

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

June 18, 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

10:00 a.m.

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

PRESENT

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

PRESENT

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

PRESENT

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

PRESENT

Mo Ivory, Commissioner (District 4)

PRESENT

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

PRESENT

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**25-0438 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Vice-Chairman Ellis, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing item #25-0460 for separate consideration. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yea: Pitts, Ellis, Barrett, and Ivory

Absent: Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Thorne

25-0439 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing "Library Summer Reading Month." **(Ivory)**
June 7, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Rick Ross Car and Bike Show Appreciation Day."
(Arrington)
June 7, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Alysa Story Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**
June 8, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Atlanta Champagne Week." **(Arrington)**
June 9, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Big Tigger's Beltline Bikefest Appreciation Day." **(Ivory)**
June 14, 2025

Proclamation recognizing "Greg Street Appreciation Day." **(Arrington)**
June 16, 2025

Commissioners' District Board Appointments**25-0440****Board of Commissioners****ANIMAL WELFARE HEARING BOARD (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Animal Welfare Hearing Board shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Each Commissioner shall appoint one (1) member to serve for two (2) years. Thereafter, all members may be appointed for an additional term of three (3) years and until their successors are appointed.

Term = 2 Years/3 Years

Term below expires: 12/31/2026

Vacant (**Ivory**)

Commissioner Ivory nominated Marley Wiggin for a District appointment to an unexpired term ending December 31, 2026.

25-0441**Board of Commissioners****FULTON-DEKALB HOSPITAL AUTHORITY d/b/a GRADY HEALTH SYSTEM (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Consists of ten (10) trustees (members). The Board of Commissioners of Fulton County appoints seven (7) trustees (members) and the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County appoints three (3). (See Fulton County Code § 13-2-11). The Fulton County Code does not prescribe the method of appointment; however, historically, each Commissioner has appointed one person to serve.

Term = 4 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Eric V. Thomas (**Hall**)

Commissioner Ivory nominated Eric V. Thomas for a District reappointment to a term ending 12/31/2028.

25-0442 Board of Commissioners**FULTON COUNTY HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

One (1) representative will be nominated by each of the Commission Districts for a total of seven (7) members; this includes one representative from District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Each representative will serve a two-year term and could be re-appointed to serve additional terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no term of any member nominated by a District Commissioner shall extend beyond the term of the District Commissioner who nominates that member.

Term = 2 Years

Term below expired: 12/31/2024

Manfred L. Michel (Ellis)

Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Manfred L. Michel for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.

25-0443 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

Pinky Cole (Pitts)

Chairman Pitts nominated Pinky Cole to a District reappointment to a term ending May 31, 2029.

Open & Responsible Government**25-0444 Finance****Ratification of May 2025 Grants Activity Report. (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0445 Finance

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

25-0446 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 Toll Southeast LP Company, Inc. 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 0 Kimball Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0447 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 Toll Southeast LP Company, Inc., for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 0 Kimball Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0448 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 the City of Union City, for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 3660 Royal South Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30291. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0449 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 Union City SR CGP, LLC for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion of the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 0 Campbellton Fairburn Road, Union City, Georgia 30213. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0450 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 sanitary sewer easement at 12580 Crabapple Road, Milton, Georgia 30004. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0451 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Water Easement Dedication of 5,227 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from the Bridges Alpharetta, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Bridges Project at 4430 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0452 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 1,758 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Daniel A. Diulus, individuals, for the purpose of constructing the 4852 Lake Forrest Dr. NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30342 Project at 4852 Lake Forrest Dr. NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30342. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0453 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 4,328 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from the Bridges Alpharetta, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Bridges Project at 4430 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30005. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0454 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 13,510 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Sandy Springs Multifamily LLC, owner, for the purpose of constructing the Solis Sandy Springs Project at 6600 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0455 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the sale of County-owned properties consisting of rights-of-way, a permanent construction easement area, linear access and onsite improvements to the Georgia Department of Transportation located at 0 Arlington Drive NW and 4330 Fulton Industrial Boulevard SW, for the purpose of constructing roadway improvements; authorizing the Chairman to execute the deeds and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the deeds and related documents as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0456 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution approving a First Amendment to Rental Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Landlord) and the Georgia Department of Human Services (Tenant), for office space at 1249 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway NW, Atlanta, Georgia, to extend the term through June 30, 2026; authorizing the Chairman to execute the Amendment and related documents; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the Amendment and related documents as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0457 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a Resolution approving a First Amendment to the Ground Lease Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia (Lessor) and Atlanta Executive Aviation, LLC (Lessee); authorizing the Chairman to execute the First Amendment to the Lease Agreement; authorizing the County Attorney to approve the First Amendment to the Lease Agreement as to form and to make modifications thereto prior to execution. Effective upon approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Health and Human Services**25-0458 Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County, Georgia and Union City, Georgia for sanitary sewer services. This agreement establishes how the 3MG reserve capacity for Union City, at the Camp Creek WRF, will be managed for a period of 15 years with a potential 5-year extension. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Justice and Safety**25-0459 Emergency Management**

Request approval of a Resolution authorizing the adoption of the 2025 Fulton County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

25-0460 Emergency Management

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Fulton County Animal Services, 23RFP052223C-MH, Animal Services in an amount not to exceed \$4,540,000.00 with Lifeline Animal Project, Inc (Avondale Estates, GA) to provide animal control services (shelter operations as well as field services) that will include all personnel, supplies, utilities, necessary insurances, and equipment for the unincorporated areas of Fulton County as well as the cities of Alpharetta, Atlanta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and Union City for an additional 6 month period. Effective dates: July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

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

SECOND REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**25-0461 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Ivory, to adopt the Second Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by revising items #25-0463 as requested by Commissioner Barrett, and #25-0466 as requested by the County Manager; and moving up item #25-0485 to be heard with item #25-0477 as requested by Chairman Pitts. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: Arrington

Did Not Vote: Thorne

25-0462 Clerk to the Commission

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Second Regular Meeting Minutes, May 21, 2025

First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, June 4, 2025

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

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

Did Not Vote: Thorne

25-0463 Board of Commissioners

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

Proclamation recognizing “~~Pride Month~~ Georgia Equality Day.”
(Barrett/Ivory/Pitts/Arrington/Abdur-Rahman)

PUBLIC HEARINGS**25-0464 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)**

11 Speakers: Judge Cassandra Kirk (Budget); Kay Pressley (Food Stamp Fraud); Leilah Philips (Hope 4 Haven Housing); Diana Su (Hope 4 Haven Housing); LA Pink (Hope 4 Haven Housing/Jail); Demetrice Brewer (Homelessness); Martin Rodgers (Ethics); Jeanne Hollis-Steve Meininger (#25-0477); Robby Caban (Animal Services-Lifeline); Kami Delgado (Animal Services-Lifeline); Steve Labonitz (#25-0477)

1 Zoom Speaker: Matt Rowenzcak (Registration & Elections)

COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**Open & Responsible Government****25-0465 County Manager**

