including workforce housing, elderly, and working families is through the subsidies such as the Westside TAD funds that help us provide rents at a very low income -- excuse me, a very low amount for 30 years. The reason again that we were called to this work is because we love the public-private partnership that our affordable rental housing community enjoys. We are private developer with a mission heart. We love working with churches including the Cosmopolitan AME Church, and we ask that you continue to fund the TAD funds for projects like ours as well as many other developers who are considering developing in the Westside area. Without these funds, you will see a significant lack of affordable housing, and that's something that I think all of us agree is vital --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

RICHELLE PATTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you so much for your time, and I hope that you'll make the right choice."

JOSEPH CRAWFORD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Chair Pitts and Members of the Board, I am Joseph Crawford, resident of Charlie Pink Community Association and the second vice president of neighborhood planning unit I. I am looking for some fox hole partners who will help us survive the Big Bill, so that we can make our means meet. I want to express my opposition to the proposed 12 percent plus property tax increase. I am a half-century-old Grady baby resident of Atlanta Georgia. I have witnessed investors buying up property and then turning around and selling it for an exorbitant price causing our property taxes to rise. Property assessments raise based on much higher sale of those renovated properties, which causes our taxes along with residents to face hardship. I'm asking you not to increase these property taxes because outsiders are building up properties and dictating how much taxes we will pay when they live in other geographical areas. On behalf of our community association, we oppose any tax increase. And for listening to me and for being serious about your consideration, I thank you."

WOLE OYENGA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I appreciate the time to be able to speak with you guys today. My name is Wole Oyenga. I'm with a company called Urban Ways to Development. We're a development company here in Atlanta. I'm here to ask you guys to please stay in the Westside TAD. The reason why is I can look back to when we first started developing in Atlanta, prior to 2005, 2006. We were in the Kirkwood neighborhoods, Eastlake, City of Decatur, and we could see what the development was doing. From a positive side, it was turning a lot of blighted neighborhoods into neighborhoods that were starting to thrive, but the downside is what happened, was displacement was happening. And capitalism can be good, but when it's not countered with good governance to help make sure that the people who don't have much of a voice, have an opportunity to stay in neighborhoods and stop the generational poverty that's happening. We have the opportunity to use this gentrification, which can be a bad word but actually a good thing as a tool to help get people out of property and make sure they benefit from all the things that are happening, we're doing a bad thing. Capitalism has to be balanced with some good governance, and that's why I ask you to stay in the TAD. It's so important because we can't do the work that we're going without government assistance in that form. We've tried in many forms and fashions to find ways to do it, because it just hinders time; but it's just not possible. The cost of land, the cost of construction just makes it impossible. And so we've just found that it's important to be able to partner with government. Other organizations are doing the same thing to be able to make this happen. So we urge you to please stay in the TAD. Let's help make sure this county stays inclusive, it's one of the best counties in the US to be. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. That's it?"

CLERK GRIER: "In Assembly Hall, yes. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, there are 126 speakers on Zoom."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So we have six minutes remaining in the hour that we've allocated for public comment. How many, 120? 126 times two, that's two or three or four hours, isn't it, of Zoom? So we try to accommodate as many people as possible during budget time. So if we can ask the folks on Zoom to limit your comments to one minute that would help us and then if someone has said what you plan to say, please don't feel compelled to repeat it: we hear you. So we'll try to accomplish -- to accommodate everyone because there will be a public hearing on the budget after this, and another public hearing at 6 o'clock. So Vice Chair --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- point of order Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- you want to be heard?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah. So I know a number of folks that have come down and have spoken on the millage rate already, but we do have -- as you've noted, we have an item, 25-0511, which will follow after this -- after our public comment period, and during that period of time, we have no time limit, as I understand it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's correct."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "It's an opportunity for anybody to speak on this. I can't remember if we limited their time to two minutes or how that works --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- two minutes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: -- but it's unlimited in terms of the certain number of people that could speak. So if somebody is online on Zoom to speak for the millage rate, they could wait to speak during the public hearing time."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's correct."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. So again, if you are among how many, is it 120 --126? If you plan to comment on the millage rate increase, the budget, we'll have a second public hearing immediately following the general public comments. So if you could wait, we'd really, really appreciate it. All right first speaker. I'm sorry. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Chairman, with all due respect, I'm going to ask that we, as a Body, allow 30 more minutes for the Zoom speakers. After that 30 minutes if they can be doing the public comment section for the millage rate, because you have individuals here that are waiting on an outcome as well. And they're waiting to hear what we're going to be doing today, and I think in the sense of fairness, if we can limit that particular time to no more than 30 minutes, if they can speak at the public comment section for the millage rate, I think that's a sense of fairness for everyone in the room. And so, I put it out there that we do put a time limit because there's no way in

the world that we're going to be able to accommodate a hundred people; however, some will see that they may be duplicitous, but others want their voice to be heard, and I'm just trying to find a way that we can stay within the time parameters, plus give equal opportunity."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, I'll take that under consideration. Typically, some fall off even though they've signed up for Zoom, so I'll just monitor it."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, first speaker."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Now it is 11:27."

KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'll be brief. Enough is enough; you want to raise the millage rate a hundred basis points. In an emergency you're approximately 40 percent of Americans cannot cobble together \$400, and you want us to give you a \$78 million rainy day fund? That's crazy. That's about it. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Garland Favorito."

GARLAND FAVORITO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. You may remember back on September 15th, 2021, the County District Attorney requested an extra \$780,000 plus five million per year more in taxpayer funds to reduce a backlog of 224 unindicted murder cases. After the Board granted that important request, the DA then hired her boyfriend and paid him over \$700,000. On January 28th, the DA began to use that extra \$5 million to open a novel RICO election case and indict 18 of her political adversaries. The Georgia DA has no such authority to do that under Georgia law, that's the state election board. But nevertheless, the DA has now spent about \$20 million of our taxpayer funds on this corrupt political agenda. But that's not all; the Board of Elections has also spent millions of dollars of our taxpayer funds in litigation trying to hide the 2020 election ballots from civil courts, criminal courts, and state election board's subpoenas. So why do you want to spend millions of our taxpayer dollars on this when you can just simply show us the ballots. Now you want to raise the millage rate on property tax owners even though you have a surplus of tax money after finding all the sleazy activities. So my question is how much more corruption do we, the taxpayers of Fulton County have to endure before you'll rectify these injustices, protect Fulton taxpayers and stop using our tax money on these crooked political agendas."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "And the next person is John Ahmann."

JOHN AHMANN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yeah, my name is John Ahmann. I'm president and CEO of the not-for profit Westside Future Fund. We serve five historic neighborhoods on the Westside including English Avenue and Vine City. I'm also a Vine City resident on Sunset Avenue. Would urge your continued participation in the Westside TAD. It's just delivering outstanding ROI. The Westside Future Fund has raised over the last six years over \$130 million dollars of philanthropic dollars and low-cost corporate investment dollars to deliver affordable housing in buy-up over 40 acres of blighted and undeveloped land on English Avenue and Vine City. We're in the middle of a capital campaign that would deliver close to another hundred million dollars as well. And if Fulton County withdrawals from the TAD, it puts at risk our ability to continue to raise those dollars and to deliver high-quality affordable housing and then continue joint work on tax revenue for the counties. I would welcome the opportunity to take any of the Commissioners on a tour to witness first-hand the results of the work and given the depopulation that occurred in the neighborhoods, it requires a lot of stimulative investment to turn it around, and the TAD is essential for that. We offer a six-to-one return on the TAD for any projects that we're currently doing; for example, we just had a groundbreaking for Maynard Jackson's childhood home built by his mother and father right next to the King historic home. It just actually was put on the national registrar. You know it was a three million-dollar project between philanthropic and our impact fund investing as well, and it was a \$450,000 of TAD funds, so that's a six-to-one return, which is true on our other projects. So we just urge continued participation of return and would welcome the opportunity to show that ROI directly to any of the Commissioners. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, again, if you limit your remarks about a minute, we'd really appreciate it. Next speaker."

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

MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners, and Chairman Pitts, you seem too often want to limit the speaking opportunities right, of residents. Well, you probably wouldn't have as many people giving public comment if this Board didn't propose such an egregious tax increase. The majority on this Board that has proposed it, are you in favor of making life financially harder for residents? Are you in favor of pushing seniors out of their homes? Are you opposed to more individuals and families being able to own their home, build their wealth, and provide stability? Are you also in favor of decreasing the quality of life of Fulton residents? Because it sure seems like it for many of you that are advocating for a 12-and-a-half percent tax increase even assuming that their property values don't go up. This affects not only property owners, but also renters, meaning everyone is impacted. The county recommends a millage rate that would provide a \$7 million surplus, but for some reason many of you still want to take an additional \$78 million from Fulton residents. Did I miss something here? We have a district attorney who can't manage her budget, we have a Sheriff who can't manage his budget, we have an elections department who can't manage their budget, should I keep going? How about the trips Commissioner Arrington takes to Martha's Vineyard and other places on the backs of Fulton taxpayers."

Does that sound like wise use of our money? The proposed tax increase just shows how out of touch many of you are. Many are still struggling to make ends meet due to the high cost of living. Has the higher price of goods and inflation disappeared? We all know the answer is no. You're responsible for actually --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- a full rollback of the millage rate so there is no tax increase on residents and certainly not a 12-1/2 percent increase. This needs to be corrected. Thank you."

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

FAWN ORTEGA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, yes, I am here, sir. My name is Fawn Ortega. I'm in the film industry. I worked for the Union 798. I'm a make-up journeymen for 30 years. I speak for the film industry as a whole. There is a whole bunch of filmmakers here that came from other places to do filmmaking in the state of Georgia, but it's no longer happening since the COVID-19, we're on the back of a strike. The film industry brought in massive income to the state of Georgia; a lot of studios were built. Those studios are now in a bubble, and they are going bankrupt. The film industry has been taken over by AI, and it's in the budget bill to allow the use of this AI. It's crippled filmmakers in a lot of ways in and around the state of Georgia. The Trump administration has made traveling come to a halt, and people aren't buying here anymore. So those properties that were being bought and then people that were coming here are no longer coming here to pay these prices for these homes. So the funding has been stripped. We the people are being jerked around. We're watching kidnapping going on, and we are preparing to rally. We want to do that safely, protest. The money that was here is just not here anymore. So if you believe that the FIFA World Cup will be here, that's the purpose of reunification around the world, peace around the world, and this is just not our America anymore."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, 15 seconds."

FAWN ORTEGA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "There was a 100 percent tariff on the film industry. There's not enough work for filmmakers here anymore. We are going broke. We cannot afford anymore. We are watching, we are fighting, and we are preparing to document this unprecedented --"

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

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- once again, if your comments about the budget, we have a budget public hearing, a tax increase millage rate increase public hearing immediately following this public hearing. I will appreciate your comments during this period of time on topics other than the millage rate increase. Next speaker."

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

CHARLES KRIEGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. Thank you for taking my call. I have a question, or more of a suggestion. When tax rates go up, taxpayers are forced to look at their budgets, see what they can afford, see what they can't afford. I suggest that the government undertakes the same examination of their books. You have this amount of money, figure out how you wish to spend it. Coming to us and asking us for more and more money is not doable, okay? We can't go to somebody else when you guys raise our taxes and say, hey, I need more money. We have the money we have. You have the money you have. Every single person who came up with a story about their project, they're fabulous, they're wonderful, they're great. Your job is to figure out which of those you're going to spend our money on. Not to come to us and ask us for more and more of our money. You have money for more taxes already. Use it wisely. Figure out what you like and what you don't like or what you can spend money on and what you cannot, which is exactly what taxpayers have to do every single day. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Ping Yuan."

PING YUAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. I'm a resident and taxpayer in North Fulton. I heard a comment about like South Fulton, they -- you know they have lower income and suffer more. So I want to say we are united. We're living in North Fulton doesn't mean we are rich. We actually come from a background that has nothing and work hard, and not really living a rich life. So we're also impacted by these proposed reckless spending of tax dollars. And so, I want to say that I agree with so many people who have already given evidence. The thing is when the tax dollars was collected it was not used well, and where are accountability for all the waste; and where are -- those wasted money. And then, the things that I could -- just the other person said, everybody has to live within budget. Not spend recklessly. Before you raise it, please tell us where all the money has gone in the past? Where are the waste that you can cut? And how can you live like that if it's a family and it is your money you are losing. If it's your money you can do whatever you want, but it is every tax dollar payer's money and it is both North and South Fulton residents' money."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Lucia Frazier. Lucia Frazier."

LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I do not support any millage rate increases either. I know that most of Fulton County staff and representatives have shown many examples of our taxpayer money being misused as a lot of people have shown with the judicial department; other past Commissioners, the Sheriff's departments, and of course, the elections staff. They refuse to clean the voter rolls. They use bloated voter rolls and unrealistically fund election operations. I really feel that residents should keep their money and they can support directly whatever programs that they wish, whatever charities, whatever churches, whatever art, we will make those decisions, not you. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Andy Nowak. Andy Nowak. Okay. The next person to speak is Anne Kaluha. Andy -- I'm sorry. Anne Kaluha. Next person to speak is Anoly Bristol. Anoly Bristol. Next person to speak is Anwar Ghaswala. Anwar Ghaswala. The next person to speak is Betty Scott. Betty Scott. Next person to speak is Billy Reynolds. Billy Reynolds. Next person to speak is Ember Hogsed. Ember Hogsed."

EMBER HOGSED, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. I have been a resident of South Fulton since 2012, and my homeowners insurance just this year has more than tripled. With the increase in the millage rate, that's going to make it virtually impossible for my family to stay here, even with us working 40 plus hours a week. It feels like you guys are trying to push us out of our community. There's been a surge in commercial development, warehouses, subdivisions, apartment complexes but very little investment in the things that support the residents. No new grocery stores, no additional pharmacies, no new parks for the kids, and no meaningful infrastructure improvements that actually enhance our quality of lives. It seems like the focus is growing strictly on revenue, not on protecting and supporting the people who already live here. And to be honest, when residents like me come forward to speak out, the tone from this council often feels dismissive like our concerns are simply an inconvenience to you. We are the community. We deserve to be heard and taken seriously. We urge you to reconsider the rate increase and begin prioritizing policies that help the residents stay, grow and thrive in this city that we've invested in and call our home. We need solutions, not added burdens. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Andy Nowak. Andy Nowak. Okay. Next person to speak is Candice Connor. Candice Connor. Next person to speak is Cassandra Powers. Cassandra Powers. Next person to speak is Catherine Bray. Catherine Bray. Next person to speak is Anupa Jienkim. Anupa Jienkim. The next person to speak is Charles Q. Oliver. I'm sorry, Charles Q. Tobler. The next person to speak is Cherie Ong. Cherie Ong."

CHERIE ONG, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. My name is Cherie -- I'm sorry, and I'm a developer, an affordable housing developer. You heard from several of our colleagues that the importance of the Westside TAD in continuing the work to develop a very important historic community. I'm just here to support that, and I hope that you will reconsider withdrawing from the Westside TAD. This is a vital instrument for development, and we are currently supporting the city of Atlanta's faith-based development program. That is -- cannot happen without incentives like this. As you have heard, it brings programs as well as more tax dollars back into your pocket which sounds like you know with increasing millage rate, you should already have more, and so it does not make sense at all to remove -- to remove incentives to communities that need it the most. I urge you to reconsider that and hope that you will support the plea from the community as well as from vital members of this historic neighborhood. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Cheryl Turner. Cheryl Turner. Next person to speak is Cindy Lukaart. Cindy Lukaart. Next person to speak is Cindy Mann. Cindy Mann. The next person to speak is Cynthia Parnell. Cynthia Parnell. The next person to speak -- I'm sorry, go ahead."

CYNTHIA PARNELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Please excuse me. Good morning, everyone, and thank you for the opportunity to speak. I just wanted to come before you as the pastor of Cosmopolitan AME churches. We have representation there. But just wanted to speak on behalf of Cosmopolitan AME Church as the pastor to truly consider our project and what we are doing as we seek to build people better. And as we do so, we will need, and it is essential that we actually move with the TAD funds to use them a good stewardship towards people. And so, Presiding Elder McMichael has spoken, but I thank you for the opportunity to truly, truly consider and truly think about the vote in that it will be impactful in so many ways, and I thank you for our your time and attention."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Jessica Johnson. Jessica Johnson."

JESSICA JOHNSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm sorry, I'm unmuting. Yes. As I'm listening, it sounds like there are two somewhat related issues; the TAD being for affordable housing, and then this millage rate that is essentially going to take a lot of people out of their homes and create a bigger issue within affordable housing. So let's start with the millage rate. I, for one, am a single mom. I have worked and lived here for 20 years. I have purchased my own home, by myself. I am managing just fine, but everything's keep getting more and more expensive. This is starting to feel very much like California for single women that are in the working force and are managing life just fine are going to need be the first to be displaced. And then we have more issues on the other end where the affordable housing -- like the housing is not protected, we do not feel protected. Twelver percent is wild to anyone. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Cindy L. Huff. Cindy L. Huff. The next person to speak is Don Semien. Don Semien. Next person to speak is Deborah Jean Arnold. Deborah Jean Arnold. Next person to speak is Diana Britton. Diana Britton. The next person to speak is Diane Porter. Diane Porter. The next person to speak is Frank Whitfield. Frank Whitfield. The next person to speak is Jennifer Green-Williams. Jennifer Green-Williams."