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

25-0466 Finance

Request approval of a Resolution setting proposed 2025 Millage Rates for the General Fund at X.XX mills in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(A)(9); authorizing advertisement of the proposed General Fund millage rate along with the five-year millage rate history and advertisement of the dates for the required public hearings; authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to sign the Pending Appeals - For Properties Other Than Public Utilities for Tax Year 2025 to allow the Digest to be submitted to the State Department of Revenue; and Authorizing the County Attorney to petition the Superior Court of Fulton County for an order authorizing the immediate and temporary collection of 2025 taxes pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-310, if it becomes necessary. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

a. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve advertising the recommended millage rate of 8.87. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve a millage rate of 8.92. **(MOTION WITHDRAWN)**

Commissioner Abdur-Rahman withdrew her motion

Commissioner Barrett withdrew her second

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Ivory and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve a millage rate of 9.87. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nay: Pitts, Thorne, and Ellis

25-0467 Finance

Presentation, review, and approval of June 18, 2025, Budget Soundings and Resolution. **(PRESENTED/APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0468 Registration & Elections

Request approval of a statewide contract - Registration and Elections, SWC# 99999-001-SPD0000136, Temporary Staffing Services - Clerical & Light in an amount not to exceed \$5,824,388.00 with Abacus Corporation (Morrow, GA) to provide temporary staffing services for 2025 Public Service Commission Primary & Municipal Primary Runoff & Public Service Commission General & Municipal General Election and Runoff Elections. Effective upon execution of contract through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Nay: Thorne, and Ellis

25-0469 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Fulton County Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, RFP#25RFP14005K-CRB, Health & Human Services South Facility Feasibility Study in the total amount not to exceed \$497,966.00, with Sizemore Group, LLC (Atlanta, GA), to provide planning, engineering and design services of Health and Human Services ("HHS") by delivering a feasibility study for the County's future planned and long-term needs of new HHS South services facility. Effective upon issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP) for one (1) year, with an option to extend for one (1) additional year, at the County's sole discretion. **(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

25-0470 Real Estate and Asset Management

Request approval to utilize Cooperative Purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Omnia Partners Public Sector Contract #R190303 Office Supplies, Related Products and Services in the total amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 with ODP Business Solutions, LLC, formerly Office Depot, Inc. (Norcross, GA), to provide copy paper and related supplies as needed Countywide for the remainder of 2025. Effective July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. **(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

25-0471 Purchasing and Contract Compliance

Request approval to amend an existing contract - Sheriff's Office, 17RFP07012016B-BR, Inmate Medical Services with NaphCare of Fulton County, LLC (Birmingham, AL) to increase the spending authority for Year 7 (effective July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025) in the amount of \$948,060.00; to amend the annual and monthly compensation for years 8 - 10; to adjust staffing levels to meet patient care needs; and, to adjust the Average Daily Population to include all County Jail Facilities. 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, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Justice and Safety**25-0472 Sheriff**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Sheriff's Office, 22RFP0405B-PS, Delinquent Tax Sales with Government Tax Services, Inc. (Carrollton, Georgia) to provide type-written title examinations, abstracts, and delinquent tax sales preparation services. This action exercises the third of three renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026. This is a revenue neutral contract. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts

25-0473 Medical Examiner

Request approval to renew an existing contract on behalf of the Fulton County Office of the Medical Examiner and the Emory University School of Medicine Office of Graduate Medical Education Department of Pathology to provide clinical education experiences for graduate medical students enrolled in the Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program; and authorizing the County Attorney to make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution. The County is not required to pay any compensation. This action exercises the fourth of five (5) renewal options. **(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

25-0474 Medical Examiner

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

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

25-0475 Medical Examiner

Request approval to renew an existing contract on behalf of the Fulton County Office of the Medical Examiner and the Emory University School of Medicine Office of Graduate Medical Education Department of Pathology to provide clinical education experiences for graduate medical students enrolled in the Anatomic Pathology Program; and authorizing the County Attorney to make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution. The County is not required to pay any compensation. This action exercises the fourth of five (5) 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, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Arts and Libraries

25-0476 Arts and Culture

Request approval of the FY2025 Contracts for Services Program funding recommendations totaling \$1,300,000.00. Funds have been identified and are available in the Department of Arts & Culture's FY 2025 budget. **(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, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

Did Not Vote: Thorne, and Ellis

25-0477 Public Works

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Department of Public Works, RFP# 19RFP090419K-DB, Operation & Maintenance Service for Wastewater Facilities & Pump Stations in the North Fulton Service Area, for 120 days and in the amount not to exceed \$7,381,500.47, with Veolia Water North America-South, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide reliable, uninterrupted operation of the water and wastewater system operations and maintenance management systems in the North Fulton service area. This extension will be effective July 6, 2025, through November 3, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

Heard with item #25-0485

Commssioner Arrington called for a division **(NO ACTION TAKEN)**

a. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to call for a breach of decorum against Commissioner Arrington. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Abstain: Barrett

Did Not Vote: Arrington

b. 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, Barrett, Ivory, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

25-0478 Library

Request approval to use Beltline TAD funds for the purchase of AMH (Automatic Handling) Systems to be distributed at six (6) library locations. The cost of the purchase is not to exceed; \$1,100,000.00. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

Health and Human Services**25-0384 Senior Services**

Request approval to amend an existing contract, 21RFP000027A-CJC, Senior Transportation Services with Transdev Services, Inc., to initiate a six-month pilot program to allow its subcontractor, UZURV, to deploy three (3) vehicles with an appropriate fleet age to provide transportation services to seniors at no additional cost. Effective upon BOC approval. **(HELD ON 5/21/25 AND 6/4/25) (APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0479 Senior Services

Request approval for Fulton County Finance Department to enter into a contract with X/S Group, Inc. to provide liability, accident and excess automobile liability insurance coverage for senior AmeriCorps volunteers and authorize the Finance Director to pay related costs of \$533.59 to acquire the X/S Group, Inc. coverage. Effective upon BOC approval. **(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

25-0480 Public Works

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Public Works, 23ITBC100523A-KM, Water Meters in an amount not to exceed \$111,333.50 with Delta Municipal Supply Company (Braselton, GA) to provide water meters. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

25-0481 Public Works

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County, Georgia and the City of Chattahoochee Hills for sanitary services of up to 0.5 MGD of the reserve capacity at the Camp Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). Effective upon approval by the BOC. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS**25-0482 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution affirming current County fringe benefits offered to Superior Court Judges; and for other purposes. **(Ivory/Thorne/Ellis) (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

25-0483 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)**

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

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

Commissioners' Full Board Appointments**25-0484****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 expires: 6/30/2025

Michael Fitzgerald (**Hausmann**)

Commissioner Thorne nominated Michael Fitzgerald for a Full Board reappointment to a term ending June 30, 2029.

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

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

b. A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to hold. **(MOTION WITHDRAWN)**

Commissioner Barrett withdrew her motion

Commissioner Arrington withdrew his second

COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**25-0485 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Fairness and Impact of Rebidding Contracts after a Bid Protest **(Pitts)**
(DISCUSSED WITH ITEM #25-0477)

EXECUTIVE SESSION**25-0486 Board of Commissioners**

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

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

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

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

Did Not Vote: Pitts, and Ellis

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the requests for representation in items #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #9 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

ADDED TO THE MEETING**Items Added to the Agenda****25-0487 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval to only allow public comment on agenda items, and not allow personal attacks on Commissioners nor anyone (non-name calling, no cursing) **(ARRINGTON)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington to approve adding item #25-0487 to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
SECOND REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 18, 2025
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC
"A Court Reporting Firm"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Good morning, everyone and welcome to the Second Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is Wednesday, June 18th, 2025; it is exactly 10:00 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. 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."

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

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

(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: **25-0438**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda: All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board we have one item on page 7. This item has been requested to be removed from consent for separate consideration."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Which number?"

CLERK GRIER: "25-0460: Emergency Management: Request approval to extend an existing contract. That item will be moved to the Second Regular Meeting Agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's it?"

CLERK GRIER: "That's it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. I'll entertain a motion to adopt as amended. Motion to adopt as amended by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 7, Second Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have an item requested to be added to today's agenda by Commissioner Arrington, 25-0 --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- is it an emergency? What is it?"

CLERK GRIER: "It's 25-0487: Request approval to only allow public comment on agenda items and not allow personal attacks on Commissioners nor anyone."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I don't think that's an emergency. Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0461**: Adoption of the Second Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two items to be revised on today's agenda. First item on page 7, 25-0463: Presentation of proclamations and certificates; proclamation recognizing Pride Month. That title will be changed to Georgia Equality Day. Next item on page 8, 25-0466: Finance: Request approval of a Resolution setting proposed 2025 millage rate for the general fund. This item was revised to include the proposed millage rate of 8.87. And also, Chairman Pitts has requested to move up his discussion item on page 13, 25-0485: Fairness and impact of rebidding contracts after a bid protests. To be moved up -- to be heard with the item on page 11, 25-0477: Public Works: Request approval to extend an existing contract, operation and maintenance service for wastewater facilities and pump stations in the North Fulton service area."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, anything else?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioners, anything? What?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Did you do add-ons?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I was just wondering about the item that I was trying to get added on."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay, what was the emergency?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "The emergency was the death of two lawmakers in Minnesota and the discourse that we allow in here; and the personal attacks, and we're going to see the same thing in Fulton County if we don't address it, and we don't stop allowing all of these personal attacks. We're here to do the people's business; we must bring down this visceral nature of these communications. That's the emergency -- two people died and two more people got shot."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, it takes a supermajority to add an item to the agenda. Is there a motion to do so?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Absolutely, yes, I'm move to do so."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a second? Is there a second? All right, fails for lack of a second. Continue."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0462**, Ratification of Minutes. Second Regular Meeting Minutes, May 21st, 2025; I'm sorry, we need to go back. We need to vote on the adoption of the Second Regular --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- as amended. All right. Motion to adopt as amended by Vice Chair Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote, please, on the agenda as amended. All right, what's going on? All right, let's vote, please. "

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open to adopt the agenda as amended. And the motion passes, five yeas, one nay."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0462**: Ratification of Minutes. Second Regular Meeting Minutes, May 21st; First Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, June 4th, 2025."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0463: Presentations of Proclamations and Certificates. Proclamation recognizing Georgia Equality Day sponsored by Commissioners Barrett, Ivory, Chairman Pitts, Commissioners Arrington and Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Good morning, everyone, and Happy PRIDE Month. I couldn't let the month go by without saying something and doing something in honor of Pride Month, and very happy to have Georgia Equality joining us today; just waiting for everyone to get down here. We have a proclamation for them that reads: WHEREAS, PRIDE Month celebrates solidarity, self-empowerment, and positive visibility within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community; and WHEREAS, on June 9th, 2019, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution to recognize the month of June as PRIDE Month in Fulton County; and WHEREAS, Georgia Equality based here in Fulton County, is celebrating 30 years of advancing fairness, safety, and opportunity for LGBTQ communities here at home and across the state; and WHEREAS, Georgia Equality has grown from a small local coalition to the largest statewide LGBTQ advocacy organization with more than 75,000 members; and WHEREAS, the organization has helped to pass protections for more than one million Georgians and prevented countless anti-LGBTQ bills from becoming law; and WHEREAS, Georgia Equality registers thousands of voters every year and urges over one million statewide to participate in every election; and WHEREAS, the organization defends the rights of transgender Georgians to access essential medical care and champions reproductive rights for all; and WHEREAS, the Georgia Equality -- I'm sorry; WHEREAS, Georgia Equality works with advocates and partners to improve access to affordable housing and evidence-based prevention and treatment services for people living with HIV/AIDS. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in celebration of PRIDE Month, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners commends Georgia Equality for its significant contribution to transform Georgia's legal, cultural, and political landscape for LGBT people; and does hereby proclaim June 18th, 2025, as Georgia Equality Day in Fulton County."

JEFF GRAHAM, RECIPIENT: "Thank you, Commissioner Barrett. Thank you, members of the Fulton County Commission. I'm Jeff Graham and I'm privileged to serve as the Executive Director of Georgia Equality. I'm joined by board and staff here this morning. And I just got to say that this proclamation really means a lot to us as an organization. It means a lot to me personally as someone who has been involved with the organization for 17 years, but has worked here with the Fulton County Commission for most of the 30 years that Georgia Equality has been around, and I really commend this Body amongst all bodies throughout the state of Georgia consistently working on a bipartisan manner to make sure that residents, employees, and visitors to Fulton County get the recognition, respect, and protections that they deserve regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. So thank you for your service to the LGBT community, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to better the lives of LGBTQ Georgians as well as all people living with HIV and AIDS."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 8, Public Hearings: **25-0464**, Public Comment - Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing by registering on the county's website, www.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 11 speaker cards. Will the first five speakers, please come forward: Judge Cassandra Kirk, Kay Pressley, Leilah Philips, Diana Su, and LA Pink."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, as always, when you have 15 seconds remaining, I'll say 15 seconds, and that's your clue to begin to conclude your remarks. First speaker."

CHIEF JUDGE CASSANDRA KIRK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. This year marks ten years of the Magistrate Court of Fulton County serving this community. Our team operates nine court rooms across four locations with just seven -- I'm sorry, with just three staff members, while maintaining the highest efficiency standards. My name is Cassandra Kirk, and I serve as the Chief Magistrate Judge of Fulton County. This year alone, we have closed 30,000 cases. And from 2019 forward, we've done so with an 88 percent closure rate, managing approximately 80,000 filings annually. Our AI technology saved taxpayers over \$91,000 while serving 22,000 users. We followed the Fulton County budget process. We've submitted our soundings request. Our request was for essential staffing, and we were denied. Here's our reality: in 2025, we operate with a 5.1 million-dollar budget. That is the lowest budget for any court in Fulton County. Superior Court receives \$37.1 million dollars, state court receives \$16.4 million dollars. And now we are hearing rumors of the taking of one courtroom and displacing of six magistrate judges, and yet we continue to do work. Our team is exhausted, our operations are strained. And yet, we continue delivering the excellence this community deserves. We ask you to join us as we celebrate ten years of unprecedented efficiency. We remain committed to serving Fulton County with the excellence they've come to expect. And for a decade, we've proven what's possible. Your investment in us will help us build that foundation. Thank you."