JENNIFER GREEN-WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Good morning. I am coming to you all in reference to the millage rate increase. I do feel that it has been taxable to our community -- I'm coming from the city of South Fulton and representing our subdivision, Whispering Willows. So we are at a point -- (inaudible.)"

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay. She's breaking up, so I'm going to skip. The next person to speak is Erica Endicott. Erica Endicott. The next person to speak is James Parker. James Parker. The next person to speak is Jerrell Pitts. Jerrell Pitts. The next person to speak is Donny Knight. Donny Knight."

DONNY KNIGHT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes. I was trying to unmute. Can you hear me now?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

DONNY KNIGHT, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. Thank you. Yes, I am a resident of Fulton County for the last seven years. I have seen a steady increase in my property taxes over the years, and this particular increase is just extremely egregious. And I don't really see the value in the property tax increase. I live in southwest Atlanta, and I've had to hound Public Works to have services done in my neighborhood. I've also -- even us acknowledging the police of today, even having to call them. They're not coming out to situations and problems where I have called or my neighbors have called about, and again I am opposing or asking that you all please decline this tax increase. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Derrick Holloway. Derrick Holloway. The next person to speak is Jim Gibson. Jim Gibson. Next person to speak is Gail Stafford -- excuse me. Gwendolyn Williams. Gwendolyn Williams. Next person to speak is John Bartz. John Bartz. The next person to speak is Kait Whitenack."

KAIT WHITENACK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. My name is Kait Whitenack. I am born and raised from Georgia. I lived in Southeast Atlanta for about five years now. I bought my home with the two percent interest rate, which is only good thing that's happened to millennials ever in this life, but I just wanted also comment about the tax increase. It's egregious. We still have potholes all over our roads. We have about six apartment complexes I can see just from my house alone; and I do not feel like the taxpayer responsibility needs to be, for you all are mismanagement funds and not allocating things appropriately. And thank you very much for your time, and I love Atlanta so much, and I hope you make the right decision for her."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "All right. The next -- the next person to speak is Junyongsun Sun. Junyongsun Sun. The next person to speak is KC Copeland. KC Copeland. The next person to speak is Keith Gettmann. Keith Gettmann."

KEITH GETTMANN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes, good morning. I just want to say that I affirm the recommendations which sound unanimous in nature, of not increasing the millage rate. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is -- excuse me -- Leicester Asemor. Leicester Asemor."

LECESTER ASEMOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I'm a landlord in Atlanta, and I would like to say that I would recommend that we do not pass this tax because it's going to hurt the people that I try to sell the most, which are low-income housing tenants. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Kirk Wilson. Kirk Wilson. Next person to speak is Lynn Mays. Lynn Mays. Next person to speak is Nancy Quan-Sellers. Nancy Quan-Sellers. Next person to speak is Miguel Torres. Miguel Torres. Next person to speak is Megan Bowen. Megan Bowen."

MEGAN BOWEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hey, I'm here. I'm a property owner in Fulton County, former resident, and I now live in DeKalb. I want to echo the unanimous opposition to the increase in the millage rate. I also have a modest unit in which I house tenants. I'm already in competition with the large developments that are along North Avenue and near Ponce City Market. And in order to keep my price down and the rent rates of my tenants, who are often young professionals who are just leaving college and getting their life started, I cannot have this increase either. So I urge the Commissioners to listen; shame on you for encouraging us to give even more of our time at the next meeting. We've already taken out two hours to sit here and voice our opinions to you. Not just our opinions, but what matters to us. Thank you very much."

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

FAWN ORTEGA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes, sir, yes, sir. I'm here to reclaim my time because it seems like a lot of people have dropped out there. I just want this to be a hard no on the record. I see that there is a detention center for ICE in the works here. We are watching and writing and preparing to document this unprecedented time in history. And are you prepared to go down in history by name for standing by and allowing concentration camps to terrorize the American people right here in Atlanta? No organization. We ask for no harm to be done on us. The film industry is not here. The money that was coming here is not here. We cannot afford this. We are in a bit of a bubble. It's a constitutional crisis, and we need help here in Atlanta for people who have lived here in Atlanta for so long and watching people and films not being made here is really a hard no for the Atlanta film industry. And I thank you for your time."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is -- excuse me. Mario Daye. Mario Daye. Next person to speak is Kyle Merchant. Kyle Merchant. Next person to speak is Monica N. Monica N. Next person to speak is Linda Edwards. Linda Edwards. Next person to speak is -- excuse me. Marco Pavia. Marco Pavia. The next person to speak is Rachel Carrie. Rachel Carrie. Next person to speak is Saba Asfaw. Saba Asfaw."

SABA ASFAW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good afternoon. I think one of the most fascinating things about what's taking place here is our level of greed as a county that you all have mismanaged funds and are now expecting the burden to be on taxpayers. The longer we go down this path, not only is it going to have tangible outcomes where people are going to be displaced and left with no resources, we fall deeper into a moral decay, and we start to sear your conscience and become desensitized to the issues that involve real people. So I urge you all to not have this tax increase take place especially

considering that the margins are going to be the highest affected and learn to put people over your profits. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "All right. The next person to speak is Salan Ahmed. Salan Ahmed. Okay. The next person to speak is Shannon Quidley. Shannon Quidley. The next person to speak is Junyongsun Sun. Junyongsun Sun."

JUNYONGSUN SUN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Yes. Thank you for taking my call, and I only have some related details. I move into Fulton County about 20 years ago. I found that Fulton County's property tax, sales taxes are higher than other counties, in Cobb County, Forsyth County, Gwinnett County. It's starting to make sense. It is not -- as of right now you increase another one. I don't know, sir. It don't make sense. Like a full size county across the street, we have 20 percent more than most counties of property tax. It is in a sense not right, and also it's a waste of money that other people are concerned about waste of money. I'm not a Democrat. I'm not a Republican. I don't want to (inaudible). In Fulton County, I saw the case, the Donald Trump case. They spent more money on that. It doesn't make sense. So I just want to be sure our taxpayer's monies is used the right way, and that's what I want that. So please consider about that -- reconsider about that. It is to Fulton County, it is not much better than the other counties, but we spend more money on property tax and sales tax. That's not right. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Diane Porter. Diane Porter."

DIANE PORTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hi. My daughter and her husband and my grandchildren moved here from California to escape the taxes there. My husband and I are from Tax-achusetts, and we decided to move down here to be with them because we could not afford to live up to Tax-achusetts. So I ask that you do not increase this millage rate, as it will put a burden, not only on us and our family, but every other citizen in Fulton County. People get voted into government and they appoint people to these boards and commissions, and they seem to have no trouble spending other people's money. That's all I have to say. Thank you."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Next person to speak is Adityesh Mitra. Adityesh Mitra. The next person to speak is Sharon Follmer. Sharon Follmer. The next person to speak is Shelbra Carruthers. Shelbra Carruthers. The next person to speak is Tereon Williams. Tereon Williams. The next person to speak is Sharon Follmer. Sharon Follmer. All right. The next person to speak is Wynette Hammons. Wynette Hammons. And I believe this concludes the Zoom public comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, sir. That's 72. All right, what's next? Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 7 under the Public Hearings, **25-0510**, Police, Alcoholic beverages license: Request public hearing and approval for the license application submitted by LG Drinks, LLC, doing business as Crispy Cool, for the manufacture of Distilled Spirits at 3700 Wendell Drive, Suite 21, Atlanta, Georgia."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, I'll open the Public Hearing on this item. Anyone here to speak on this item; the manufacturer of Distilled Spirits, Wendell Drive? Anyone in the audience to speak for or against?"

ATTENDEES: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, we'll close the Public Hearing. All right, is there motion? Motion to approve. Is there a second? All right, probably moved and seconded. Let's vote, please. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Okay, by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote, please."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0511: Finance, Fiscal Year 2025, General Fund Millage Rate, Public Hearing. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have received 23 speaker cards here in Assembly Hall."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. This is open to Public Hearing on the millage rate. You have speakers who have signed up?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Twenty-three?"

CLERK GRIER: "Twenty-three. Will the first six speakers, please come forward: Ashley Burgess, Patrick O'Connor, Dorothy Harpe, Mike Russell, Brian Allen, and Paul Bolster."

ASLEY BURGESS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, greetings. My name is Ashley Mobbea Burgess, and I stand before you as a homeowner in Fulton County as well as a business owner. I had the opportunity to receive the commercial down payment assistance from Invest Atlanta to purchase my office, where I've been able to create eight jobs within the last year, and I might not be a Google or a Microsoft, but I am, you know, doing what I came here to do. When I relocated from Howard University to Atlanta, the dream was real for me. Atlanta is the Promised Land, and now my office is located on the Westside of Atlanta within the TAD, so I have it two-fold. On one side, you want to take that away; on the other side, my property taxes are getting so high that it's going to be hard for me to hold onto the property that you guys have, you know, allowed me to get to through the commercial downpayment assistance program. So I just ask that you consider people like me who came here for the dream, who are making

it real, and you know, vote no on increasing the property taxes and also, allow the Westside TAD to continue."

PATRICK O'CONNOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Chairman Pitts and Members of the Board of Commissioners, good morning. My name is Patrick O'Connor, a three-decade proud Fulton County resident. I am here to suggest a politically acceptable millage rate to all of the Board Members and the citizens of Fulton County. I recommend a four percent increase in the 2025 millage rate and a three percent increase in the 2026 millage rate. This is less than two percent inflation adjustment. The realities of the budget are the need for increases to the judicial system budget. I recommend the Board instruct the County Manager to have the finance department and IT department work on a request for a proposal. This would be for the best updated technologies, training, and staffing requirements for the justice system and also effects on the jail population. In the handout I've given you, there's an article that gives a good summary of what a lot of the court systems are doing in the information technology area. I believe an investment in this area will have a major payback."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds, Mr. O'Connor."

PATRICK O'CONNOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Fulton County must enhance and correct what's going on in the judicial system if we're to stop the massive increase with the people and the --"

DOROTHY HARPE, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning. Boker tov. That's Hebrew and still mean good morning. My name is Dorothy Harpe. I'm a resident of Fulton County, city of Atlanta. In the city of Atlanta, we have a lot of problems in my area. We have potholes about as big as my head. We called in. No one never seemed to come. Okay, just take them maybe about six months and they finally show up. But the millage rate is what I'm here for. We do not need an increase in the millage rate. That's going to knock the seniors, like myself, out of my home. I've been living in that house 40 years, and I'm sick of paying Fulton County property tax. I think we should abolish property tax for seniors 65 and up. Me, myself, I'm 75 years old. I'm on a fixed income, and every doggone year, property tax is going up, and it's just a hardship on the seniors. At 65, we should abolish property taxes for seniors. Thank you very much, and y'all have a blessed day."

MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Mike Russell. I'm a resident of Fulton County, the city of Atlanta. The first thing I want to talk about real briefly is the TAD. I just don't understand why you would take the TAD away from the most -- one of the most vulnerable neighborhoods in the county. If you're going to do anything, reform it, so that people -- that the TAD money's used for people to own their homes and not be renters. That's the only thing that I could think, that you could do to improve the TAD, but taking it away is ridiculous. It makes absolutely no sense. And the millage rate, I don't know who came up with the ridiculous 12 percent, but I see that as a negotiating tactic, to put it at this ridiculous high rate so then we will accept something less like four or five percent. Not going for it. It needs to be the full rollback so there is no increase in the property tax at all. Not falling for the 12 percent. Nice try, but we're not falling for

that. Seniors cannot afford their property taxes to go up. In my neighborhood alone, in Grove Park, we have a woman who is defecating in a bag because she can't afford to get the plumbing in her house fixed. Do you think she can afford a tax increase? The man down the street from my house was without power for 30 days this time last year because a tree fell on his house and pulled the wires out, and he was told it would be at least \$10,000 to get it replaced. We got on the phone and we got that fixed. No help from the government, but do you think he can afford a tax increase? These people are just barely surviving. I somehow get the impression that maybe some of you want to put these people out of their house so the developers can snatch them up for pennies on the dollar so they can go build better -- bigger houses. It makes no sense. Not 12 percent, not three percent, not one percent. It needs to be a full rollback to zero so that the people who are suffering are not going to suffer anymore. We're not giving a 12 percent pay increase --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

MIKE RUSSELL, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- for taxes. Not at all. It needs to go away. Zero."

BRIAN ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, I'm Brian Allen, vice chair of libertarian party, Fulton County, and I'm here to speak against the proposed millage rate increase. I'd like to start by stating that I actually agree with Commissioner Ivory, when she says that you shouldn't be both lowering taxes and increasing government spending. The problem is that she, along with several of the rest of you have reached the wrong conclusion. The solution is not to increase taxes, but rather to cut government spending. Fulton County needs to do zero-based budgeting for the next Fiscal Year and get back to basics. You're required by law to provide certain services like the jail. Focus on these and cut out everything else that's built up over the years. The day that some of you want to raise our taxes to do things like increase arts funding is absurd. I don't have anything against the arts, and if you want to donate your money to the arts, you're welcomed to do so. We're all perfectly capable of donating our own money to organizations if that's what we want to do. Which do you think is more important; people living on the edge as it is? Keeping a roof over their heads or having another theater showing? And don't kid yourselves. If you raise property taxes, people will lose their homes. The fundamental problem is you literally cannot know how to spend our money in accordance with our preferences better than we do. The seven of you do not know better than over one million Fulton residents. There's a reason why central planning does not work, but markets do. We are perfectly capable of spending our own money for the services that we want. By raising taxes, you necessarily divert funds away from our demonstrated preferences. For the past few years now, I've come down here saying you need to cut out the favors to the special interests and put the general welfare first. What you're proposing now is the opposite of that, siphoning the wealth of the general public to give to special interests. You should actually be lowering the millage rate, but the very least, very least, accept the recommendation of your own staff and don't raise it. I would be happy to help with the budgeting process in any way that I can. Thank you for your time and attention."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Devin Barrington-Ward. Well now that we're all friends again. You know, it's not personal. But it is personal. I have a young son. I want to be able to invest in his future. I can't do that if the government is coming, asking me for more money. Especially, at the same time, when there's been no reforms to how we do assessment in Fulton County. I don't understand why high-end property owners in Fulton County are able to get away with that. Because according to Georgia Tech, if we just tax them at the rate that they're supposed to be taxed at, and they paid actually what they owed, we wouldn't need to do a property tax increase? We're talking about \$290 million on the low end that we're leaving on the table. Part of the reason why people are so offended by this, is because we read the headlines. We saw how Fulton County gave away \$75 million to Microsoft for a data center. We saw how Fulton County gave away \$10 million for an Elon Musk data center for Twitter. We saw that. And so, we're like there's no way that we're living in the same reality where you all have the money to give that away and tax incentives, but then ask us for more money. The two just don't compute. And so, what we're asking for is to get back to the basics. And on the jail piece, we can't continue to use the mismanagement at the jail because all you got to do is just talk to the investigators with the Department of Justice and they will tell you that it is not a building issue. It is a management issue at the jail. And so the fact of the matter is that we need to get back to the basics of being able --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- run the departments, offices in the jail here in Fulton County, but that doesn't mean that you should come asking me for more money because, frankly, I don't have it. We don't have it."

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers: Jimmy Hardy, Chris Rombaughn, Julien Bene, Kelsea Bond, Victoria Caprice, and Jim Martin."

JIM MARTIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Thank you, yes, Jim Martin, again. I believe the speakers before me left, they were a bit intimidated by the list of online speakers, but I had intended to speak to you about the systematic under assessment or under appraisal of properties in the county. They had a fairly long laundry list of those properties. I do not have that. I intend to speak to you once again about the wasteful giveaways by your development authority. I spoke about that earlier and I thought perhaps you would like some specific examples. Quite often, the development authority gives away money to projects that are already well underway and require no incentive because they will obviously be completed anyway. Two examples of this in my own MPU are Tilford Yard and Westside Village. The development authority swept \$30 million out the door on those deals. Also, the development authority likes to subsidize projects or incentivize projects that are normally complete, DC Tech Communities not long ago, \$4 million swept out the door for absolutely nothing. The Development Authority is even willing to subsidize projects that were completed decades earlier as if some sort of time machine were involved in the rationale. A great example of that Bank America Tower 20 years after it was built, received an incentive in order to continue existing. And of course, there are other projects that predictably failed to generate any of the alleged public benefits they were going to, such as the tax revenue from the

Glenwood Kroger. The Companale Building in Midtown is a classic example of all of these problems. Dewberry Capital is receiving a tax subsidy for maintaining a vacant blighted hulk in Midtown where they destroyed 200 jobs. This absurd subsidy began long after the site was initially developed and before it became blighted."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

JIM MARTIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "It is continuing apparently due to a clerical error that no one seems willing to correct. If all of this going on, do we need more tax revenue from the rest of us?"

CLERK GRIER: "Next six speakers, please come forward: Charles Rambo, LA Pink, Damita Chapman, Diana Sow, Rhonda Sills, and Glen Wrightson"

CHARLES RAMBO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Commissioner Khadijah, thank you for the wise advice you gave me years ago that there are no permanent enemies and no permanent friends when it comes to politics. And my comment towards this millage rate, Commissioner Pitts, I don't want you to go into this selection of people blaming you for the reasons that the jail is going under. Our good friend, Mr. John Sherman, reminded us years ago that it was the block of four, traditionally that had blocked any type of funding that went towards infrastructure that would have otherwise given us a better criminal justice system and jail that we can move inmates through. So with the millage rate, ladies and gentlemen, honestly, we have to suck it up. The majority of what we're going to be paying for in millage rate deals with Eighth Amendment, deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of inmates and if you don't correct that problem, and correct it soon you're going to continuously see more and more calls related towards the jail. So with that, I say and I hope that you're listening, Patrick Labat, when you come over here this evening follow what Mr. Ellis is simply asking you for, and that is the fact nobody is threatening your constitutional authority because of the fact that they're asking for some accountability for what you have spent. How about you come over and start with where we are with the budget in terms of overtime as well as towards manpower to get that jail properly staffed, because at the end of the day, forget millage rate, how about those lawsuits that you still got to pay for? So let's get on the ball, Commissioner Pitts. Again no permanent enemies no permanent friends, but I don't want you -- you get your issues with the jail, but at the end of the day, you should not carry that weight and burden for what your party has done over --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "--15 seconds."

CHARLES RAMBO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- because of those problems. Thank you very much."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "He always give you all a pill to swallow, and somehow y'all don't get it down. I mean, here it is, we all have came down here way before this moment and we're back to this moment again. We continue to repeat, repeat, repeat and y'all could cover up, cover up, cover up. And like I said, I've named three earlier, and I named those three because they went to the jail. Y'all were able to visit, y'all were

able to see. Y'all were able to cover up, because that's all that's been done, cover up. Cover up why the taxes is continuing to go up to go down and go all around. Why we should keep them the same. Why should we -- why should we -- why should we? You know what God said that is, it's a double-minded person that can't be trusted in none of their ways. When we look at some of you, that's what we see. Double-minded. Playing games with the community. Us as advocates coming down here and having to speak for those that cannot even come down here and walk about their houses, some of our elders. But they got to worry about how they're going to pay their taxes when they shouldn't. That should be the last thing. Like they just said, they shouldn't even -- once you hit a certain age, 60, 65, 70, they shouldn't even have to worry. Our seniors should not have to worry. But we got Fani Willis running around here on Grey Goose, ain't that what she told y'all, paying Nathan Wade millions of dollars. We've got you traveling all over the world. Now y'all want to come for Pitt's seat? Baby let me tell something, y'all ain't got a chance in hell, and I mean that. My feet gone to be swollen, my hands going to be sore because I'm going to knocking, I'm going to be walking. Trust me, double overtime, baby."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Fifteen seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "You can't even meet the doors that I can meet unless you're going to pay over staff, and the staff you got right now, they lazy."

DIANA SOW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, I'm back. I never quite really introduced myself to let you all know, how did I get into a place of homelessness? I was on a government contract, my contract ended, and I split with my husband. We had built a house from the ground up. He backed out of the contract, and I'm here in Georgia rebuilding my life and went to this housing program called Haven for Hope. This person illegally evicted me. I came before your Board last month. I felt so hopeful because it was three representatives that came to my aid. I'm thinking, oh, yeah, surely they have a budget for emergency housing; they're going to help me, not a handout, but a hand up. Unfortunately, I been knocking on every door, as I stated, Josh Williams -- Joshua Williams was able to help me because of Atlanta Savage, to actually help me with the Secretary of State to place a complaint, but I'm trying to figure out why is there no emergency housing budget? I'm hearing that taxes are going to be increased, but why is there no budget for emergencies for people like me, hard workers? Because life does happen; and unpredictable things does happen. Why is there no housing? Why am I being turned in every direction? And this Board, I know that this Board is powerful. If you guys are powerful enough to increase taxes 12 percent, affordable housing should be available for people like me and other helpless mothers, because there's a lot of foundations that are just taking money and there's no accountability. I'm just asking the Board, please, please, at least have a budget for affordable housing and, you know, I pray that justice is also served as far as Haven for Hope taking advantage of single mothers and domestic violence --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- all right, 15 seconds."

DIANA SOW, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- victims. And I just pray that things change. Thank you for your time."

GLENN WRIGHTSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, Glenn Wrightson here; long time Atlanta, Fulton County resident. I have run for mayor of Atlanta several times. Had I been elected, I presume you'd listen more to what I have to say. One thing is that you should have the public comment here in person precede any computer remote comments. When the taxes go up, the payments are made with after-tax dollars. You say, oh, the taxes are going up \$200. But the individual has to make \$230, 40 dollars to pay the \$200. The three-pronged system is a problem. You got the tax assessor's office, and we all know what's happened to the digest and the tax revenue tracks the digest, so got more tax dollars coming in already. And then you got the rate that you set, and then you got the tax collector, and he'll sell the property on the courthouse steps were the taxes not paid. And there's no pressure release valve. You lose your property if you don't pay the property taxes. The taxes contribute to homeless -- higher taxes contribute to homelessness and higher rent and rentals don't get the homestead exemption. There should be a balance and correct the -- we should correct the imbalance between the assessment of commercial and residential before any tax increase, and we should eliminate or reduce or eliminate any overlapping --"

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

GLENN WRIGHTSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- any overlapping services that are provided before there's any tax increase. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "Last six speakers in Assembly Hall, please come forward; Adobe Acora, Nathan Club, Leonard Adams, Lowell Solomons, II, Kat Hartley, Victoria Salvia."

KAT HARTLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, my name is Kat Hartley. Why is more government revenue treated like its automatic, like it's owed to y'all? I'm here because Fulton County is collecting \$120 million more than last year. That's not just from rising property values; you're also raising the millage rate, so people are being taxed on higher values and at a higher rate. Meanwhile, wages aren't keeping up. Essentials like rent, utilities, food, and insurance are already costing more. Most people I know are cutting back, and so the government should, too. And to be clear, my concern isn't just about this year's rate, it's about the entire system. I believe this constant taxation, especially through property taxes, is fundamentally wrong. Property tax is not freedom, it is government rent. You can spend 30 years paying off your home, but if you miss a tax bill the government can still take it. That is not ownership that is coercion; that is control and has no place in a free society. If anything, the millage rate should be going down not up, since property values are rising. It should be proportional and fair. If we have to budget and make our decisions through hard times, so should you. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have the floor, ma'am."

VICTORIA SALVIA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay, thank you. Hi, my name is Victoria Salvia, and I live in District Four. So basically I just wanted to reiterate Commissioner

Mo Ivory, District Four, along with the support of Dana Barrett over here and Marvin Arrington and Khadijah Abdur-Rahman. These are the people who have proposed this property tax. So I was kind of interested -- oh, and thank you, by the way, to the other two who didn't propose this. And I'm kind of wondering, what's the motivation here? And I was kind of looking, you know, at Fulton County and seeing who -- you know, which Commissioners are in which areas, and it's interesting that the two wealthiest Commissioners, Ms. Bridget Thorne, and Bob Ellis, they are Commissioners of the wealthiest areas in Fulton County. Yet the poorer areas, you know, my area, there's a lot of very poor people. Mo Ivory was the one who brought this up for the poor areas. Why is that? And yet, you guys -- and then I looked at your bio's, you know, on the website, about oh, equality and community service and oh, empowerment of the people and all that kind of stuff. Yet you want to just rob your own people who put you in office even more. Let's just face it; any kind of taxation is theft. You just wanted -- you know it's -- there's no difference between the old days when serfs needed to pay the kings to even live on their land. If we don't pay whatever you guys are proposing, then we, out of coercion, duress, and even violence, we get robbed of our own property. The government --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

VICTORIA SALVIA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- will seize our property. How is that different from slavery? It's actually no different from slavery. You guys are acting as kings in the form of government and you want to steal even more money from us."

CLERK GRIER: "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have 56 speakers on Zoom."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Hello, Commissioners. The first person to speak is Anoly Bristol. Anoly Bristol. The next person to speak is Anwar Ghaswala. Anwar Ghaswala. The next person to speak is Betty Scott. Betty Scott. The next person to speak is Brenda Mayweather. Brenda Mayweather. The next person to speak is Candice Connor. Candice Connor. Next person to speak is Cindy L. Huff. Cindy L. Huff. The next person to speak is Cassandra Powers. Cassandra Powers. Next person to speak is Charles Q. Tobler. Charles Q. Tobler. Next person to speak is Cynthia Pernel McDonald. Cynthia Pernel McDonald. Next person to speak is Don Semien. Don Semien. The next person to speak is Donna Jean Arnold. I'm sorry, Debra Jean Arnold. Debra Jean Arnold. The next person to speak is Derrick Holloway. Derrick Holloway. The next person to speak is Diana Britton. Diana Britton. The next person to speak is Donny Knight. Donny Knight. The next person to speak is Ember Hogsed. Ember Hogsed. The next person to speak is Evelyn Maddox. Evelyn Maddox. The next person to speak is Frank Whitfield. Frank Whitfield. The next person to speak is Jaliz Williams. Jaliz Williams. The next person to speak is Anwar Ghaswala."

ANWAR GHASWALA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. Can you hear me?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes. Yes."

ANWAR GHASWALA, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "I want to just speak on two topics. One is increase in the price on the property, the value of the property. Now in our subdivision, people spend a hundred to two hundred thousand upgrading their property and, therefore, they're getting more value. Now our houses, again staying in Fulton County - North Fulton County, is the same. We have never had done any renovation, but we are to pay taxes because somebody has to spent two hundred thousand and this property has appraised at three hundred thousand. When is our property in the same? So that increasing the value is not justified, that is one point. The second point is that the millage rate is an obligatory number just because you want to increase the taxes, you increase the millage rate. And then we are to pay the millage rate not only at the old price, but the new price. So these are the two objections what I'm trying to raise, that one should not value the property as it has been sold, because many properties are the same or lower than the existing one, and the millage rate should not increase. But on the contrary, I would request you to decrease it because it is just the same. I am a senior citizen living in Fulton County for very close to 25 years. That is my objection."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "All right. The next person to speak is Gail Stafford. Gail Stafford. The next person to speak is -- excuse me, Jim Gibson. Jim Gibson. Next person to speak is LaTonya Harris. LaTonya Harris."

LATONYA HARRIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello. Hello."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, we can hear you."

LATONYA HARRIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay, great. I live in a neighborhood in Fulton County where we have just discovered that not only are our taxes going up, but we've discovered that we live in two separate neighborhoods, and then we have neighbors who are zoned as R4 which has made their taxes astronomically -- I can't even say the word -- extremely high for them. As far as I'm concerned though, I do not agree with this millage rate increase. I think what it really is, and this is the word I want to say -- what it really is, it's systematic foreclosure for everybody. That's exactly what it is. You all are taking people's homes and then you're giving them to these investors. These investors pay for the taxes you can't pay, and then Mr. Ferdinand gets a dollar for every house that he sells to these investors. And he's the highest-paid person in that county, \$380,000, and that is just not fair. So I hope you guys will vote to shoot down this millage rate increase. We cannot afford it. Period. And thank you for your time."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next to person to speak is Jonathan Oliver. Jonathan Oliver. Next person to speak is Lucille F. Lucille F. The next person to speak is Mark Armour. Mark Armour. The next person to speak is Nancy Quan-Sellers. Nancy Quan-Sellers."

NANCY QUAN-SELLERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, I'm here. Hello?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, go ahead, ma'am, we can hear you."

NANCY QUAN-SELLERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. I'm a native of Atlanta, and I was born in Crawford Long Hospital. I grew up in East Atlanta and went to school at Georgia State. My income is real estate, and I recently went to a hearing for an appeal on the property tax that my family owes in Mechanicsville, which is just across from the Atlanta Stadium, the former Atlanta Stadium. Anyway I was told by the appraiser that the increase on the assessment is due to the fact that some of the residential homes that were built in the neighborhood were overselling for over \$500,000. First of all, comparable, this is vacant land. And this vacant land is like half the size of a regular lot on Dodd Avenue. You know, and then I was asked by the appraiser why didn't I build a home on that land. I said well, first of all, I can't afford to build something on that land. The interest rates are too exorbitant to borrow any money to build. And the other thing is I don't have the money to pay for building a home. So I can't even afford to build a home and live in Fulton County, much less pay an increase in property taxes."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "Okay. The next person to speak is Jonathan Oliver. Jonathan Oliver. Okay, Jonathan Oliver. Okay, I'll continue. The next person to speak is Raisa Hunter. Raisa Hunter. Next person to speak is Shay Ross. Shay Ross. Next person speak is Waduda Mohammed. Waduda Mohammed. Okay, the next person to speak is S.M. Okay, the next person to speak is Jonathan Oliver. Jonathan Oliver. All right, and I do believe that is the last of the Zoom public comments. This concludes the Zoom public comments."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, thank you. What's next?"

CLERK GRIER: Presentations to the Board.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. It's 12:47, what's your pleasure? I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch and Executive Session. We may take up items of real estate, litigation, and personnel. I need a motion. Motion to do so by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

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

Recessed for Executive Session at 12:48 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 3:11 p.m.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Without objection, ladies and gentlemen, we will resume the regular order of business and take up items from Executive Session. Madam County Attorney, are you ready?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in items 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "There's a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve request for tax refund regarding tax parcel number 14-0147-0002-015-1 for tax years 2017 to 2022, in the amount of \$824.10?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "There's a motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

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 tax refund for parcel number 14-0213-0005-020-7 for tax years 2021 and 2022, in the amount of \$475.42?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It's a motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve a contract for expanded functionality of Odyssey System to include a detention classification system function in the amount \$282,000 -- excuse me, in the amount of \$282,900 as set forth in number 12a of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve a contract with EMSI for six months for data collection services in the amount of \$244,724.60 as set forth in item 12b of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to approve the Information Technology contract set forth in item 15 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Is there a motion to -- oh, I'm sorry."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Excuse me. Is there a motion to approve the Information Technology contract, which is an approval of a statewide contract set forth in item 16 of the Executive Session agenda?"

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Madam County Attorney. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, Presentations to the Board Housing Authority of Fulton County, **25-0512**."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The Chair of the Housing Authority and a couple of her members were here earlier, they had to leave, so we'll be rescheduling their presentation on -- at the August 20th meeting; is that correct, Madam Clerk?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, continue."

CLERK GRIER: "Hearing, **25-0513**, to impose penalties against Commissioner Arrington, Marvin Arrington, Jr., District 5, for violation of the rules of decorum pursuant to Fulton County Code Section 101-68."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioners, you recall at the -- at our last meeting, a vote was taken and we required a supermajority vote to find a -- that's five votes, five of the seven, to find a violation of the decorum ordinance. That's what occurred at that meeting, so the code also requires that, the ordinance also requires that the accused Commissioner have an opportunity to speak at the following meeting, which is today, following that, am I correct, Madam County Attorney?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Yes, Mr. Chairman, today is the hearing to provide an opportunity to respond to the charges."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor, should you choose to do so."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess, I'll first start off by apologizing for using the word that I used at the last meeting. I think that logistically, we have a problem, because what occurs, or what occurred is someone else interrupted me without getting permission from you to speak. And so, according to our rules, no one is supposed to speak, nor interrupt someone until the Chair has given them the authority to speak. And so the person that was speaking and interrupting me had not been given authority to speak by you. Nonetheless, I should not have said the word that I said, and so I apologize. But I think -- I think we -- you all may want to look at this, because you can't have someone violate the rule, and then say the person that responded to that is in violation. If there's violations on both sides, there's violation on both sides. And so the question for me would be, was the other person given the authority by the Chair to speak, or did that person interrupt and violate the rules themselves? And in my mind, if someone interrupts and violates the rules themselves, then there should not be a penalty."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. At this meeting, we are to affirm whether or not the violation occurred. I'll entertain a motion."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I move to affirm the violation."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: Second phase would be to determine whether or not a penalty should be applied. What's your pleasure? Is there a motion regarding penalty?

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I move to impose penalties of public reprimand and a \$500 fine."