KAY PRESSLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, everyone. My name is Kay Pressley. Good morning to the Board, Commissioner, Mr. Pitts. I'm here as a resident of Fulton County to request an urgent investigation into the persistent food stamp fraud by an individual which we are victims, my son and myself. This involves caseworkers and supervisors from the Department of Human Resources of Fulton County. This, Mr.

Pitts, we are here because we have reported the matter over two years now to the Department of Health and Human Services, the District Attorney's Office, the Inspector General, the Fulton County food stamp office, numerous police reports, and also to the Federal Trade Commission. The individual in question, Kenyatta Simone Johnson, we believe, as a complaint was submitted, and the reason that we are contacting your office right now is that the situation necessitates an immediate attention. The individual has a documented history of fraudulent activities in Michigan where we have also reported that which we are victims of identity theft. This pattern of behavior, as we said, was taken up by the Michigan Department of Human Services where the individual was charged for food stamp fraud and SNAP charges, Social Security fraud using our identity. This is a -- there was also manipulation of the lease documents that I am submitting and we're asking you to investigate it, documentation of this fraud."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, 15 seconds."

KAY PRESSLEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Okay. We'd like you to know that this is a violation of Georgia law OCGA 49-415, and on behalf of my son and myself, we need an immediate investigation. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

LEILAH PHILIPS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, my name is Leilah Philips, I --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I need you to speak up a bit, please."

LEILAH PHILIPS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, my name is Leilah Philips. I am 18 years old. I would like to speak against the program, Hope for Haven, that is meant to help single mothers and women who are coming from traumatic situations ran by Towana Alan. But instead, it is very -- it is a very toxic environment. Single mothers are taken advantage of, being told that the cost is, of each room, the size of a closet, is 950 and raising it to \$1,050 once placed. Churches are funding this woman's program, and she's pocketing the money. If we cannot be micromanaged or controlled, she will kick us out. Me and my mother were told we had to leave even though our money was paid. We were told to leave because, at 18, I baby sat a mother's children while she was at work. Me and my mother are now without a home due to not being able to be micromanaged by this woman, and there are women being -- there are mothers being abused as we speak. Yeah."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next speaker."

DIANA SU, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Hello, my name is Diana Su. This was my daughter, Leilah Philips. I am reporting Hope for Haven, Towana Alan. I am reporting Hope for Haven which supposed to be a transitional housing for homeless mothers and children. You're looking at a homeless mother. I'm a hard worker. I paid my money. My church, Chapel Hill of Atlanta paid Ms. Towana Alan for us to reside there. There are surveillance cameras. Women are being emotionally and spiritually abused. We're under surveillance for 24/7. I'm speaking up for all the mothers; especially there's a

mother with a child with autism, she was threatened because her daughter was jumping up and down, that DFCS were called. I was put out because my 18-year-old baby sat a mother's children so she could work. The woman takes our funding, misappropriating funding from the state of Georgia from churches, domestic violence shelters. Soon as we arrived, there are unreasonable rules, no grace, tons of fines. It hurt me. My mom died of pancreatic cancer last year, and I lost my friend, Angie Stone, so I came in distress, and I am a victim of domestic abuse, thinking that I can come to Hope for Haven to get a fresh start, reestablish my credit, but she created great stress, threatened to have the US Marshals kick us out, so I had to pay an Extended Stay for \$500. So I'm pleading with the state of Georgia to stop funding Hope for Haven, Towana Alan. She is misappropriating the funds that the great state of Georgia is giving her in federal funding. Please hear my heart, and thank you, guys, for this opportunity and giving me a voice, not just for me, but for every single mother that's homeless and unseen. I thank you all for this time."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "So I got a few things that I could come here today to speak about. Most definitely, I brought them down here, and it's Haven for Hope is the name of the organization. She's said Hope for Heaven, or had it backwards. I had to look up too. She spells it with a 4 sometimes on the paperwork. However the case may be, this family needs help, you know. I was called on to the scene yesterday -- day before yesterday, and had her come down here so that she could speak out about this organization, cause these are the things that we have to deal with, and we already have enough people homeless already in the community. I also come down here of course; you guys know I'm going to continue to apply pressure. I wanted to make sure that Arrington knows that we're not here to kill anybody; we're here to take your job, if you're not doing it. And that's what we want from Arrington, his job. We want it from Labat, we want it from Fani Willis, we want it for a few others. There's no crime in that. There's no crime in speaking out about things that they are doing inside of the community behind the city's back. They're going into -- we all know what's in the jail is going on, what's going on in the jail. I had open records done. I haven't received a check yet from Helen Willis and Sheriff Labat out of the inmate welfare funding. Why am I going so hard on this, is because, as we all know, somebody from the Board signed off on these type of whatever was going on, on the inmate welfare funding that had to have someone sign off and needed a second signature from the Board of Commissioners. And so, I red flag so many people because the people that has the most attitude about us speaking up and speaking out may be the one who have signed off --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

LA PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- who knows. But something is going on. We have hundreds of thousands of dollars going to LEO Tech for a website or app, when it should have went in to the jail. We have --"

CLERK GRIER: Last six speakers: Demetrice Brewer, Dr. Martin Rogers, Jeanne Hollis, Steve Meininger, Robby Caban, Kami Delgado, and Steve Labonitz."

DEMETRICE BREWER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Demetrice Brewer again. I'm speaking for the voice unheard. Yesterday, I got some information from an intern that it would be no more pickups here on Martin Luther King/ 75. And this is crew that been out there for two years, just like I have. I'm not homeless anymore. I was helped. Pay attention, I just want y'all to pay attention to this group, because what I got yesterday, it didn't make sense to me when you done picked up from Woodrow Park, Conley, Peachtree and Pine, 12th Street, 16th Street. I walked in the streets and I seen it for myself the last pick up was right here up under 20. Don't leave these guys out here on this sidewalk in front of y'all backyard or in y'all front yard like this. It ain't right. So that's all I wanted to say. Tighten up. Love y'all."

DR. MARTIN ROGERS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Dr. Martin Rogers. As Commissioners, your duty is to act in the best interest of the people. This is not the case in the Commission District Five. The community I live in will now be directly impacted by the development of a warehouse. A development the Commissioner for the District Five advocated for. This is something that has transpired in other cities that are also in the district. His dual roles and the clear conflicts of interest they represent are unacceptable. They undermine public trust and call into question his commitment to ethical and personal governance. Our neighborhoods needs and deserve quality development, projects that bring real value and not an impact to our quality of life and everything that we've worked so hard for. To the Commissioner in question, you are part of the problem. You've shown that you don't see anything better for us than a quick profit. It is evident what you stand for and it is not the people, and we deserve better. As a resident and member of this community, I'm formally requesting that the Fulton County Commissioners with the County Attorney review its current ethics and employment policies. Specifically, I urge you to incorporate clearly defined roles regarding outside employment or business interests that present a conflict of interest with a Commissioner's public duties. Public trust is not automatic. It must be earned and maintained through transparency, integrity, and a demonstrated commitment to the people. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve the people that you represent."