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, properly moved and seconded. Let's vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "County Manager's items under Open and Responsible Government, **25-0514**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in a total amount not to exceed \$1,700,000 to remove and dispose existing escalators and installation."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to adopt by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know I asked about this when I was speaking with you all in the strategy office the other day. But do we know what the cost would be just to, certainly in Government Center, to have the escalator removed? Because -- and do we know how long it's been out of service? I know it's been as long as Commissioner Thorne and I have been here."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Good afternoon, Commissioner. The escalator in the Government Center has been out of service for roughly five years. In terms of the cost to remove it, we did not pursue that evaluation for primarily, the building aesthetics will be very difficult to match in any type of replacement that would be necessary, whether it be to create a new stairwell or to close up the walkway on the Peachtree level. And so we felt it would be more prudent to replace the functionality of the escalator."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And what is going to be the ongoing cost of maintenance once it's repaired and back up and running on an annual basis? And is it - I'm assuming the same answer is true, Mr. Davis, on the court side, the justice side."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "The courthouse escalator has been down for about three years, and we have the same issue with regards to matching the architecture of the building. However, in both cases, the escalators do provide alternative paths of travel to elevators, particularly in light of our current renovation project to bring forward-facing operations to the prior industry levels. But in terms of the overall maintenance cost, we're talking probably about a four to 5 percent increase in our annual maintenance costs to add the escalators."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And is this a -- it's time sensitive that we approve this right now?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Yes, ma'am. This particular work, much like many other things that Real Estate and Asset Management does, is highly sensitive to ever-changing market conditions. And unfortunately at this time, we had begged our vendor to hold their pricing, which they provided some time ago. But we have been

advised that they will not be able to hold the pricing much longer. And we had to ask them to please hold it until we could hopefully seek, gain approval at today's Board meeting."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, thank you. It just seems like a lot of money to spend right now, and we're talking about looking every place to tighten our belts, and we have -- have not had these, this equipment for multiple years and survived just fine without it. So I don't know, it feels sort of like not great timing to me, but."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion on the floor is to adopt. Please vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0515**, request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in the amount not to exceed \$1,929,310 to provide turnkey removal and replacement of existing HVAC mechanical Chiller Number 3."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote. Cast your vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, **25-0516**, Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in the amount not to exceed \$150,000 to provide continued pest control services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0517**, Request approval to increase the spending authority for standby fencing installation and repair in the amount not to exceed \$200,000."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0518, Request approval to increase the spending authority for Maintenance and Testing of Fire Intrusion Alarm Systems Maintenance in the total amount not to exceed \$20,000."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0519, Request approval to increase the spending authority for generator system maintenance and repair services in the amount not to exceed \$28,287."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0520, Request approval to close out a contract in an amount not to exceed \$69,032 with Chi-Ada to cover the final payment for continued janitorial services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-021 -- 05-521, Request approval to close out a contract, and the total amount not to exceed \$28,868 with American Facility Services to cover the final payment of continued janitorial services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0522, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder an amount not to exceed \$112,900 provide standby on site and preventive full-service maintenance services for uninterrupted power supply systems."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0523, Request approval of the lowest responsible bidders in an -- in a total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to provide office, modular workstation system and free standalone furniture."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0524, Request approval of statewide contracts in the total amount of 100,000 to provide tires, tube, accessories and repair services for Fulton County fleet vehicles."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, 25-0525, Request approval of statewide contract in the amount not to exceed \$505,000 to provide maintenance services for Fulton County Animal Services facility."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0526, Request approval of a statewide contract in the amount not to exceed \$266,311.16 to provide maintenance services for the county-owned facilities currently leased to the state of Georgia."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. You have a favorable motion by Commissioner, Thorne seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six -- unanimously with Commissioner Arrington."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0528**, Information Technology request approval of a statewide contract in the amount of \$3 million with AT&T Corporation to provide telecommunication services and products countywide."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0529**, Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount of \$500,000 with Comcast Corporation to provide telecommunication services and products countywide."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. This is 529?"

CLERK GRIER: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. This is 0529, correct?"

CLERK GRIER: "Correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Which one you asking -- all right, 0525 and 526, those are both approved, correct?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "No, I meant 526 and 527."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "526 and 527."

CLERK GRIER: "526, yes. Okay, we need to go back to 527."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. 527."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "What about 525 and 526?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "526 was approved, 527 -- what are you showing?"

CLERK GRIER: "We have 526, we need to do 527."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right, sound 527, please."

CLERK GRIER: "25-0527 -- okay, after the open vote on 529 for Comcast, \$500,000. We have a motion with -- and the vote is open on 529. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Now, back to 527."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0527**, Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$428,860.50 to provide maintenance services for the Fulton County South Annex Jail."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. There's a favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, **25-0530**, Request approval to amend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$110,000 to provide training for the G -- CGI 4X Cloud upgrade."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **25-0531**, Public Works as amended, request approval to authorize Public Works staff to provide the necessary notification and hold a public hearing in anticipation of a 5 percent water and sewer rate increase for each of the next two years, and for other purposes which are necessary to complete the projects included the 2025 Water Master Plan and Public Works Capital Improvement Program."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Mr. Clark."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Thank you, Commissioners and Chairman. We have a short presentation I want to run through really quickly. I want to be respectful of everybody's time. But over the last year, we have been spending quite a bit of resources from staff as well as consultant help, Terry Peters from my staff, and

Corkey Welch from a company called GMC, has been helping us do the rate study over the last year. Just to put everything in a little bit of context, the last time we did a major rate study was in 2017 and at that time, we recommended nine years of 5 percent each year, and that has been put in place every year since 2017. Every three years, we do go back and revisit to make sure that those projections still seem reasonable. We never had to change anything through the last nine years. So we don't have any planned increases or approved increases starting in 2026. Last year, we started the process of looking at our needs and came up with the rate study that I would like to present. Is the slides ready? There we go. Next slide, please. This is first, just an introductory slide that kind of talks a little bit about the reasons why we do rate studies. I think most people on the Commission understand how we try to be respectful of how we set the rates, making sure that they're equitable. We try to be extremely transparent in what we're using the money for. Water and sewer rates that are paid by our customers can only be used towards water and sewer projects. We can't use money that are raised through the water and sewer fund into the general fund projects. Likewise, we can't take general fund and put it into water and sewer, so we are truly a pay as you go, type of utility for Fulton County. Next slide, please. There's four main parts to this rate study that I'll quickly go through. And it should be noted, the Clerk read it when she sounded the item. We are not looking for approvals today for the 5 percent, all we're looking for is for you to understand what we've done over the last year and how we're planning on going to the public and hold two public hearings. One will be up north, one will be down south, provide this exact same presentation, get their feedback, and at the end of August or the first part of September, we'll come back with a formal recommendation of what the rate increase should be for the next few years. So this is the process that we've done through the last year. Next slide, please. As you can see, this is where our costs have been. We've been increasing our revenue by about 5 percent per year since 2021, which makes sense because we have been doing 5 percent increases in the rates, so therefore the revenue should be expected to also increase by 5 percent. Our actual expenses are on the right-hand side of each of those individual year graphs, and we've been averaging around four to four and a half percent per year in actual cost. So we've been doing a very good job of keeping up with the actual cost to operate water and sewer system. Next slide, please. This is where our prices have been over the last ten years. Back in 2016, it was a base charge of 690 per customer. It's now up to \$10 per customer. Next slide, please. And again, this kind of shows where we believe our expenses are going to continue over the next ten years. We believe that it's still going to continue about 4 percent per year. So this kind of helps set the tone of what we need a rate structure to look like. Next slide, please. The other elements that's important to keep in mind is making sure that we can pay our debts. We have, currently have three bonds, two that were issued in 2020 as part of the Big Creek project, and the 2013, which was a, what I would recall, is a more general operating bond that we needed back in 2013. The good news is, the 2020B Bonds will be paid off in 2035. And at that time,

we actually reduce our annual debt payments to about \$13 million per year. Right now we are paying about with pain about \$40 million per year to service those debts. Next slide, please. I think it's good to take a step back. Water and Sewer is a little bit of a unique animal in Fulton County, because not everybody in Fulton County receives the exact same service, just the way how Atlanta grew, and how Fulton County has served some of the areas that Atlanta was not going. We only provide drinking water to those customers who live north of the Chattahoochee River, with the exception of Mountain Park and the small, what I would call, the traditional -- the traditional commercial core of the city of Roswell. But everybody else receives their water from Fulton County if you live north of the Chattahoochee River. If you live south of the Chattahoochee River, most of the residents get their water from the city of Atlanta. So when you look at kind of on the side of the graph, where our revenue comes from even though we bring in about \$165 million a year, less than a third of that comes from water revenue, because we only serve a small portion of Fulton County. It's not quite the same on the sewer side. The sewer side, we provide sewer service to everybody who lives north of the Chattahoochee River, including that area of Roswell that gets the drinking water from the city of Roswell. We also provide sewer service to the cities of Sandy Springs, as well as the City of South Fulton. Those are water customers for the city of Atlanta, but sewer customers for Fulton County. The city of Atlanta does bill those customers on our behalf, and they remit their funds to us on a monthly basis. And then the remaining of the South Fulton municipal sewer -- the remaining of the South Fulton municipalities have a hodgepodge of their own system, College Park, East Point, Palmetto, Union City, for instance, all have a portion of their city that is served by a utility that those cities have. They don't have any wastewater treatment capability, so they pass that wastewater to us to treat at our Camp Creek facility. So we charge those cities a wholesale rate. So that's when you look at what our revenue looks like, those are what the four main areas are. And so it is a little confusing at times, and I thought it was good to kind of spell it in that way. Next slide, please. So as part of the rate study, we actually looked at three different scenarios. The first scenario is, if we do not do anything, do basically no more rate increases. The second scenario was 5 percent for the next couple of years. And the third scenario was six and a half percent based on, I think, not a surprise to anybody, and you certainly understand it better than most. Not having any type of rate increase is probably not a realistic option because of the needs of maintaining our infrastructure and the costs that continue to increase every year. So therefore, we really don't believe that a no-cost rate structure is really possible in order for us to continue to serve especially when we talk about the needs to implement the wastewater capacity study projects that were identified in the South Fulton capacity study from a couple years ago. But primarily one is the expansion of the Camp Creek Wastewater Treatment plants. Scenario three is at six and a half percent. Looking at that, it certainly would generate more money. But as looking at it, we don't believe we need to have that much of a cushion in the water and sewer fund that six and a half

percent would generate. So that's why we came back with a scenario two at 5 percent. And we do think 5 percent basically balances the need for the revenue that we need to generate to do our projects without creating an undue burden on our customers. Next slide, please."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Hey David, could you just for a moment to remind everyone who may not have been here previously and/or how that study was updated. But we did an extensive study with each of the cities projecting their growth, both in commercial and residential customer usage. That led to the upgrades, of course, that many of you participated in at Big Creek, Little River before that. And when he references Camp Creek, it'll be a project of equal size to Big Creek. And I think not only have those projections held true, we've seen the cities exceeding those growth projections. And when we did them almost ten years ago, there was a lot of conjecture about, would there be as much growth in South Fulton as there is? In fact, that's the case. So not only is it, I think, an issue that we're doing the same thing consistently across the county, it's driven by explicit growth forecasts that are being realized. And that's the true basis for a 5 percent rate increase, which I, you know, from looking, there's one thing I know something about is managing public utilities. I do think it's striking the right balance between keeping up with the demand, but not, you know, necessarily overbilling, if that all makes sense."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "And a good example to put it into some actual numbers, up until about 2020 Camp Creek, which is the only wastewater treatment plants in South Fulton, and not just for the City of South Fulton, but the entire region of South Fulton, would have somewhere between 16 and 18 million gallons a day of wastewater treatment coming into that plants. It's permitted to treat up to 24 million gallons a day. So we had plenty of capacity, and everything's going to be going well. Really, since COVID, coming out of COVID in '22 and '23, the amount of development that South Fulton has seen has really been very consistent with what the cities were projecting when we did the South Fulton capacity study in 2019 and 2020. So today, we're actually seeing 21 to 22 million gallons a day of wastewater treatments. So if we don't get ahead of this and actually start the construction or the design at least of the Camp Creek facility in the next year or so, we might run into an area where we might have to start looking at some sort of kind of scaled back development approvals in order to make sure that we don't exceed our treatment capacity at the plant. And that's some certainly we don't want to be in, and we certainly want to make sure we do everything we can to stay ahead of those types of demands. So that's what the 5 percent is really looking to do."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "And David, you may without getting too technical, it's also a technological advance as well at Camp Creek --"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes. We --"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- which helps with the surrounding community."

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Camp Creek today is a traditional wastewater treatment plant, very similar to what Big Creek was until we did the Big Creek project a few year ago. We have all intention to move that to a Membrane plant, just like Big Creek is, and that, we would become one of the largest municipalities in all of America that has all of our wastewater treatment plants with Membrane treatments. And Membrane right now is the most advanced form of wastewater treatment of any type of treatment that's available. We can go on to the next slide. So this is an important slide, I want to spend a few seconds on it. Everybody wants to be competitive with our neighbors. And so on the left-hand side, you see what an average residential customer is charged based on current rates for a variety of Metropolitan neighbors. Cobb County has always been, traditionally one of the cheaper utilities, primarily because they sell so much of their water at a wholesale rate to a number of wholesale customers that we just don't have the luxury from Fulton County's perspective. But we've always been, traditionally the second or the third cheapest in the area. And you can kind of see as you go further to the right, city of Atlanta, I don't think there's a surprise to anybody, is typically one of the more expensive utilities in Georgia. We also then started working with those individuals, and everybody is dealing with exact same revenue needs. And so everybody is looking at increases in their water and sewer rates. DeKalb obviously has gotten a lot of press about their 10 for 10 Program, which is 10 percent per year for the next ten years. And so what we did is we kind of looked at, what are the other increases that the other communities are looking? And how does Fulton County, if we do the 5 percent, how do we look in that? And we stayed, I think, very competitive. We slightly get ahead of Gwinnett County, but Gwinnett County right now is also in the mist of looking at a rate study, so it's possible that they would -- might be ahead of us at the end of the 2028 year. Next slide, please. And so as we talked about, we're looking at a 5 percent rate for the next two years, is what the recommendation we're going to take to the general public over the next month on. It does allow us to keep up with our annual costs, which are increasing by about 4 percent per year. It allows us to do about \$40 million of capital projects each year, paid for with cash, and those are the infrastructure projects that we need to do to make sure that our infrastructure does not degrade or stop serving the public that it needs to do. And it also then sets up the stage for us to take out another bond in probably '27 and '29 into smaller bonds that would be used together to fund the Camp Creek Extension at the end of this decade. Last slide, please. And so like I said, we're not looking for any official recommendation today. I wanted to make sure that the Commissioners got a chance to see this presentation before we go out to the general public. We'll be doing two public hearings, as I talked about, one up north, one down south, later this month, and early August. We'll come back, after those meetings, to the Board and actually

present our recommendation, which probably will be 5 percent. But obviously, we're going to listen to what the general public has to say during the public hearing. So with that, I would entertain any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Are there questions? Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much for that presentation and also for taking the time to speak with me earlier. I just wanted to make sure that I understood the analysis. And you were saying that in order to get ahead of things before you're in a crisis or a demand that could happen with water and sewer rates, you're for the past nine years, it has been a 5 percent increase each year, and that that will end in 2026, so we need to do this in order to move forward after that; is that -- was that right?"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "It actually ends at the end of this year, 2025, so --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And for --"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "-- we need it started --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "We need it for 2026?"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And you said that when you did the analysis that no cost -- a no-cost rate structure, meaning not raising the rates, is not possible if you plan to continue to provide services, keep infrastructure strong and meet financial obligations?"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "I think that's a fair --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "That's a fair assessment of why there needs to be a rate hike, right?"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And then our County Manager said that in order to keep up with demand, but not overbill, we need to do this 5 percent, and we've been doing that consistently. I think that's what you said, right?"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. I just wanted to make sure that we understood that the reason for these rate hikes were in order to raise the rate on water and sewer, that it was because we need to continue providing services to make sure our infrastructure is strong and to meet our financial obligations, not unlike any other reasons why we would need a rate hike. So thank you for that information."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. How will these public meetings be advertised, or you know, what methods will you use to inform the public about this --"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "Certainly. We'll work through Jessica Corbitt in External Affairs to make those readily available."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I would recommend that you also contact and work with the Commissioners, who are, you know -- because we can help get the word out about those as well. So if there's a flyer or something, so --"

DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS: "I think that's a great idea, I'll work with your Chiefs of Staff."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Other comments or questions, if not, the motion on the floor by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman is to adopt, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0532**, Request approval to extend an existing contract for operation and maintenance of Fulton County flow monitoring equipment in the amount of \$566,873."

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

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open. 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. We're going to need to hold this one until we get a report from the Director of the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resources Commission. Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0534**, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities request approval of a memorandum of understanding between Fulton County and Way Shape

Form, Incorporated to conduct the TextForHelp Program in the amount not to exceed \$23,500."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 13, **25-0535**, Request approval to renew an existing contract with Grady in an amount not to exceed \$12,620,456.89 to expand services to provide full-service operations and management of the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We have a motion to adopt by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Come on up. We need to explain, just briefly. There should be some questions, but in case there aren't, so."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, FCBHDD: "Thank you. Good afternoon, LaTrina Foster, Director of the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. This request in front of you is to increase this -- the contract with Grady that we currently hold from 9.4 million to 12 million in order for them to staff at full capacity. Currently, we are operating a Behavioral Health Crisis Center with 12 beds open and six chairs, as well as the Crisis Service Center, which is the Peer Led Living Room. With this approval with -- for the \$3 million increase, it will give Grady the green light to move forward to staff 24 beds, 16 chairs, and continue to operate the Crisis Service Center, which is placing the Behavioral Health Crisis Center at full capacity, which is what it was designed to do, is to operate 24 beds and 16 chairs."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Everybody clear on why? Okay. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much, Chairman. So I just want to make sure that people understand it's not an additional 12 million. It's the differential between the nine and the 12, and 3 million is coming from your budget."

LATRINA FOSTER, DIRECTOR, FCBHDD: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is to adopt by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Action Items, **25-0536**, Request approval of a resolution to improve the safety of the Fulton County Jail by expediting the transfer of funds from the Detention Services Overtime Fund and the Detention Services Staffing Incentive Fund to the budget of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office to aid in the recruitment and retention of Detention Officers, to Remove extraneous reporting requirements that have delayed the use of urgently needed funding and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Barrett."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make this relatively brief. Back on May 7th, the Board 6.4 million to address staffing issues at the Fulton County Jail by providing much needed funds for overtime and incentives for hiring and retention. I am grateful to Vice Chair Ellis for bringing that legislation, and I was gratified to see the Board get behind it. But it has been over two months now, and none of those funds have been made available to the Sheriff's office. And we as a Board should not be okay with this. Our jail, as everybody knows, is in crisis, and we need to be doing everything we can to help. You know, the consent decree specifically points out staffing shortages, and this is a way to least start to address that. So this resolution just removes the red tape that has prevented that approved funding from being used for its intended purposes. As a reminder, the resolution we approved states that, and this is a quote, in order to begin utilizing this funding, each quarter, the Sheriff must provide the BOC with a complete roster of the Sheriff's office employees that includes specific job titles and an attestation as to whether each employee's full-time role is the provision of detention services in Fulton County Jail facilities, unquote. The need for a complete roster sort of became extraneous after the changes that were made at the last meeting - or sorry, at the meeting on May 7th, in which we agreed to sort of change the wording so that the meeting -- I'm sorry, so that any employee providing detention services in the jail, regardless of their full-time assignment, would be eligible -- eligible for that overtime that sort of rendered that report extraneous. And sort of that complete roster is not really necessary to evaluate the use or effectiveness of the overtime fund, or of the hiring and initiative fund, \$1 million fund. Because we can simply get a summary report of, or a roster, really, from HR. So that would work just as well. So in any case, the primary goal of this legislation is just to remove the reporting requirements to ask instead for some other reports to be provided, both from county management via HR, and as well as to request that the Sheriff provide us with copies of all of the reports that he is mandated to provide under the consent decree, which, many of which are related to staffing, and move those funds so that they can start to be used. So it's really, it's really pretty simple. We should be proud of the fact that we put this 6.4 million up. Now, let's get that money to work."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it? All right. Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the total amount of this was 6.4 million; is that correct? Yeah. I never knew that \$6.4 million of taxpayer money could be viewed as extraneous. Extraneous. So let's say, you know, somebody approached me and they said, well, you know, I want you to invest \$6.4 million in my organization. And I said, hey, you know, I need a little bit more detail. I need to see pro forma financials. I need to understand what you're going to do with it. I need to understand how you're going to get results. Those are reasonable questions to ask. And I probably wouldn't commit my money to that if I didn't have that information, or else I'd be a fool. And we know what happens with a fool of his money. So have we received a specific plan in terms of how we would go about and do -- we know we have provided funding over time, this Board, on different occasions for specific recruiting efforts and that sort of stuff, right? And what we know is that we've made really no progress despite significant more funding in the number of Detention Officers we have at our facilities. I'm not looking to relive this whole discussion. That's a fact. If we received a specific plan -- and this is new money, this is not money in the Sheriff's budget. So this is not we're controlling something that's in his budget. This would be to make a investment on top of that. But it required a plan of action to see that we were going to get some results before we committed the taxpayer funds. Have we received a specific plan in terms of how about we're going to go about recruiting and retention and get a different level of results? I don't believe we have, have we?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "No, sir, there's not a final plan."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So that's pretty far from extraneous. And there were other parts to the resolution, which and were some encouraging portions of the resolution not mandating that the Sheriff concentrate and reprioritize some of his staff, which were doing things in areas of concurrent jurisdiction, and reallocate those to the jail and the detention work. Thus the ask of, who do we have, and how many people do we presently have fully dedicated to doing detention work? This is sort of a basic, fundamental question, which we should have received an answer to a long time ago. If I went to my boss and said, hey, I need X more funding to do this. And he said what are you doing with all the people you got working for you right now? And I say, well, I just do with them what I want to do with them. I'm not going to provide you with any detail associated with that. So that's -- we're not his boss, but the taxpayers are. Taxpayers are all of our bosses. You know, so this isn't extraneous information. These are pretty simple things. And if they were a priority, it seems like the person in charge of this operation would have gotten on the stick and got it to us a long time ago. We're not the obstacle in terms of being able to get this funding in process and working. These are simple straightforward asks. And I'm going to actually offer up a substitute motion to file this."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Substitute motion is to file. Is there a second? All right. Properly moved and second. Now, any discussion on the substitute motion to file? Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "What I will say is that we're in a constitutional crisis, not only on the federal level, but in the county level. What I would say to this substitute motion is that, Commissioner Ellis, I understand your request for the information. I also understand that the Sheriff takes a position that as a constitutional officer, he does not have to provide that information. What I would say to you is that it is an oxymoron for us to think that he can operate and run the jail without being able to pay the people that have to actually work it. And I wonder if you would consider maybe authorizing 2 million of the six, so that they can have money for operations and maybe we could continue to work out the constitutional issues later. But they need money to pay people to run the jail. My understanding is that people have multiple duties. Some people have to do shifts at the jail, they have to do a shift serving process. They, the officers are not specifically assigned in one place. So I don't know if it's possible to say, hey, who's assigned here or who's assigned there, because they have multiple duties. But I don't think the staff should be caught in the middle of the constitutional or become, you know, subject to the constitutional crisis between the Commission and the Sheriff, right? The staff should be able to get the money for overtime. I understand your point. I understand where you are. I understand where the Sheriff is. But we ought to be able to allocate some of this money so that overtime can be paid to staff. And I wonder if you're okay with that, 2 million of the 6 million? You can hold the other 4 million."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Am I permitted to respond?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, I mean, he's asking you, but I mean, your seconder would have to -- have to agree first of all that, and I don't think that's going to happen. But, yeah, go ahead and respond."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I don't want to interrupt the flow."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "First of all, I just want to say that, to be clear, I did not say that the \$6.4 million was extraneous. I said the report was extraneous. Now, I don't think us asking for oversight or reporting is extraneous. I don't think that us looking at the roster to see if money is being well spent in the sense that we are getting more people into full-time positions in the jail, is extraneous. The specific requirement to produce a particular report in order to access these funds is unnecessary, because we can get that reporting directly from HR. We don't need the Sheriff to provide it. And so, you know, if he feels like he shouldn't provide it for some reason, and we feel like he does, there's -- it's sort of a pointless argument, because at

the end of the day, we can get the data without him providing it, and -- and be able to make those decisions about whether the money is being used effectively. But we sort of have a choice here of, you know, acting combatively or acting collaboratively to solve our problem. And the problem is all of our problem that the jail is understaffed. And you know, we have a constitutional responsibility to provide a reasonable budget to the Sheriff. We did not provide enough money for overtime. That is why you, yourself, Vice Chair Ellis brought this resolution to provide additional money for overtime. We were all in agreement that that should happen, and we passed that measure. So was that -- if we were serious about that desire to provide overtime for the hardworking sworn officers who are doing very, very difficult work, then we would move forward with -- if you want to make changes or friendly amendments to what I'm asking or whatever, in how the money is meted out, that's fine. But to whole cloth, file this is irresponsible."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else? Commissioner Barrett -- strike that, Commissioner Thorne. The motion on the floor is to file."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. I'm just a little bit confused here, like, why is it so hard for the Sheriff to comply with the plan? And if I was investing in a company 6.4 million, someone came to ask me, why is Commissioner Barrett presenting it and not Sheriff's office presenting, so that he would be here to answer the details as to why he cannot provide the plan, he cannot comply with submitting a roster. So for me, it's very, very hard to release this money. We've -- we've given him money for overtime in the past, he's proven not to spend money appropriately or what we gave him the money for. He doesn't want to participate in our purchasing requirements that we've had because of misspending. So I'm just really confused, what the holdup is. If his staff is stuck in a crisis, it seems like he'd be down here begging us to help his staff or someone from his office would be here. That's what I'm just confused about."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory. Again, the motion on the floor, properly made and seconded, is to file."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that clarification. I want to first say that our jail that has been found to be a humane crisis right now and an unconstitutional violation, which is why we're under a consent decree, is not a corporation. And so we should be careful to compare it to a corporation. With that, I wanted to ask the County Manager, of that 6.4 million, is it true that we were going to give that out over quarters, that that was over quarters, right?"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And so the reporting requirement was for each quarter to report at each quarter interval? Or is it just one require -- reporting requirement?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Quarterly."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And if -- do you agree that that is a report that can easily be run by our HR department?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "I won't say easily, because I do think there's some interpretation. We can just -- we can determine where people are assigned today, where they reported to and worked during the course of the quarter, is really the insight that he would provide."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So the element of -- of that, of the information that we agreed to, or four members of the Board agreed to in a resolution to make that quarterly payment, is information that can come only from the Sheriff, the Sheriff's department, because they know how those employees were assigned throughout. Is there anything in our power to assist in that, in that gathering of information?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Let me defer to the CFO. I'm not -- I'm not sure there is, but you may know better than I."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I -- yeah, I was going to ask if Mr. Hermon wanted to come. I do think Mr. Hermon has been trying to provide some underlying reports to them."

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: "Good afternoon, Commissioners. I think Commissioner Ivory, your question is whether or not HR could assist the Sheriff, and the answer is yes. You know, we were working towards -- we were in phase two of a cleanup process where we first had the -- the sworn offices separated from the non -- the civilian staff so we can clearly identify who is entitled to what we considered jail pay. And then phase two was to then also allocate the officers to the respective units within the jail operation. Right now, everyone is just categorized underneath the jail. Well, they, according to the Sheriff's office, they have like six different jail operations, one at Grady, one jail in the court, the woman's facility, and those different areas. So once the Sheriff is willing to provide that information, we could truly clean up and then be able to report by work location where those individuals are. And then we're also working with our vendor, our Kronos vendor, our time clock vendor, to also be able to -- able to report on where the overtime was earned, when it was earned, and what time clock it was earned at, which is a very unique report, different than what we typically have available to us in the standard reporting system."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Have you been contacted by the Sheriff's office to help assist with that report?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: "Well, they can't assist us with that report. We get that report directly out of --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay, I mean to help -- you said that HR can help with putting the whole entirety of the report together. Have you been contacted to get -- to help with putting that report together so that the Sheriff's office can get their money?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: "We have reached out to the Sheriff's office, but the attestation has been the holdup."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So I'm going to just say that I agree with Commissioner Arrington that if we are -- it the Sheriff's office is over here with not feeling like they should do that report, we are over here with not giving the money, then we need to be in the middle. They need to come work to get the report done. We need to assist in any way that we can to get the report done so that it's not the employees who are not getting their money when -- or able to do what they need to continue to do in this crisis, human -- humanitarian situation that we find ourselves in. So I'm going to ask both ends the whatever the ends are, to come together, and if Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Ivory, or any other Commissioner here wants to assist in making sure that happened, I believe that we can easily get this report together and the money can be released, is that what you would need, County Manager?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, ma'am. I think it's the attestation based on our last meeting with the Sheriff, that he objects to. So even if the report can be produced, he does not want to attest to its accuracy."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Vice Chair Ellis. Again, motion is to file."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "The -- in terms of, can we get this information? The -- you know, easily, from HR, the answer is no. I have tried to get this information for the better part of a little over two and half years now, I believe. And in fact, we were receiving sort of a description of people's roles and that sort of stuff in units, one way that was actually a little bit more specific for a period of time. And then the Sheriff changed that to make it more nebulous in terms of the reporting data that the HR team had supplied to me. So I can't make heads or tails out of the information that's shared to try to determine who we actually have of -- how many, roughly, how many people we have working in the Sheriff's Department?"

KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM: "822 active employees, current."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Of the 822 people, which of these are actually doing full-time detention work? Because we know -- and look, I've stated this, I don't know, going back like four years ago, I said the most important thing we can do is get more Detention Officers and people working in our detention facilities. I've heard, oh, people don't want to work at the Sheriff -- don't want to work in the jail, but I can hire them into

other areas. Well, there are people that don't want to be math teachers, and if a school said I could just go hire a bunch of PE teachers and not math teachers, what's that going to do the education of our kids? It's the same kind of principle. So, you know, it requires that we sort of lean into this. And if we can't get clear information about who we actually have in here to be able to track to see, are we actually getting on a pathway that is sufficient staffing. We have no transparency into this. So that's why the ask is, none of this is extraneous, overreach, or anything of that nature. I mean, I, you know, I don't know what -- I mean, there's nothing that -- nobody is going to, you know, get removed from office because they signed something that they sent to us or something like that. This is just basic reporting that would be expected in whether it's a corporation or any organization or any household for that matter. So, you know, I hopefully -- it should be easily to be able to supply, and we can stop having this conversation and get on with releasing the funds, you know, at some point in time when they provide the information."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard again?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'm saying the report is extraneous -- and Madam County Attorney if you would please help me out with this, I would appreciate it. When the original resolution was presented on May 7th, it was to create an overtime fund that was only to be used for individuals who are full time assigned to work in the Fulton County Jail. But through a variety of friendly amendments that were made at the meeting, that language was changed and the final language removed that requirement; is that correct?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I'm reading through it now. My recollection is that the final language said that the overtime that was worked at the jail is what is eligible for this additional funding."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Regardless of where a full-time assignment is, correct?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I mean, it didn't elaborate, but that -- that you could say that is implied."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, the original language said -- I have it. The original language said full-time assignment. The changed language said anybody who works overtime in the jail regardless of full-time assignment. So the reason I keep saying the report is extraneous is if we're trying to decide whether the right people got overtime or not, all we need to know is if they worked overtime hours in the jail. We don't need an attestation of where their full-time assignment is. If we want to know that, in general for other reasons, because we want to see more people full time assigned at the jail, that's great. We can -- I'm all for us knowing that, but let's not make this a barrier to the people getting paid. And if the problem is, and it seems to be, that the Sheriff does not

want to do an attestation, he's willing to do the report to give us the data we need to oversee it. For whatever reason, I don't know, he feels like that attestation is a legal barrier for him. I have spoken --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "If that is the only objection, the attestation is not a term of art or specific thing like taking an oath with violation of penalty of perjury. In fact, as an administrative matter, I don't even know that the expectation was for the Sheriff to sign it himself when the department send over, for example, a request for a check to be cut, someone has to sign off that this is accurate and send it over. So I believe that the attestation is not necessarily as specific as what that concern would indicate."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And I appreciate that. I think he is getting different legal advice. And so --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Not from me."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I understand that, but he has an attorney well, and that's my -- again, I have not had a long, detailed conversation with him about this, but my understanding is, he's getting different legal advice."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Do they have a -- do they have an objection to someone in his office who functions in an administrative role as --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Hold it, hold it --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I don't know."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Hold, just a minute. Just a minute. Now, we're going -- it's not a court of law, just answer the question. We're going to vote this up or down in a minute."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I don't know the answer to that. But again, my argument here would be, if that's the -- the whole issue is about whether or not there should be an attestation. Do we really need the attestation to be able to review what is happening in that, in the department? I don't believe so. So why are we allowing this, you know, war over a signature or not a signature get in the way of sworn officers working in a very dangerous and awful place from getting paid overtime? All I want to do is get the red tape out of the way. And even if we -- whether we think the Sheriff is ridiculous for not providing it, or we think he's well-founded in not providing it, it doesn't matter. Let's get the money where it belongs. This is crazy."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else? All right. Commissioner Ivory and Commissioner Thorne, and let's vote."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "County Attorney -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. County attorney, can anyone in the Sheriff's office that he assigns to put this report together do the attestation?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So when I read this language, I do not see it as limited to the Sheriff himself signing it. I would imagine, in the due normal course of business, someone in his office would sign off on it when they submit it to the county."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I just want to reiterate that I do want to get the money where it belongs. I want to get it in the hands of the people working in the detention, full time as Detention Officers, not just doing eight hours to qualify to get the money or just overtime in the jail. So I do believe we need to look at the records, the reporting. And if that attestation is the barrier, we're not the barrier. Let's make that clear. The Sheriff is being the barrier right now. It's not us, he's not complying. We are not the barrier, he's the barrier."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. The -- Colleagues, it's 4:22, we have a public hearing at 6:00 o'clock, and we have another major item to take up. The motion on the floor is to file. Now, that does not appear on the screen, right, because it's --"

CLERK GRIER: "That is correct --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