JEANNE HOLLIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Jeanne Simpkins Hollis, President and CEO of Slater Infrastructure Group. It's my pleasure to be joined by Steve Meininger, CEO of Info Mark. Together, our team forms Fulton County Wastewater Partners, a joint venture specializing in providing operational excellence to the County's North Fulton wastewater facilities and pump stations. As a successful bidder, we're here today to reinforce our steadfast interest in and commitment to the process, our partnership with Fulton County staff, and the citizens of Fulton. In addition, I'm a long time Fulton County resident and minority -- certified minority and woman-owned business, and a current vendor since 2005, which is why this recent proposal process is so perplexing to me. Quite honestly, I've never seen anything like it. It's my sincere hope that today we'll be able to reinstate the procurement process as set forth in the Fulton County Code and reaffirm Info Mark's latest status as a --"

STEVE MEININGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "And I want to echo Jeannie's statements. We've assembled an incredible team to support Fulton County. We're ready to go. We're laser focused on providing the highest level of service possible. We operate over 550 water and wastewater treatment facilities in Georgia. We have over 800 O&M staff and extensive technical resources. We're proud of our 99.9 percent environmental compliance rate. We've won more O&M operational excellence awards in Georgia than anyone in the industry. We have extensive experience transitioning large complex wastewater projects from competitors including in the past year, Fayetteville, Arkansas, Burbank, California, Falls River, Massachusetts --".

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "--15 seconds.

STEVE MEININGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- transitions. And we're asking the Commission to please allow the process to continue. We've invested thousands of hours in this opportunity, and we will certainly provide a very high quality of service."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Robby Caban, Fulton County taxpayer resident, homeowner, business owner here on the topic of animal control again. You've received probably a hundred e-mails from different people now advising you of the problems at Fulton County Animal Services managed by county vendor, Lifeline Animal Project. You are voting on an extension that's going to cost Fulton County taxpayers over \$4 million today. I encourage you to please, please, please heed the whistleblowers who have come forward; staff and volunteers alike reporting malfeasance, conflicts of interest, a toxic work environment. The County Attorney's been included, the County Manager has been included, the former County COO was included who's retired. There's been no corrective measure. You haven't implemented live streams even though we have security. You know the animals are being abused, neglected, live in unsanitary conditions. You know Lifeline, the vendor, is not picking up animals. They're directing their staff to not pick up animals. Animals are multiplying, and they're able to fund raise off of every animal that multiplies. That appears a severe conflict of interest. That appears as though the County contract that you all have oversight of is completely defunct and working against itself. You've heard of the nonprofit industrial complex. This is no different. There is the companion animal industrial complex, and Lifeline is part of it. They're strategic partner are Best Friends. There are lawsuits all over the country, in California, Riverside, and San Diego over the same problems we have here in Fulton County. Natalie Hall used to be here, part of this Commission set up in hearing about this for ten years. She's correct, because y'all have never corrected this for ten years. And in the jail when inmates die, there's a record. In the shelter when animals die, there's no record. They're literally hiding this information, and you all, it's unacceptable because philanthropic dollars come from Lifeline --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- from Fulton County that you trade our public safety and the care of the animals and public health for those dollars. That's unethical.

Please call for the forensic audits. Stop using our tax dollars counter to our taxpayer funded County contract."

KAMI DELGADO, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "My name is Kami Delgado. I'm here today out of concern for the animal control contract with your county vendor, Lifeline Animal Project. While recently living in Fulton, I volunteered with Lifeline and during that time, I saw animals being left neglected and untreated without proper medical care that I found near death. No clean water or dry bedding for the animals; animals living in unsanitary and inhumane living conditions, causing sickness and disease outbreaks. Intake refusing to take in animals, animals being sent to fraudulent rescues, animals being returned to neglectful owners, animals leaving unaltered, a toxic and unsafe work environment, severe mismanagement and appears to be conflicts of interest. I've responsibly recorded all this for each and every one of you. Dozens of other people have also come forward with proof, and you've continued to ignore. I was harassed, bullied, even chased in my car and threatened by the Lifeline director at the time which I also reported to you. I was targeted, retaliated against, blocked from online platforms and terminated by Lifeline's CEO, Rebecca Gwinn, because I spoke up. I am concerned about Fulton County extending the existing contract for animal services before having doing a full forensic audit with no ties to Lifeline or Best Friends, who is a strategic partner of Lifeline. Extending the existing contract before investigating all of the current issues that were brought to you about Lifeline is irresponsible and wasted taxpayer's money. Our animals deserve better, and you continue to allow this. I'll be following up via e-mail."

STEVE LABONITZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Steve Labonitz, and I'm a partner at the law firm Dentons, a Fulton County resident. Many of you know me from my time in government. I was the formal Chief of Staff and for a short time, chief operating officer of the city of Atlanta. I know government, and I know procurement. I also know that Fulton County has just recently been rated as one of the best counties in the US. I know this procurement will not enhance the reputation. There are three principles that I want you to think about during this discussion. One, you have the authority, Commissioners, to put this back on the agenda. You have the authority to take it off. You have the authority to put it back on. Two, your code says, in order to cancel a solicitation, it has to be done for cause, and in the best interest of the - best interest of the citizens for good cause. And three, all my client wants is a fair shake to be put back on; we'll deal with the protest issues. Now let's talk about this. May 23rd, we get to -- get notice, we have a dinner with them. Transition is going forward. We have a -- everything is going forward, great. Three things happen. One, we get a protest, a protest from the last bidder. A protest is not good reason to cancel. No reason. Protests always come. Two, there is misinformation spread around. Again, not a good reason to cancel a procurement. No reason at all. Three, we have rumors that there's an environmental claim now. First, the environmental claim --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- 15 seconds."

STEVE LABONITZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- understand. Second, that's not a good reason to cancel it. Think about it. If you want to look at these things, you have the

ability to hold. You can hold the paper, get any additional information you want. That is --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Mr. Labonitz. Thank you. Mr. Labonitz, thank you. Thank you. Thank you, sir. Madam Clerk."

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

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

MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "Good morning, Commissioners. You have an agenda item today which is 25-0468, which is requesting oh, just a mere, almost six million taxpayer dollars to continue to use a temp agency which probably has a markup of around 20 percent that we, the taxpayer, are having to pay for, specifically, in this case with Abacus Corporation. This is not a normal practice when you look at other counties. I don't know why we continue to take this approach and the taxpayers have to handle the burden. Secondly, when you look at Abacus as a company, they are a highly partisan organization. I'm not talking about the individuals that work at the company; I'm talking about the company itself who has donated approximately \$200,000 to Democrats only since 2004. Does that sound like an appropriate action or an appropriate company to be hiring when it relates to our election workers? We already know there was a lawsuit last year about the discrepancy in representation of election workers, and we just had an issue in this most recent primary where poll watchers across the board were denied their lawful rights, which is being able to observe in more than one location. And Ms. County Attorney don't seem to have opined or taken a position on that. Where once again, we're speaking about equality this morning, but we don't seem to want to follow the law and protect individual --"

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

MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER: "-- so I would recommend you look at this item and that we move away from temp agencies. But if we are going to stick with one we use one that is not highly partisan. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, next speaker on Zoom."

RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: "The next person to speak is Angel Notetaker. Angel Notetaker. And this concludes the Zoom public comments."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Continuing on page 8, County Manager's Items under Open and Responsible Government, **25-0465**: Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report."

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

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Commissioners. Steve Nawrocki is out this week, so I've asked Mike from the strategy office to present the justice system report. Couple of things, just to highlight going in the jail population at 2,790 is a 250 person increase over March, so something to continue to monitor; 1,829 of those are in Rice Street. We also have the blitz plan that we'll report on this morning; it continues. It's about 73 percent complete now, 527 beds out of service due to repair or blitz activities. When we get past that report, we do want to spend a little bit of time, and asked Dr. Roshell, both number one, to bring an item back with -- she has a decision on Hoopla and that service, but then also just give you an overview of facilities either already built or planned that were a result from Project Care and the WellStar closings. So I think you'll be impressed by all of the progress that's been made, not that you're not familiar with it, but when you see it graphically, it's again quite impressive. While not part of this report coming up, of course, will be the millage rate recommendation, and Sharon Whitmore, the CFO, will discuss that, but we are recommending 8.87, which is the assumed rate for the budget as well as part of HB process that recently passed, so I think, Mr. Chairman, with that, we're ready to start and we'll ask Mr. Rowicki to review the justice section."

MIKE ROWICKI, STRATEGY OFFICE: "Good morning, Commissioners. Mike Rowicki, Strategy and Performance Management. Again I'm just here to give you guys a brief update on the justice system for the operational report. Next slide, please. So here on this slide, what I'd actually like to highlight is three different measures; number one, is the average length of stay, what we want to note is that for the month of May, we're down to 36 days, which is actually just six days off of our target of 30 days, and we made dramatic decreases in that number over the past several months. For the clearance rate for felony cases, you can see that for the month of May, we were at 102 percent on that clearance rate, which is a good number, which means there are more cases going out than coming in through the system, and that is a 34 percent increase from last month. And then on the last couple of the felony cases disposed within a 180 and 365 days, there have been increases in those cases that are being closed and disposed of, so that is a six-percent increase from the last month. We haven't hit the target yet, but again, we're moving in that correct direction with this report. Next slide, please. Next is the average monthly population for the jail. As you can see from March to May, there actually has been a trend up in the population. That average is currently up to 2,724 inmates, and then for a one-day population on June 11th, that was 2,790. Again, that steady increase that may be due to summer trends that usually trend up in the jail population, but again, it is not dramatically jumping up as it has in the past. Next slide, please. This slide is actually just a breakdown of the previous slide that just gives you, by location, each of those jail populations with the main AC/DC out of the county, South Annex, Marietta Annex, and the Alpharetta Jail, just additional information for you to review. Next slide. Here is our slide, is the current length of stay for inmates in the

jail. The average duration is about 210 days currently. With 1,561 of those inmates have been there less than 90 days, which is about 56 percent of the population less than 90 days, which is a good thing. That population that is greater than one year is about 16 percent or 456 inmates at this point in time. Next slide. This slide is your jail population, facility utilization, which basically gives you the bed counts as they currently (indiscernible.) with beds that are in use. Vacant beds, beds that are in repair, those special custody beds. Joe Davis will go through some of this information in more detail in his presentation over the jail blitz, so I'm not going to spend too much time here. This is just information purposes. Next slide, please. Special note here is that this is one of the slides that we have brought back for the Board, which is our full inmate analysis of the jail, which gives you how many inmates are actually in the jail that are indicted or unindicted, which is about 22 percent right now. Then we have our indicted and accused populations which are about 66 percent of the population overall, and those that are either serving their sentence or on other hold conditions that they're waiting for either another jurisdiction to come pick them up or a hold for some other reason. That is currently at about 12 percent of the total population, but again, this is now fully automated. This will be part of the report as we move forward in our series. Next slide. Here is your unindicted population by days in the jail. As you can see, there currently are 572 unindicted people in the jail. About 466 of those are there less than 90 days, which is a good number, which is about 81 percent of that unindicted population. We currently only have one person that has been in there greater than one year, that is due to competency issues, so that is the reason why it is greater than one year for that. Next slide. Electronic monitoring update for those that have looked at this data in the past: currently, we are at 716 participants on the ankle monitoring. That actually is down by about, what we're currently at is about 47 percent of what our total high was at 1518, when we had set that cap for the numbers. Next slide. This slide basically gives you additional information on the breakdown month by month for that ankle monitoring, so you can see exactly how many people have been there over one year and how many have been out there less than one year on ankle monitoring. Next slide. Next please. This will be of interest to many of you. We will just highlight a couple of things here, more information will come to you at the August 20th Board meeting when we'll do BOC presentation on the jail capital improvement program, but we just want to note those upcoming activities for you again. We're still in the development of the options and getting the detailed cost estimates with our consultants. That should be completed in the month of July. They should submit a final report to us in July, which that will be forwarded, reviewed, in preparing for the August 20th presentation to the Board. We'll provide you more details and more discussion on those items for the jail capital program. Next slide. Items here, again, we just want to highlight the priorities that we have for the justice report. The report again, fully does the jail population analyses, again fully automated. At this point, we wanted to highlight the report on the utilization of performance data of the Center for Diversion Services. We're currently working on getting all of that information automated, so we'll be able to pull that, give you guy's information on that on a regular monthly basis and look at that -- provide as we look to improve that performance. We've also developed the roles and responsibilities for a new resource for the strategy office with a person to help us with some data collection on the justice system, so we're working on that. And then report on case management

strategies, we're still in development and having discussions with the Court for those. With that, we'll open it up for any questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: All right. Any questions, Commissioners? Any questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, sir."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Thank you, we'll bring up Mr. Joe Davis to overview the blitz program as well as any facilities issues."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Good morning, Commissioners. As an update on the overall jail blitz project, eight of 11 housing units have been completed, as you heard the County Manager indicate earlier, 73 percent. As a sidenote, we have 7 North that was completed on May 2nd. We also have a vacated housing unit on 7 South, but we're working on that unit as time and manpower permits as our current blitz area is 3 North. This particular section based upon our update yesterday, we are anticipating this zone housing unit being completed by the end of next week. Our next blitz unit will be 3 South, and we are now projecting phase one blitz completion based on progress at this point, in September 2025. Next slide, please. This is an overview of the overall jail bed availability. As you can see, we have several housing units and/or individual housing zones listed. As mentioned previously, 3 North is the active blitz zone, which accounts for 203 of this total, but there are currently 587 beds in total that are not in use due to maintenance issues and/or active repairs. Next slide. For the month of May, there were 1447 corrective maintenance work orders issued, 1,030 completed for a grand total of 71 percent. Please note that this is for those work orders that were issued in the month of May and completed in the month of May. There were 82 work orders completed after the end of May through June 12th for a grand total of May corrective maintenance being at 77 percent. A grand total of 1,287 corrective maintenance work orders were completed from -- and I think that might be a typo, I'll have to go back and check the exact number, but there's at least 1,287 corrective maintenance orders completed from May 1st through June 12th. On the preventive maintenance side, we are continuing to see a really steady high level output on the completion of preventive maintenance. Out of the 331 preventive maintenance work orders that were scheduled, 302 for a grand total of 91 percent were completed. Our current work order backlog is 1,223 work orders, a five percent increase over the 1167 at the last report, and we have 593 work orders currently open in upcoming blitz areas. Those remain open due to the need for the floors to be vacated to address the items. The graph below is essentially a graphical depiction of the work order performance over the course of the last three months. As you can see, we have seen a steady increase -- a significant increase over the prior month from 928 work orders issued to 1447 issued over the month of May. The final set of three bars, essentially it gives you an idea of how many workorders were completed from the previous month during the current month. Next slide, please. Just to discuss the jail work order black log in greater detail, we have 519 open work orders that are less than 30 days old. This represents 42 percent of all our total number of open work orders. We have 393 that are open between 30 and 90 days, which