CLERK GRIER: "-- the motion is to approve the file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah. We're clear? All right, let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open on to approve the file. And the motion passes; five yeas, two nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0537**, Request approval of resolution of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to decline participation in new projects in the Westside Tax Allocation District; to direct the Tax Commissioner to cease the remittance of the county's tax increments to the Atlanta Development Authority related to the Westside Tax Allocation District; and for other purposes sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Vice Chair, you have the floor, followed by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. And if there are questions, I had asked the Mayor to have some of his people here to respond to any specific questions that might come up today."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "The last item is still up."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Thank you, Commissioner Arrington. All right, Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Before I get into the specifics of this, I wanted to sort of set up the context a little bit, which I think is, it's relevant. You know, there are a lot of public comment earlier and people want to focus on the specific project or an anecdote, that sort of stuff, but I think context is important. And you know, ultimately, we've got a fiduciary responsibility to provide a host of county services that are critical and important. And there are a variety of items that come before us to consider and are worthy, and so forth. But our principal responsibility are those things that county government is entrusted to do. So with that context, one of the things that's important, I think it's very important for us to think about is our financial wherewithal and our financial positioning to be able to do those things. You know, we're in the context of the millage rate discussion right now. And we have certainly heard from a number of citizens today about their inability or desire or even stronger language to entertain any form of a millage rate increase. So let's go back to 2014, and I want to just think about how we fund our government. We typically in most local governments, they're typically funding it through two principal sources, sales taxes and property taxes. There can be some fees and some other stuff which can be relevant, but those are the two principal things, and property taxes tends to be sort of the overweighting portion of that. But we had -- heard a lot of people say today, hey, you've got the highest sales tax rates in the county -- I mean, in the state. You've got significant property taxes. Why can't you fund your operations? Why are you coming and asking for us for more? Okay, well, just look at the period of time going from 2014 to 2024. I could go back to 2005 and give you a number which will be even more stark in nature. But the amount of money, proceeds we received in sales taxes in 20 -- 2005 actually was 72 and a half million. But let's just talk about 2014 and 2024. 2014, it was 34 and a half million dollars. In 2024, it was 22.1. If you're doing the math, that's \$12.4 million less, okay, and a 35 percent decrease over that period of time. Now, many of our cities probably positioned the same way. But city of Atlanta, I'm talking -- not talking about a decrease, but many of our cities are positioned similar to the way that city of Atlanta's position related to sales tax exchange. In 2014, it was \$99.7 million. In 2024, \$151.6 million, up 52 percent, we're down 35 percent. Up 52 million, down 12.4. The delta net \$64.3 million. As an offset or to fund is a percentage of funding our budgets in 2024, is two

and a half percent is what we're offsetting, you know, our funding our budget with from sales tax proceeds. City of Atlanta, and I would say many of our other cities are positioned this way too, 18-4 percent. Fairly significant difference, both in terms of percentages as well as dollars. Many of our citizens will say, God, man, you guys, you know you need to get your spending under control; this, that, and the other. Has our spending grown? Yes, over that period of time, it's grown from 624 million, 4.7 million to 879.1 million, a growth 40-point -- 40.7 percent, \$254 million. City of Atlanta, for comparison purposes, grown 64 percent or 24 percent, yeah, a little bit less than 24 percent more than ours has. So our comparative general fund budgets, there were 624.7 for Fulton County at that point in time to 498.5 million for city of Atlanta, 2014; 879.1, this was the revenue budget, revenue actuals in 2024, to 822.5 in 2024 for the city of Atlanta. So we're getting pretty close to comparable, you know, in terms of that period of time. And a lot of people, you know, when they pay their taxes, they pay no attention to where they go. Their city taxes, their county taxes, they -- or school taxes. They get a tax bill, right? And that's kind of what's resonating with them, is the collective piece of that. So when they pay their taxes, the Fulton County -- the Fulton County government portion, even if they looked at it, would they know that that write -- that check I'm writing, is not actually going to pay for Fulton County related services? Instead, maybe it's going or something else, maybe it's being diverted to use within the context of a Tax Allocation District. Now, let's talk about sort of the change in -- for 2014 to 2024 and the positioning as related to TADs. So remember, our revenue change over this period of time is 40.7 percent, okay? Keep that number in mind. In 2014, the amount of general fund revenues that were being diverted from Fulton County for use in TADs were \$18.865 million. At year end '24, 2024, it was 60 -- \$56.75 million, and I believe it's estimated -- your current in the budget right now, we've got 63.7 million allocated; is that correct, Mr. CFO -- Madam CFO? Well, let's just -- you can get back to that, but let's --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- just go --"

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Let's just go with the 56. So our revenue changed 40.7 percent over that period of time. That tax allocation portion is up, just for 2014 to 2024, 297 percent. So there's a significant portion of funding that's being not floating into Fulton County government for purposes of providing general fund services. There's a significant differential in sales tax proceeds which are not floating into Fulton County government for purposes of providing general fund services. So where does that burden rest on a disproportionate level to fund the services differently than it did in 2014, more significantly onto property taxpayers, okay? We have a lot of things facing us today in terms of challenges and so forth. We fight over funding things, debate over

stuff, because we have generally some limited financial flexibility in the source of where those funds are going to come from. We've talked about trying to do something with sales taxes, not an opportunity. We talked about the legislature, talked about it through the LOST proceeds negotiations; nonstarter with our cities and with our legislators. So we have to consider all sources of funding for how we're going to meet fiduciary needs we have and not overburden our taxpayers, who pretty much, I think, told us loud and clear, they have no appetite for tax increases. So -- and that brings us to the Westside TAD Resolution that's here before you today. A TAD was established in 1998, and extended by a resolution of Fulton County, prior to, I don't know, were you on this Board at that time, Mr. Chair? So prior to anybody's tenure on here, except for the Chairman. With that extension in 2008, it had a provision in it that said, projects will finance after 12/31/18 or subject to county approval, okay? So you'll all remember we had a series of projects which came before us back in the spring for approval, which we took up and we debated. And sort of in the context of conversation we had on April 16th, 2025, when there was a vote to approve the projects, there was discussion about the financial position of the Westside TAD. The CFO at that point, or the CFO -- I'm sorry if I mispronounce, is it Mr. Nino Chiappetta? Am I mispronouncing his name? Yes? Okay, all right, indicated at that time that there was \$41 million in cash that was uncommitted within the confines of the Westside TAD. The year-end '24 financial statements of the Westside TAD also reveal that there are \$59.6 million in debt obligations. So in that discussion we had in terms of reading of the financial statements, et cetera, there is excess cash there to be able to pay off the obligations within the confines of the Westside TAD. So reflecting upon that, reflecting upon that we have been a more than substantive participant in TADs, and probably collectively, over time, may have funded more into these than the city of Atlanta, because if you remember, I also told you what our budget was here, right, back in 2014 and the differential. So our allocation was probably even higher than the city of Atlanta's up until recent years. So this resolution, it does not remove us from any obligations that are already existing. All this is doing is this will go on the record and state that we are not going to participate in new projects and further obligate our increment into new projects. Based upon the way that that resolution was written, we're taking the proactive action of saying, we're not going to participate in future projects. And therefore, to the extent that those funds are not needed as a result of any other obligations we have and our increment would revert back to us and avoid us from having to take the action of either undue tax increases on folks or take other undue actions, which, you know, we don't want to do either. We don't want to cut seniors' transportation. We don't want to close libraries. We don't want to reduce library hours. We don't want to end Adult Day Care services. We don't want to have to close down this Crisis Center we just did. We don't want to have to cut funding to that. We don't want to have to end our participation in the Diversion Center. We don't want to have to end Arts funding. We don't want to have to cut off, reduce the CF -- CSP funding that we provide to what, 258 nonprofits, is something that range, Dr.

Roshell? We don't want to close our Training Centers for Developmental Disabilities. We don't want end our Fulton Fresh Program. But we also want to do other things too. We want to continue our relationship with Grady Hospital, and expand upon that and find a way to create and build a hospital in South Fulton. We obviously had a predecessor discussion related to some were issues related to -- to justice in the jail, and we know the capital needs that we have there. And we've got to look at all means to provide us with the financial means to be able to do that, and this is one of those tools which I think we need to act upon, and that's why it's here before you today. And that's why I brought it forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. Now, I'm being a little lenient here with the time that each Commissioner has, because this is an important issue, well, somewhat important. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, followed by Commissioner Barrett, followed by Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "So Chairman, with all due respect, I know you want to be timekeeper, but this is a serious, serious decision that I have not taken --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm being a lenient --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- lightly. I know. I heard exactly what you said. But I just want to say, now, I apologize if I go over the time, because there's a chance that I may do that. To those that are here, to my colleagues and to the listening public, the Fulton County taxpaying citizens, I am sure I do not sit alone in receiving countless calls of objection to the millage rate ceiling increase voted on in our last Board of Commissioners meeting. Given the current economic environment, the citizens of Fulton County are saying it's too much. Let me explain to you, the 9.87 is a ceiling up to. Let me make sure I educate you on that. But also, let me say that I was the one, and I stand on that today that as I stated on it -- stood on it with my colleagues that, as for a very small millage rate increase, I started that conversation. I have no regrets for starting that conversation because we going to have to look at cutting services. We're going to have to look and make some tough, tough decisions that I've been talking about for quite a while. So this is the equivalent of where the rubber meets the road. I agree with the public. This is why I wanted to say clearly and without reservation, as far as I'm concerned, there will not be a one mil property tax increase from me. If the Board of Commissioners put people before the politics, there doesn't have to be a tax increase at all. My vote was a strategic vote to keep the ball rolling. In the role as an elected legislator, you have to sometimes stand up and make a decision come what may. It may not be a popular decision, it may not be a popular subject, but the conversation has to be had. So those of you that asked, why did I vote to approve the higher tax ceiling? The simple answer is a strategic move in making sure that the conversation stayed in place, because we as legislators sitting here, have decisions we have to make, and they're not always going to be popular decisions, but the decisions

have to be made for the good of the Fulton County taxpaying citizen. There is no way that this county will need \$78 million increase. I'm the first to say that. We don't have budget enhancements, we don't have even enough -- now, I imagine that the County Manager will do his due diligence and say, well, if you give me \$78 million, I'm going to find somewhere to spend it. But that's not your decision for us to have the \$78 million, that lies with us. I can't, in good conscience, support that, but keep in mind, that was the ceiling, mine was 8.90. This was a procedural step to keep the ball rolling, because as we continue to have the conversations about services, we're not having the conversations about the millage rate. We're not having the conversations of saying we're going to need one or two things, we're going to need to put it on the backs of the Fulton County taxpaying citizens or we're going to have to find the money somewhere else. I remain diligent in my negotiations to try to figure out where we can find this money. My purpose behind co-authoring a resolution to infuse \$10 million into the budget, this will address any potential shortfalls and protect critical services, especially for our seniors who cannot bear the dual threat of a tax increase and cuts to the services that we rely on. Case in point, we heard from the citizens today, and we heard from those that, respectfully do not want this to happen. But I will venture to you and paint a picture to you. We had a citizen of my district say that there is a senior in the -- in that district and that district where the Westside TAD is, defecating in a bag, in a district with a TAD. Now, if that don't paint a big enough picture to you, we have a senior citizen that can't afford plumbing, and would further give to those that are in my voice, I have been out to the properties. I have been out to the properties where people floors are falling in. I have been out to the properties where people have had to be removed from their property, and we had to find and pass the hat to make sure that person had decent housing. The funds for this that I have put forth with the Vice Chair will be repurposed from the Westside TAD. I have made before today, my concerns about this TAD public for some time. With more than 300 million invested over 30 years, some of us were failing to see tangible benefits for the community. Recently, I had a -- not elected official, but official with the city of Atlanta that I spoke to about the lack of affordable housing. And let me speak about that word affordable housing. Affordable housing has become a buzzword politically. I'm talking about housing that is affordable. Because affordable housing, \$1,700 for the one bedroom will be affordable for a software engineer in my district. It's out of reach for that person that's on disability. So let's paint this the right way when we say housing that's affordable versus affordable housing. But nevertheless, this person said to me, this is a hundred-year project. This is unacceptable for legacy residents who cannot wait another 67 years while developers see their pockets filled, but people who need jobs, and I mean real jobs with real skills to be able to pay housing that is affordable. If we do not take the position of holding accountability to make sure those individuals have the skills while we allow other individuals that can come into the district and can afford to pay for affordable housing. Remember that term that I brought to you. I'm looking for housing that is affordable.

We have a major issue in my district with homelessness. We heard from the young lady today, homelessness, five children; homelessness, living in parks in my district; homelessness at the bus stop; homelessness, laying on somebody else couch; homelessness, a mother and her family is living in a car. How do I know? Because I'm out there, and her kids. If I can't do anything other than pay for night's stay, safe night's stay in hotel, I'll do it. But as a legislator, I have to look at surplus funds. That's the conversation that nobody wants to have. Nobody is trying to get rid of TADs. I'm not trying to get rid of the TADs. But here in this economic climate where we're looking at decreasing services, where we're looking at our justice partners, I've already made the argument, Diversion Center, we're going to have to put some individuals in place. Our justice partners are going to have to need more funding. We're not going to tell our seniors we're not going to provide transportation for them. We're not going to tell our individuals with the Arts and Culture, we've already slashed you in half, good luck. I am a big supporter of Arts and Culture, but where is the money going to come? Is it going to come from the backs of the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County? Or is it going to come from us repurposing the \$10 million investment? Key concerns from this community, based on what I see and know, rather than stabilizing the community, residents have told me that large-scale projects funded or incentivized by the TAD, including Mercedes-Benz stadium and adjacent developments, have drastically inflated property values and taxes, that's a reality. This has put immense pressure on legacy homeowners and renters, many are -- who are elderly and on fixed incomes. Community leaders point to a surge in investor-owned properties and a loss of housing that's affordable, remember that buzzword, again, not affordable housing, that far outpaces the creation of new subsidized units. Let's speak -- and please indulge me, I'm asking my colleagues, because this is something I'm fighting for. It's not going to be popular. People going to be upset with me, but I wasn't sent here to be popular or to make everybody happy. Limited local job opportunities, a significant point of contention is the promise of employment. Employment was promised. While new businesses and construction projects have created jobs within the TAD boundaries, residents claim these opportunities are often not filled by the local workforce. Many of the jobs created are either in service industries with low wages and are often time professional roles for which long-term residents may not have the required training or skill level, leaving the community to deal with the disruptions of development without reaping the economic rewards. I get it. Mega churches, I get it. Special interest groups, I get it. I understand that you all do not want us to repurpose this, but we have to work for the greater good, for the individuals that need the services, for the individuals that cannot bear, and we clearly know they cannot bear, a millage rate increase and that word again, surplus funding. Unaddressed homelessness, the issues of displacement and lack of economic opportunity in my district are directly linked to the area's ongoing struggle with homelessness. While the TAD's revitalization efforts aim to improve the quality of life, critics in my district argue that by displacing vulnerable residents without providing

adequate support systems in place or deeply provide revenues of housing that's affordable, the problem is exacerbated, rather than solved. The visible presence of unhoused individuals in the very neighborhoods undergoing massive redevelopment highlights a fundamental disconnect in the revitalization strategy. You can't continue to have homelessness surge in my district while saying we're doing development, we're doing development, we're doing development. I will never, ever support that. Official bodies like Invest Atlanta and its nonprofit partner, the Westside Future Fund, have pointed to programs designed to mitigate these issues, such as down payment assistance, property tax relief for legacy residents, and the construction of new affordable housing. However, community feedback suggests to me that these efforts are insufficient to counteract the powerful market forces unleashed by the new development. Many residents find the program difficult to access or feel they are simply a drop in the bucket compared to the scale of the need. The sentiment on the ground is clear for many who call the Westside home, the TAD is seen less as a tool for community uplift and more as an engine of redevelopment that threatens to erase the very culture and people it was meant to serve. Once again, as I close, I am not targeting the TADs. But the reality here is Westside TAD has a verifiable surplus that can be better used to serve the public now. Our focus is singular, our reasoning is sound. This is precision, not provocation. By repurposing the funds that are already paid in taxes, we can opt out of an underperforming investment, protect vital services, and prevent a tax increase. Simply put, I must be the voice for those who don't attend the mega church. I must be the voice for the senior citizen, the homeless, the individuals who are legacy that are being overlooked. I must be the voice for the taxpaying citizens that say to me, no millage rate increase, but no services decrease. And so I say to you today, this is a workable solution to repurpose the funding to make sure that we do not -- we do not have to cut services here, but more importantly, to make sure that Fulton County is the stewards of Fulton County taxpaying money. Thank you, Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because my colleagues made this a conversation about more than just the Westside TAD, I will -- I want to make a comment about the millage rate also. I agree with what you said, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, about the reason we set a ceiling in the millage rate when we set that was to give ourselves some room, because we did not have all the numbers, and we still do not have all the numbers for this year's expenses as related to the consent decree on our jail. So I also agree with you, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, that there -- a one-mil increase is not, I think, where we will land, where we need to land, I think significantly lower, if at all, based on the numbers we get from the county management is where we will end up. So I want to just sort of second everything you

said on that front. It -- we needed that, that leeway, because we really just don't know the numbers right now. So I understand that people are upset by that one-mil increase, but that's very likely not where we will land. I do want to also point out that, you know, both Vice Chair Ellis and Commissioner Abdur-Rahman pointed out a variety of services that they would like to see remain, and that they do not want to see funding cut for. And you know, I agree with all of that. But at the same time, we have historically since 2016, lowered our millage rate. It was 10.45 in 2016. It was 10.38 in 2017, 10.2 in 2018, 9.89 in 2019, 9.78 in 2020, 9.33 in 2021, and then it's been flat at 8.87 for the last three years. So knowing that we had a variety of responsibilities, and given the cost of supplies and, you know, cost-of-living increases for staff, along with the operations and maintenance of our buildings, our facilities, in particular, our jail, we continue to lower the millage rate. And yes, I understand the argument that the assessed value of properties has gone up. But we have been running for the last three years, and you can correct me if I'm wrong here, Mr. County Manager, at a rate in which our expenses, budget wise, have exceeded our revenue, and that is not sustainable. Given all of that, I understand the inclination to want to try to find pots of money that we can apply so that we don't have to raise the millage rate to a level that's going to be painful for anybody. I think one of the things that happens with the Fulton County tax bill is that it's lumped, of course, in with the other two jurisdictions in any given area, Fulton County Schools or Atlanta Public Schools, along with city of Atlanta and ours. And ours is actually usually one of the smaller, it's usually the smallest of the three or very close to the city. And it's the schools that have a significantly higher millage rate and make up it significantly higher percentage of the bill. And I say that only because I think for most citizens, they assume, when they hear that the taxes are up 12 percent, they assume it's the entire pot of money, all three jurisdictions together. But that is not accurate. It's the smallest portion. And so in any case, I just say that because I think, from -- you know, for people to have a little perspective. And that's why I think many of us are doing, and have done town halls to discuss assessments and how to understand your tax bill and to understand your exemptions, and certainly I know my staff has worked extensively to help people get information about their exemptions and making sure that they can get all the ones that they're qualified for. I now want to move the conversation to affordable housing. And say this, whether you like the terminology or not or the various different ways groups go about achieving affordable housing, it is one of the top issues in the country today. And it is abundantly clear that without some form of public-private partnership, the market will not provide affordable housing. That's what's happening in all these -- either in an area where there is poverty, there will be no investment, or where there is some interest in something, and you know, the Beltline and natural -- whatever it is, a natural resource development will happen, and it will be at market price. And it will be gentrification, and people will be forced out. These types of projects that the Westside TAD, the whole point of it is to bring economic development to areas that would not otherwise be invested in. And the guardrails that are added to this effort by