represents 32 percent of the total number of open work orders, and 311 work orders, are greater than 90 days representing 25 percent of the total. In the bottom right-hand corner, you see a graphical depiction of this same data information regarding the percentages, and we broke it out not only in less than 30, in between 30 and 90, but you'll see less than 30, between 30 and 60, between 60 and 90 as well as 90 plus. Next slide, please. Last year the Board approved \$3.2 million for a series of what was deemed to be critical repairs, upgrades, and allocated \$3.2 million. The fire alarm upgrade, I am happy to say that after we completed this report, all the remaining three fire alarm panels that needed to be replaced have been replaced. The next step is meeting with the vendor to determine now that we have full communication with the fire alarm system restored throughout the building, using the information the system is reporting, our next step is to actually identify the field devices, i.e., smoke detectors, strobe lights, things of that nature, that need to be replaced for one reason or another whether they were damaged, covered with dust, things of that nature. And so our next operational report will include the progress on what we consider to be phase two of that project. We completed what the Board allocated as it relates to the padded cells at the South Annex. Unfortunately, those padded cells have been damaged and are now in need of repair, and we're working to address that. The kitchen equipment that was ordered for the main jail kitchen those particular items, three gas kettles, one double back fryer, and a walk-in oven; those replacements have been completed. They're fully installed and now operational. As we have continued to report, the laundry equipment in the jail is fully functional, and we have this particular project on hold; and just to give you a peace of additional information, one of the reasons why this particular project is on hold is that we have an upcoming bid solicitation for the last item, the elevator modernization, and from the time that we've priced it to now, sometime has passed, we need to ensure that we have sufficient funding to cover the total cost of the modernization. And as you can see, the last item is the elevator modernization. That particular solicitation has been fully prepared by our department. It is now under the review of purchasing, and we'll be working to get that advertised at the beginning of next week. Next slide. Any questions from anyone on the Board?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Are there questions, Commissioners? Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I was so busy taking notes, I almost missed my chance. I just had a question on the work order backlog. While I certainly appreciate you providing the numbers, it's good information. It's sort of out of context a little bit. I just wondered if you could just provide some information on some of the over 90 days and the 60-90 days. Is the reason because there's not enough staff? Is it that parts are not ordered? I mean, what sort of the general reason things are in those categories?"

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "Unfortunately, Commissioner Barrett, there are multiple factors that dictate the work order backlog in each category of time. Some of it is parts, some of it is access to the floors to get the work done, some of it is we have -- are working on a plan to increase maintenance labor at the jail, so there's a -- you know, staffing is an issue, not only for the jail staff, but it's also an issue for our contractors and things of that nature. And what we've also seen is a protracted lead time in the current economic environment as it relates to materials that, for example, high-end electronics,

anything involving steel and things of that nature. A lot of the work that we're doing requires actual custom fabrication, and so that protracts the lead time, so there are multiple factors that go into why there's a backlog. You cannot pin it on any one particular issue."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, thank you."

JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, D.R.E.A.M.: "You're welcome."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions or comments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir. Yes, sir, I want to turn it over to Dr. Roshell to again talk about the Hoopla decision that's needed and then an overview of our facility strategies in HHS."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Thank you, Dick. This morning, we are coming back to you with the questions to the answers to the questions that you posed during the May Operational Report. We also have since disseminated a memo to the Board with details answering the questions that you had. Today we're going to provide a high-level overview of some of those answers in addition to presenting the recommendation that we have to reduce the Hoopla access from ten to five in order to preserve the financial resources through the end of year. Today, we are joined by two staff from the library system that will present this information."

BRAZOS PRICE, FC LIBRARY TECH SVCS: "Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you very much. I'm Brazos Price and I'm with Jamar Parker, our financial systems manager. So to recap the last slide from our last appearance here, we are seeing a dramatic growth in the resource Hoopla usage. Since 2016, over 700 percent in users, usage, and costs, and the budget will be fully used as allocated by sort of late July or early August. Currently, we offer ten checkouts per person per month -- per cardholder per month, and over the course of a year, about 25,000 cardholders use the service. Our recommendation is to on 07/01, drop the number of checkouts available per person per month to five, which we expect to help us stay within our budget for this Fiscal Year. Alternatively, we expect maybe perhaps \$625,000 in order to keep it as is without exhausting our budget. Next slide. And we do expect growth in this resource to continue, so we have some great questions at the last Board meeting. I did follow up with the account representatives from Hoopla and verified that there's only three ways for us to really cut down on costs. We can decrease access by monthly checkouts like we talked about at the last meeting. We can also do the price sharing, which we're going to go into more depth of this meeting, as well as by instituting a monthly cap on the budget; and the way the monthly cap works is basically it's broken out daily, and then if you reach the limit in any given day, then it stops access. The library does charge \$40 per year for nonresident users, and those folks are able to check out

physical and electronic materials. We are looking at updating our nonresident fee structure and perhaps also splitting up the ability to check out physical and digital materials to two different types of categories. It would be possible to change the number checkouts within a year, so one of the questions was about, you know, during summer there's more utilization, and that is possible. We are concerned that changing access within a year does create communication issues to the public with marketing and explaining, you know, what's going on. And in the past, we have negotiated with vendors to save money as well as cancel resources, such as collection HQ, that were primarily used by staff, so we've saved money that way. We are looking at other resources based upon usage, and as Dr. Roshell mentioned we sent a full FAQ memo to the Board. Next slide. So we did want to dive a little bit more into the tiering by price. So we looked at the percent of titles that were checked out in given price buckets. And we did see that the most popular titles, the top 100 that were checked out in the last 12 months, you can see on the right-hand side this graph, we see 80 percent of those are above \$2. So again the way Hoopla works is if we do tier by price, the lowest that we can tier is \$1.99 in order to maintain the service at all per format. So as you can see on the right-hand side of the top 100 titles that people check out, those are primarily over \$2. But if you look on the left-hand side, if you look at the total universe of titles, we are seeing a much lower percentage of the more-expensive titles, that's 51 percent over \$2 in that category with 49 percent being the lower than \$2 price range. Next slide. So again, we do have 1.8 million titles available right when you log into the application; and we have seen a very massive increase in usage over time. And in the last 12 months, we had 133,000 title checked out within this resource, which is about three times our most popular electronic resource overdrive. So what it really does for our patrons, the way that we position it is it allows a much greater breadth of access to materials that they would have otherwise with the resources. And the recommendation is still to drop the monthly per-patron checkouts from ten to five because the other cost-saving options that are tiered, based upon price at checkout and decrease the total number of titles available. And with that, we have next slide for questions."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. The recommendation is to go from ten to five. Any questions, objections, disagreement? Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Is Hoopla able to provide you information if someone checks out ten digital books if they actually use the ten? Are you able to see that?"