Invest Atlanta, whose board I sit on, are really unique in the world of the development authorities across the country. And I say this because we heard speakers today at public comment talking about the commercial property assessments and the advantages given to Microsoft and Elon Musk for data centers and property they already own and things like that. That's the Fulton County Development Authority that's giving those kinds of tax breaks. And there are no guardrails or requirements that they provide a certain number of jobs or that they provide affordable housing units. They give the incentive, they take their fee, and that's it. There is no community mindedness to it. And we're not talking about trying to influence the Fulton County Development Authority. We're not talking about trying to reform the Fulton County Development Authority. As it was pointed out, we all have, you know, board members there. But instead, we're sort of going after this low-hanging fruit, if you will. So, you know, I think we make decisions every day that are difficult about what money we're going to spend. And I think we can all agree that every dollar matters. But we just approved \$1.7 million for escalators that haven't been used and aren't really needed. They haven't been in service for over five years. And we just approved \$1.7 million to pay for them, but denied earlier this year, \$1.7 million to arts organizations that needed that money. And now, we're prepared to deny very specific things with this Westside TAD resolution. So let's get to that. There's two parts of this resolution, one is to from here on out, reject any and all programs or projects being brought forward by the Westside TAD for funding. So I want to be clear, I know, you know, there's a lot of conversation about whether we should talk about specific projects or not, I believe we should. There are, I believe, six current projects that have been approved by the Invest Atlanta Board that are awaiting approval by this Board. And they have not been brought before us yet. And it looks like if this resolution passes, they won't. But I want to be clear about what they are. One is a project in Downtown Atlanta; it is 66 affordable units in an existing luxury apartment building. This is a very small investment to make luxury apartments available at an affordable rate, 66 units that would be converted to affordable housing in downtown at 60 percent of AMI. This is a \$4 million investment by the TAD, I believe. And that means our share at 25 percent is 1 million. We have a project on English Avenue or the English Avenue neighborhood that is 16 affordable units. It's being developed by a resident of English Avenue who wants nothing more than to help his neighborhood be better. This is not a big developer coming in from out of town. This is a local guy who lives in that neighborhood in English Avenue trying to build 16 affordable units for his neighbors. Our share of that project, \$250,000. But we would rather have an escalator. On English -- again in English Avenue, 26 affordable units, the TAD investment is 2.5 million, the Fulton County investment, \$625,000. This is a three-story multifamily building in partnership with the Westside Future Fund. You know, interestingly, one of the -- I didn't even bring up the project that I think the very first one I did bring it up, but I didn't say the one that was the Cosmopolitan, Cosmopolitan A.M.E. Church. These are exactly the kinds of partnerships and projects

that the country, and certainly the city needs to provide affordable housing. It's not just the government coming in and spending our money to build something. It's working in partnership with the land trust, with the churches, with, you know, philanthropy, with everybody to build a capital stack to make these investments that pay off, you know, tenfold in every way, the human -- the human side of it, but also the property tax side of it. Ultimately, everybody wins with these projects, and yet this is where we want to cut. One of the public commenters that you referred to, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, was Mike Russell, who talked about his neighborhood, and people struggling there, and someone having to, I didn't want to have to repeat the phrase, but defecate in a bag. He also talked about his sort of shock that we would consider not being a part of the Westside TAD for exactly that reason. And in fact, the one thing he said that he would change about the way that Westside TAD operates is that he would like to see more incentives for people to get into affordable homes that they could own. Well, part of one of the other, the very last thing that we're rejecting here as an existing project is a \$10 million fund that would allow Invest Atlanta to own property, to buy the land, to put it in land trusts so that people could get into homes that they would own for permanent affordability. That's one of the projects we're rejecting right now in the Westside TAD. So before we vote on this, because we need more money in our coffers that we were not willing to cut any other way in our own budget, just keep in mind that we are keeping affordable housing from people who need it in the city, but we're going to have an escalator, by God. Now, let's talk about the other part of this resolution, which is that we're going to from here on out, stop paying our increment into the TAD. I have a lot of questions about our legal obligations here and what this might mean going forward. So I'm going to ask some of the folks that are in the room, because I think the numbers that -- that Vice Chair Ellis stated about the bond debt that we -- that Invest Atlanta, or the TAD rather, owes, and how much funds are available to cover that are not accurate. So I know we've got a whole crew here. I believe Dr. Klementich, if you want to come forward. I think Mr. Selby, Mr. English, if you would speak to the bond side of this, and also just if you would speak briefly, Dr. Klementich, to the -- some of the -- I don't know if you have notes on it, but some of the actual benefits that the Westside TAD has provided over its life. And both economically --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Point of order, Mr. Chair."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "If you come up here and you're providing information that's different than what I supplied, that information came from your CFO and your financial statements. So don't just project it, give us some hard documents that are evidence of. Just want to be on that on the record. This is numbers straight from our discussion on April 16th of 2025. So if there are substantive changes to that, you know, what we hear

today, just a few months later, I'd like to see that specific hard information in the context of transparency as to what that is. Thank you."

DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, CEO, INVEST ATLANTA: "Dr. Eloisa Klementich, Invest Atlanta. I'll go back and look at the April presentation, Commissioner, just to ensure we're aligned. But the amount of the bonds that are outstanding right now are 281 million. Now, I'm thinking that, I'm not quite sure what document you're looking at, but perhaps you were looking at our debt service and other reserve amount, which is probably where you got the 35 million off of, but --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'm looking at the audited financials that you supplied to me, and I think our CFO can also attest to the fact that that's what we reviewed, correct, were your audited financials on the Westside Tax Allocation District?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, the most recent ones that they submitted."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "And in the April 14, that particular meeting, and I'll -- your CFO notes, \$41 million of uncommitted cash, okay?"

DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, CEO, INVEST ATLANTA: "Okay."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So if there are things that are distinctly, somehow different than that discussion today, you all need to be much more transparent and clear about your financial position of these individual Tax Allocation Districts."

DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, CEO, INVEST ATLANTA: "Right."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "If you don't have that hard data to share with us in the context of some sort of attested-to statement by some auditors or somebody, then go back and get it and bring it to us."

DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, CEO, INVEST ATLANTA: "Okay. Maybe that is the best thing in the conscious of time. But I do want to be clear that the amount of outstanding principal bond debt as of May 31st, 2025 is \$281 million. And after all of the current projects that we have approved, there is \$26 million that is available for, cash available. So I will provide all the documents that you are needing so that we can see that. But I -- if you have questions specifically about the bond that we've issued, that that's how we can run through those."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I mean, that's all -- I mean, until I get --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Point of order."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- get the information. I mean, you're the one that brought them up here. This is my resolution. I didn't ask for, you know, somebody to come up

and give a presentation on this. So if you've got that hard data to give us, so we can have an opportunity to review it and look at it, you know, because you gave us one set of numbers already back in April, and I'm aware of what we approved in addition to that point in time. There's no discussion about, hey, there was another -- there's \$240 million in debt that you're missing somewhere, wasn't part of the discussion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, hold it. So you wanted her to come up for what purpose?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I still have the floor, and I asked Dr. Klementich to answer, to talk briefly about, first, the benefit that the TAD has provided over its life. And then I also asked for she and her colleagues to talk about, make it very clear, what our legal exposure is should we remove the tax increment going forward and what is the bond of -- like, I want confirmation on the numbers of the bond obligation and the money available to pay it. So that's what I asked. So if you could please give the information about the TAD benefit, I would appreciate it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So two questions, one about the benefits, which you've already heard. If you want to repeat it, that's fine. And Mr. Selby, we're asking about the bonds, and what's clear to me already is that we're not going to resolve this today, but go ahead."

DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, CEO, INVEST ATLANTA: "Okay. The -- in terms of the bond success, we've had over 80 TAD projects that different type from housing to small business expenses --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just a point of order, this, we've heard this kind of discussion before. This is not really germane to this particular resolution, about how TADs work and what their benefits are."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, that's not a valid point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, wait --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And neither was the first one."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- just a minute, just a minute, just a minute. We -- listen, we know how TADs work. We've gone through this before. You were here before three or four months ago, we asked questions, you didn't answer then. Just answer the question directly, and we'll get to Mr. Selby. We don't need to know how TADs work. We know how they work."

DR. ELOISA KLEMENTICH, CEO, INVEST ATLANTA: "I wasn't -- okay. I was just saying there are 80 TAD projects that we have been funding from small business to affordable housing. We've created 2,200 new jobs. We've created 464 affordable housing units. And I'll turn it over to Doug Selby."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Mr. Selby, bonds."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, if you wouldn't mind, Mr. English, please."

COURTNEY ENGLISH, CPO, CITY OF ATLANTA: "Yes, there was a lot has been said here. I'm -- I'll let Doug certainly talk about the bonds. I do want to make it crystal clear for the record for this Body, and for those that haven't had a chance to meet, I'm Courtney English, I'm the Chief Policy Officer in the city of Atlanta and Senior Advisor to our Mayor. Pulling out of the Westside TAD would effectively mean that every affordable housing project on the Westside in the TAD boundary would either stop or be slow, full stop. And so we can have a policy conversation around what affordable is, and I'm happy to dig into that with anybody in this Body or elsewhere. But if you care about the word affordable, no matter how you define it, to be crystal clear, the biggest tool we have for affordability is actually the TAD. And so for folks who -- who that means something to, you're about to stop or slow in the -- in the best case scenario, every single affordable housing project on the west side of the city in a part of the city that is the most underserved, one of the most underdeveloped. And so because that was said, I want -- I want to be clear for the record what this actually means for people who absolutely need help the most. You're going to leave folks -- you want to talk about seniors who are going to be displaced. You want to talk about legacy residents who want to be displaced. You're going to leave them to the fate of the market. And we absolutely know what the market will do. If we want to have a conversation about what truly affordable housing means and how we get there, this administration stands ready to work with anybody, anywhere, anytime, to have that conversation. But right here, right now, want to be crystal clear that this will end the development of affordable housing on the west side of the city in the short term."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Mr. Selby."

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "Good afternoon, Commission. Doug Selby, I'm with Hunton Andrews Kurth, where I lead the bond practice for that firm. I was asked to come to highlight some of the legal entanglements with the Westside TAD, particularly as it relates to the bond indebtedness. And so I think you, as you already know, the city of Atlanta has issued bonds in 2008 -- 2001, 2005, 2008. The 2008s are still outstanding for the Westside TAD. In addition, the city, as many know, made commitments to the Centennial Yards to the Gulch transaction. And that was done in litigation and transactions that banned in 2018 and 2019 with bonds being issued in 2021. There were bonds issued, but there was also a commitment made by

the community for additional payments to the developers up to \$624 million that would be premised on the developer meeting certain development benchmarks. They met the first of those development benchmarks in 2021 in which point, 200, roughly 200 million, exact numbers, Dr. Klementich can provide, 200 million was issued. And so there's \$200 million of bonds that are outstanding related to that. As you probably know, you know, all bonds in Georgia are required to go through a judicial validation process. And so with the Westside TAD, particularly with the Centennial Yards, the Gulch project, this was a contested financing, a contested transaction. It didn't just go to the Superior Court of Fulton County, it went up to the Georgia Supreme Court. And so there are orders in place that validate the security for the bonds, and that security includes the commitments made by the city, the county, and the school board. And so part of the litigation was to resolve that issue. I believe it's fairly clear, lawyers can look at the case law that's on this, you know, squarely on point. But it indicates that where jurisdictions have agreed to make legal arrangements that provide security for validated bonds, they're required to honor those, those obligations under -- under state law. I refer you to Charlton versus -- Charlton Development Authority versus Charlton County, 253 Georgia 208, it's a 1984 Supreme Court decision. But there are a variety of others that bear that point. So that's the point as a matter of law. I would also just simply comment that to the extent that the bonds particularly done in 2024 that monetized the Gulch supplemental award payments were publicly offered. And to the extent that there was uncertainty about whether the financing partners were committing to perform the obligations, it draws into question how the market would look at the bonds. I mean, I can't speak specifically, certainly, to the extent that this were to happen, it would change the collateral for the bonds. There are SEC requirements that provide that we would have to give notices to the bond market that's -- that would occur as a result -- result of that transaction. With respect to the bonds in question, I mean, these bonds can be seen very easily. They're on the SEC's website, MSRB EMMA's website. They were issued last August, and so it's easily to obtain, Commissioner Ellis, a copy of the obligations that were entered into with respect to the Gulch. With that, I'm happy to answer any questions."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Oh, my God."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just -- you want him to answer? Go ahead."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I mean, I still have the floor, in theory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Go ahead, go ahead, you have the floor -- he's -- you had a question about bonds, he's addressed bonds, and --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Correct, so I just wanted to clarify, if we were to move forward with this resolution as written and withdraw our increment from here on out, we would be exposed to lawsuits, litigation from a variety of parties potentially; is that accurate?"

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "Well, to the extent that the resolution is written, means that the county would direct the Tax Commissioner not to remit increment to the trustee for the bonds. The Tax Commissioner themselves would be in a position of having to defend actions of bondholders seeking to compel the performance of that official duty. And so there are particular legal proceedings to seek to enforce a public officer to perform a legal function. And my guess is that that's what would happen. That did, in fact, happen in 2008 following the Beltline decision with respect to the Tax Commissioner's decisions relating to the Atlanta Public Schools."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, thank you. And before I finish, Mr. Chairman, I will say that the level of disrespect that is being directed at me is unacceptable. You are allowing Vice Chair Ellis to interrupt me regularly. You're interrupting me regularly. And he's just given the floor whenever he wants it, and he can interrupt Commissioner Arrington, he can interrupt me, and it's all fine and good. But if I try to make a point of order, I am gaveled down. It's unacceptable."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have the floor. Mr. Selby. Mr. Selby is there to address bonds. Anything else?"

COURTNEY ENGLISH, CPO, CITY OF ATLANTA: "A point about the bonds, that was the fact the Commissioner asked."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Mr. Selby, you're a great American, and I appreciate your comments on the bonds. But I think that again, this makes this clear to me that more work is going to have to -- because I know that our legal counsel sees things a little differently, and I think the two of you going to have to get together and others to resolve that issue. Anything else? All right. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. This is why it's so important to have relationships, but even more important than relationships, it's important to have communication. It's important to pick -- be able to pick up the phone and call someone and say, hey, can we talk about this? We're looking at this, right, you don't just show up with the agenda item and say, hey, we're going to shut this down. We're going to cut this off, without talking to the city of Atlanta, without talking to the Tax Commissioner, without talking to any of the parties. I mean, it just -- so now, and based on what I just heard from the bond attorney is we committed to a bond how long? How long was the bond, Mr. Selby? What's the payback period on the bond?"

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "Matures in 2037."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "2037? So there are conversations that need to be had, right? And I don't -- I'm not getting ready to get into all of this other stuff, because it's a lot going on. But what I will say to you is I'm going to make a substitute motion to hold, but I'm going to say something first. I'm going to back up to the whole millage rate argument, which also was not germane to this topic or this agenda item, but everyone else talked about it. The millage rate, what -- and I hate, Ms. Corbitt, the way we advertised it on our website. And maybe it's because of state law that says that there's going to be a tax increase, and maybe that's what we had to do. What we did was agree to advertise a higher rate, but the millage rate will not be adopted until our August 6th meeting. I believe we also instructed our Chief Financial Officer to come back with a midyear budget review so that we can understand how much money would, may or may not be available. And I know you all have heard me say on numerous occasions, every year, we have anywhere from 50 to \$150 million left over in our budget at the end of the year. And so what we did was agree to advertise a higher rate. But we did not agree to adopt a higher millage rate at the last meeting. We agreed to advertise a higher millage rate so that in case numbers come back from the midyear budget review, we would have some flexibility in adopting a higher rate if necessary. And so a lot of this positioning, I think it's also is also, Ms. Corbitt, and I don't know again, if that's state law or not, but there's a statement on our website saying we're advertising a higher rate, and we're really not. We adopted a higher rate for the advertisement. But the decision on whether or not to make an increase in the millage rate will not be made until the August 6th meeting. And so it's a little misleading to say that we already are doing a tax increase and to tell people that it's this percentage and that percentage, it's been -- it might be up to that, but it's not an actual tax increase or tax rate. But I'm going to make substitute motion to hold. I heard Commissioner Ellis ask for some additional information. I heard the Doctor say that she would be happy to provide that information. I heard Mr. Selby, Attorney Selby, say that there may be litigation or legal limits that would prevent this. I think there needs to be further discussion. And frankly, I think we should, you know, that -- this is the type of thing where you have the conversations on the front end. You have these type of conversations on the front end. You sit down with your partners and talk to them and come up with a plan to try to find a way to do something. And that's what I would encourage us to do. I'm making a substitute motion to hold so that we can get more information and so that we can get a legal opinion from our lawyer to talk about, what options are there. I don't -- I don't believe that this is necessarily time sensitive, but that's my motion, substitute motion to hold."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm with Commissioner Arrington, I appreciate that, and I want to second the motion. That's what I've alluded to, and that's what I had the conversation with the Mayor about. So we are talking, Mr. -- Commissioner Arrington. And I'll

second that motion too. The motion on the floor now is to hold. But Commissioner Ivory, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay, thank you so much. Thank you that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that, Commissioner Arrington. I know we are talking about the Westside TAD right now. And I do want you all to stay there because I have a couple of questions about that. But before -- I will have more in depth conversation, statements to speak to the millage rate increase when that time comes in the August 6th meeting, when we need to discuss that. But I will just make this one point about that, is that on, what you can always rely on from me is that what I say on the first Wednesday or the third Wednesday is the same thing I'm going to say the next month at the first Wednesday and the third Wednesday. I'm not going to back down on my statements or walk anything back. I'm going to say the same thing. And what I said was that I believed in a one-point millage rate increase. I believe in that today. I believed in that last week, and I believe in that on August 6, whether I'm able to get the four votes to do that is a whole nother conversation. But what I believe in is what I believe in. And so I'm also going to say that I want to give congratulations to the DeKalb County Commissioners who, just yesterday, took the courageous step to increase their millage rate to 12.42, a 27.63 percent increase over the rollback rate because they realize the issues that are at hand, which include affordable housing, which include improving all kinds of services. You cannot improve services in Fulton County on -- and also have the money to do it. So do we need to go that far? No, and that is not at all what I propose, but I stand by what I did propose, and I will have more to say on that. I won't choose between a jail that is being run unconstitutionally and in violation and in a humanity crisis over affordable housing, because both things need our attention, along with veteran services, and I will say escalators, because when I just had hip surgery a couple of months ago and had to go to our courthouse to have a very important meeting, I had to walk from past two three-year broken -- broken escalators that have been existing for three years to a set of elevators that was all the way in the back, and that was uncomfortable for me, as it would be uncomfortable for many who are using a cane or who have a certain temporary disability. So I don't want to reduce those types of things to being important services that we also are responsible for providing. I did research whether that was a violation of the American With Disabilities Act. And although it is not, it does not mean just because it's not legally an infraction doesn't mean that it's not a service that we should provide. So I'll have more to say about the millage rate when we get to the August 6th meeting. But what you can be sure is, I'll be saying the same exact thing. So let's move to the Westside TAD, we do have the issue of whether our obligation all the way to 2038 will be able to cover the debt service that would expire in 2037; is that correct, Doug?"

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "Well, bondholders take the risk as to whether there will be sufficient increment. Their bonds have been structured very

conservatively such that they shouldn't run into issues. But the -- but the point is that the increment has been pledged through 2038 --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And that -- and that pledged increment is part of the money being used to service the debt."

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "That's correct."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. And so I want to talk about solutions. So if that -- we are -- I am going to vote to hold. And I do think it's important that we flush this all out. I do think many conversations need to be had, and we are partners in this TAD to make sure -- many of the projects in the Westside TAD are in my district, so I pay very close attention to what the Westside TAD is doing. So let's talk about solutions. I understand from researching the TADs that there are pilot payments. If, in fact, we would run into legal issues that makes it impossible for -- or just would cause litigation that is not necessary, I'm looking for other solutions. And I have researched that other solutions could be pilot payments, which are payments that are negotiated, that are given back to the county, to have the county have surplus money that we need so badly. Is that a possibility with the Westside TAD?"

COURTNEY ENGLISH, CPO, CITY OF ATLANTA: "So just, the short answer to your question, Commissioner, is absolutely. And candidly, we, the Mayor and Chairman have had conversations about a framework that would help Fulton County on a number of ways and a number of issues that you have spoke about here today. He sent me back to do some homework, the Mayor sent me back to do some homework. We are -- we have a meeting, I think next week."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Correct."

COURTNEY ENGLISH, CPO, CITY OF ATLANTA: "I believe next week, to talk through that. We are prepared to pilot payment and a whole host of other issues because we do not have to choose between affordable housing, community development, humanitarian issues at a jail, we can candidly do all of these things. And we can provide to our partners, whether it be the county, whether it be our school system partners, the ability to take part in the growth that results in added community benefit while we still get important projects done. So the short answer, I'm sorry for being a little long-winded, but absolutely, and we are prepared to have that conversation."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Great. So Fulton County can get a money from a pilot payment to offset having to end our increment in the TAD accomplished the same exact thing through negotiation with the city of Atlanta."

COURTNEY ENGLISH, CPO, CITY OF ATLANTA: "We are happy to have those, Commissioner."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Thanks, Mr. Chair. So it sounds like the bond that, which you're referring to, took place in late 2024; is that correct? There was some --"

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "Right. So the -- there was an agreement that was entered into in 2018 that structured a financing that would only be deployed were certain development benchmarks met."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay."

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "And so the part of the conservative structuring was that no one was going to advance funds until the developer had actually met certain development benchmarks. But that financing, which is played out in phases, commenced in 2018."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. And that financing was to the develop -- a developer CIN; is that correct?"

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "Spring Street, LLC, which is an affiliate of CIN Group, yes."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So a big -- a big development project is really what the bulk of this funding is going towards, correct?"

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "Well --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Office buildings, restaurants --"

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "Yeah, it would --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- luxury apartments. I think the whole package was up to 1.75 billion of public money, of the five if they reach that milestone."

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "Right. A good bit of that is not --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "That's sales taxes, right?"

DOUG SELBY, HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH: "A lot of it is from an infrastructure fee that's imposed in lieu of a the sales tax. But consistent with the primary Westside Redevelopment Plan, the documents require that 20 percent of all of the bond money, all of the money that's spent on such projects in Downtown, be spent on the

neighborhoods in the Empowerment Zone. And so that same commitment was applied in this case --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "So there's -- there's few crumbs here, but there's a lot of this is a lot of public money going into a development project. So just, we talked a lot about affordable housing, but there's a lot of dollars here associated with a true sort of development project. So I look forward to getting the detail of that, you know, and we can kind of continue to have these conversations. And you know, sausage making is important, and sometimes it's important that we have it out in public so people can better understand it. There are things I brought up, you know, that are what we're talking about. I mean, you bring up the DeKalb. DeKalb also has an EHOST, which is unique, we don't have. So they do have access to a lot of sales tax funding, which offsets a lot of that stuff that you're talking about. So it's not exactly apples to apples. So, you know, we do need to sit down and talk about these things, but we need to do about it posthaste, because we've got a sense of urgency around decisions we've got to make around how much we're going to tax our citizens, as well as real needs that we have. And you know, there have been -- it's quote, unquote, we've been talking about stuff and talking about stuff for a while. We need to get to the point of actually acting on them and making a realization. And I hope that that's what that occurred -- I hope that's that what will occur. So I look forward to getting the information, continuing to have these discussions and we'll see where it goes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. One thing that I can really say that I have a great appreciation for, is if you don't say anything, nobody will say anything. At the end of the day, a comment was made about being disrespected. Sir, you're a great attorney. I know about your history. You've done some great things for not even just Fulton County, nationally, you have. Great person. However, in areas of legal advice, I defer to the Fulton County Attorney, just like city of Atlanta defers to the city of Atlanta Attorney. And I think for someone to sit here and say to go to you, and we got a Fulton -- you are our Fulton County Attorney, right? I think it's disrespectful, and I want to go on record saying, I find it disrespectful. All respect to you, sir, because you are doing and protecting the interest as you see it. That woman over there has our respect as the Fulton County Attorney. And she is going to, like she did with this, you know, nobody went last night and pulled this out of the air, okay? So County Attorney, I apologize to you because your job is to safeguard us and the Fulton County taxpaying citizens. So for someone to defer to a other entity without even having the conversation with you first, is disrespect. Now let me get to this point, although a lot of times -- because I heard the, you know, people telling lies and all that. You know, but I'm not going to get into that. Because at the end of the day, I'm Atlanta born, Mr. English, I'm Atlanta bred, and when they bury me, I'll be Atlanta dead. But

that doesn't mean I won't ask for accountability on behalf of the taxpaying citizens, especially in my district. And so if you take this as an assault, you know, I support Invest Atlanta. I have always supported it. But it does not mean that I'm not going to come to you and ask for accountability. It does not mean I'm not going to raise the issue that affect a whole bunch of people that's outside of this room. And so what I say to my colleagues as well as you all, I'm open for correct information. I'm open for holding, but what I'm not open to is to go along to get along. And if you want to define me as something other than a servant of my district, well, that's on you, because my taxpaying citizens of Fulton County can make a decision at any time to send me home or to keep me here. And so what I say today, none of this is personal, it's business. It's making sure that the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County have all available funds that we need. And if that means looking at the TAD, I'm going to do that. Nothing says that I can't do it. And so let's let the main thing be the thing that you all have an interest, and I will die fighting for you to protect your interest, because that's what you're supposed to do. But guess what, I have an interest as well, and I'm going to die fighting for that interest. So let me be crystal clear in closing this, my loyalty is to the Fulton County taxpaying citizen. And my respect legal respect, legal respect, on an issue that my Fulton County Attorney has vetted, I'm going to listen to her first. That don't mean that I won't take in what you all say. But let me be crystal clear about what is looked at as proper protocol and business practice, Chairman, should not be disrespect. That conclude my remarks."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Anyone else? We got a few more minutes before 6:00 o'clock. And we heard a lot about escalators today, but we didn't talk about that \$4 million we spent renovating our own offices, that's a story for another day. Anything else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The motion on the floor is to hold. Motion by Commissioner Arrington to hold, and I seconded the motion to hold. Let's vote, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 14, Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **25-0538**, Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has nominated Edward C. London for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2029."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25 0539**, Region III Emergency Medical Council, Commissioner Arrington has nominated Chad Jones for a Full-Board appointment to a term ending June 30th, 2027."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let me ask Commissioner Arrington, I don't have any issue with Mr. Jones, but there was question. Who would Mr. Jones be replacing?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So my understanding, and I believe Chief Jones is here, I saw Joe earlier. He said he had him back there in his office. My understanding is that one of the existing Grady board members was moved to another position on the board, which freed up this position. But they were both, my understanding is they will both be on the board, and they will both continue to serve."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And Chief Jones, as you know, is the Fire Chief for the City of South Fulton."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, I have no issue with that, just the process that -- you were looking into that, Madam County Attorney. I think Jones is a -- will be a great addition to it."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I hope Chief Jones and Joe didn't leave yet. Joe Barasoain, where are you? He said he had Chief over there in his office. Because he could probably answer that question about that better than I can. But my understanding is that an existing Grady -- the board heard us that an existing member was switched to another position so that Chief Jones could come on to the board, that's my understanding."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So Mr. Chairman, your question was what's the procedure for appointing to this board?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yeah, can they switch like that without --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "I did not see any specific provision for that. But based on if there is an opening on this board to which Fulton County has six appointments that is made by this board by vote of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Mr. Chairman, Joe Barasoain is coming right back if you want to --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "And I think according to the agenda, it shows this term expired June 30th, 2024. So it's been expired for over a year."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is he in route, is he in the building? Is that him?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Joe and Chief, please come up. Chief, they were asking -- I guess one, Chairman Pitts asked how did this position become available?"

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Or what happened to the other member? But our agenda shows that this term expired in June 30th of last year. But if you could help explain who -- what happened with the other board member. Because my understanding was that one of the Grady other -- one of the existing Grady board members was switched to another board position so that this could be open for you."

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "Yes, sir. So good afternoon, Chairman, Commissioners. I thank you for the opportunity to speak. Chad Jones, Fire Chief of the City of South Fulton. And yes, you're correct. So Michael Charles took over after Henry Argo had retired and stepped down, and --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Michael Charles took over, how did that happen?"

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "So he was put in place of Henry Argo."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "By?"

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "The Board."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Us?"

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. I nominated him, I think. Okay."

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Go ahead."

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "And so at the last Quarter Region III meeting, he was, Michael Charles, was moved from the board's position to an at-large

position. That went through opening the position for Fulton County because you have six representatives."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "But that did not require any action by the Board?"

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "No, sir, it was done --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That could be done -- that could be done administratively?"

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "Yes, sir. It was done by Region III and the Department of Public Health. They reached back out to Commissioner Arrington to say that y'all had a vacancy, and then this is where we are."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion is to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Ms. Barrett -- Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote. Thank you."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you."

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

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Mr. Chairman, just one second, maybe Joe and Chief Jones. There's been serious train derailment, and you may want to give an update on that in South Fulton."

CHAD JONES, FIRE CHIEF, SOUTH FULTON: "Yes, sir. I can give you an update. So we were actually, that's what we were doing. Earlier today, we had a large tow truck pulling a dump truck tried to cross Stonewall Tell at Roosevelt Highway, was struck by a train coming through. Everybody -- there was -- it was reported the fatality, but there's not. We've got reports that we had four transported. There was multiple fires along. They have opened the roads. Actually, it was a great effort by the response, South Fulton Fire, Fairburn Fire, Union Fire, and AFCEMA, along with Grady, did a great job in a unified command taking care of it. We've opened the roads. There is a CSX Police there doing the investigation. We did have one Firefighter that was injured while working on scene, was transported to Fayette. Our hazmat team responded, they checked everything to make sure there was no other leaks. Environmental Protection was called because it was approximately 50 to 100 gallons of diesel fuel that was on the truck that was spread along, so we're mitigating that. But there's no environmental risk, we've mitigated the scene. It's contained now to the rail and all roads are back open."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, sir. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, I just wanted to make -- thank you, Chief Jones for that information, and thank you, Joe. Point of order on agenda item 25-0513, believe that it's unconstitutional and --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Where are you?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Page 8. -- unconstitutional. This Board served not only as the prosecutor, but also as the judge and the jury. State law, our State Constitution, United States Constitution requires a separation of powers. Additionally, I also believe that Fulton County Code Section 101-68 is unconstitutional as written. And I just wanted to make sure to get that on the record for today. You know, you just, you cannot serve as -- you can't serve as the judge and the jury, but you can -- you certainly can't serve as the prosecutor, the judge, and the jury. And so as such, I believe it's unconstitutional, and all of the actions are unconstitutional, and I'll be filing a petition for judicial review."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Continue, Madam Clerk."

CLERK GRIER: "Page 15, **25-0541**, Discussion, Outstanding Water Bill from City of Atlanta, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam -- Madam Auditor I."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The -- nothing has changed since the last update."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's been six months."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir. We do have a meeting scheduled with the city representatives next Monday. So there's been no -- no movement other than we now have a meeting scheduled with them to review with them whatever their findings may be of the communication that we sent to them with our various different concerns."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What is Monday's date?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "July 14th, I believe. July 14th."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Can we resolve it on that Monday? Because we have another meeting coming up that this would be important to know about."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "It will depend on what they come back with. If they're able to answer our questions around payments that we've

made that we don't see posted to our account, accounts that we requested to be closed, accounts that we need assistance identifying what property they actually relate to. So I don't expect it to be resolved on that date. But we don't know what they're going to come back with, where we're keeping an open mind."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm not sure why you're asking about Monday. I think this is our only meeting for the month. So our next meeting will be August 6th. So that may give more time for them to try to resolve it. But I doubt it be resolved by August 6 either, Chairman. But my only question is, are any of the bills that they're talking about within the last four years? Because if they're -- if they're four years or older, then we need to do a motion to file."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, Commissioner Arrington has argued that from beginning that -- what's it called? Statute of limitations has --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "I believe most of the bills are older."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I mean that --"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Much older than that."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "State law is clear. I can't quote the code section now, but it's nine something. On a suit on an open account must be within four years. And so if there's anything older than four years, perhaps we might owe it, but it's uncollectible. They're not able to enforce the collection after if they waited longer than four years."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Wrapped up into all of that are accounts that we've asked to have closed that appear to still be open and being billed, accounts that we aren't even certain are ours that we're being billed for. So there are some items that we do need to get resolved outside of the balances that they claim are past due on active accounts."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm just going to look up the code section because it's nine something. 9-3-25, O.C.G.A. 9-3-25: A suit on an open account must be brought within four years. So, you know, if they're bills that are older than four years, we never need to talk about them again. If we owe them some money for the last four years, then we need to talk about, how much do we owe them for the last four years."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam County Attorney, can you review what Commissioner Arrington is saying? He's been saying that from day one, which I happen to agree with, so --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "And we've agreed with it as well. I think that the reason this has gone on for so long is, number one, because the city has been unable to produce documentation for the amounts that they say are owing, which seems rather irregular, considering the fact that, you know, they have to have a basis to have calculated what we owe, and yet they haven't been able to produce documentation. And number two, because of the peripheral and related issues that the CFO has just mentioned."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Madam Clerk, anything else today?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. No further items to come, but we have a public hearing on the millage rate beginning at 6:00. Anyone has to leave, you're free to do so. We don't need a quorum for the public hearing. We are adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.