BRAZOS PRICE, FC LIBRARY TECH SVCS: "All we see is the checkouts, so we don't know if they, you know, go into it actually reading it or not, or I think somebody mentioned when they take their -- I think it was you, maybe, that mentioned when you check out the books, you don't always read them. So yeah, unfortunately, we can't know that without the --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. And then nonresidents, have you looked into the nonresidents that pay the fee to use our cards? Do other counties not provide a digital service, or what is the situation there?"

BRAZOS PRICE, FC LIBRARY TECH SVCS: "Yes, so we've looked at basically updating our fee structure for it, so I think the last time the fee structure for it was adopted. It was really before digital materials became so popular, and so, you know, the pricing structure for it at \$40 per nonresident cardholder per year is much, I would say, lower than potentially the costs to provide services. So that's something that we're looking at really closely. Great question."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And have we looked at what other counties do, what DeKalb County does in their library system for digital books?"

BRAZOS PRICE, FC LIBRARY TECH SVCS: "We're definitely always looking at, you know, what the universe of usage is. In this particular service, we're one of the top users in the country. I think we're 16th in the country, 17th in the world, and I know that other -- specifically with Hoopla, it's a topic of conversation with libraries across the country because of the way the fee structure is by based-upon usage rather than titles. So because, you know, every time somebody uses it, it costs something, so we're not the only organization that's having the same sort of issue with kind of runaway usage and costs."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. I just know years ago I have a girlfriend in Cherokee County that just raved about how she could get digital books in Fulton County and it was she used Fulton County libraries more than she did Cherokee's; so maybe by cutting back or raising their rates will encourage other library systems to expand their digital access. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a question about the -- first of all, I'm very supportive of the recommendation that you all are making. I think that makes sense. I'm just wondering from a projection of growth on into the future, how long do we think that five titles will be sustainable? It seems logical to me that for next year that'll work, but I don't know the growth percentage, and I don't know if there's a point at which the group levels off. But do you guys have some thought about how many years we can kind of keep going with five?"

BRAZOS PRICE, FC LIBRARY TECH SVCS: "I mean, I think so. That's a great question. That's certainly something that we do expect growth to continue regardless of what we do with the checkouts. So we are going to run into, at some point, where our utilization will again outpace our, you know, our ability to provide the service, so I think that, you know, definitely checkouts is what we will look at in the future to decrease, if we had to, to kind of stay within the budget again. I think for sure a year. So it's sometimes counterintuitive the way the data has played out. We dramatically invest into the resource in 2020, and it was definitely -- there was a big spike then, and we sort of were thinking that will continue in 2021, we'll see another big spike. But that didn't end up happening; it ended up being about the same as 2020. So sometimes there's counterintuitive things like that that happen, but we, Jamar and I speak basically every day about what where we are with the budget. And so, we're monitoring it on a monthly

basis to see, you know, is this roughly in line with what we are expecting and whenever it goes outside of that, we have a conversation with the library director."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "It does seem like it would be helpful to have some sort of, I don't know, two- to five-year projection that's rolling, so that we're prepared and, you know, for whenever we do kind of hit another stopping point."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Thank you. We'll certainly look at a longer range strategy for sustainability."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you very much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Other questions or comments?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "None? All right, continue, Dr. Roshell. Anything else?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "So we do have support to make an adjustment. So I'll continue with the report. As you know, in 2023, we lost two hospitals in Fulton County with WellStar closures. As a result, the Board declared a state of emergency and supported the commissioning of a study to determine the impact to our constituents and to general healthcare in the area. What we did find is that the closures exacerbated long-term health disparities, and it also increased other issues with access overall in the county. As a result, we did complete a study in April of 2023, in collaboration with Ernst & Young and Morehouse School of Medicine. Through that study, we had five solution sets; and the one that we have really drilled down on, is redistributing healthcare assets. We looked to redistribute those assets, add provider capacity, expand the Fulton County Health and Behavioral Health footprint, and just enhance overall access. So today, I'm going to be providing an update as it relates to this project and where we are with the completion of restoring and adding capacity of healthcare assets in Fulton County. This map shows you graphically where we have added access points in Fulton County. I'm pleased to share that we have completed the addition of four access points, specifically physical locations. As the map illustrates, we've added the East Point Primary Care Clinic, we added that access point in October of 2023, just a few short months after the study was completed. We have made a five-year funding commitment to the primary care clinic, and I'm pleased to report that we are seeing month-over-month, year-over-year increase in the number of constituents that are using that health care clinic. We also negotiated with Grady during the MOU process for the new MOU. Right now, this year's investment is \$43 million. When we negotiated that agreement, we negotiated two new access points. Both of those access points have opened, one at Cascade, and one at Lee & White, and we also opened the first behavioral health crisis center in Fulton County with the Board's support and investment of \$15 million to add a behavioral health crisis center to an existing campus at Oak Hill. So we have a Oak Hill campus that not only offers a new behavioral health resource for adults, but continues to offer public health access to individuals in the community. We also added one mobile access unit which provides services to all four multipurpose senior centers and the

Dogwood Center. This is a mobile access point that focuses on Medicare wellness, so any constituent who has Medicare can avail themselves of this mobile access clinic and it is managed by Grady. I'll continue with -- next slide, please. Where we're going with other facilities in Fulton County; and while this project is not directly associated with delivering healthcare, specifically, it is certainly an access point for coordination of care and benefits. The Central Library, through our Reimagine Project, will now house the behavioral health administration, senior services administration, the Ryan White Department of HIV elimination, and developmental community development, and arts and culture. We are nearing the completion of this addition to the Central Library. The move-in planning has commenced, and a move-in schedule has been established. Substantial completion is June of 2026. And you can see the schedule here with the other components of this project. The majority of the departments related to this move are going to come from 137 Peachtree, which is across the street; and we have plans right now to use that building for the consolidated affordability -- accountability court. However, we certainly know that there is great interest in that facility from a sales perspective, and we will continue to look at all options. The next project, next slide, please, is our 4700 North Point Parkway Project. This project, as you know, has been underway for a while. We purchased this facility in 2019, and we were able to use this facility during COVID for testing and other COVID administration features. We are now back on track with using and building out this facility as it was initially intended; and our current budget for this project is 15.4 million. We do have our contractor in place, and we will be building out approximately 85,000 square feet of the 108,000 square feet that are available. This facility will house public health. The Royal Drive public health program will move into this facility. We will also have developmental disabilities as well as behavioral health, DUI court, and we will have new offerings with senior services. There is approximately 20,000 square feet available to build out; the overall plan for this facility was to also include wraparound services. The approximate cost to build out the remaining component of HHS North is approximately \$5 million. We are looking at a variety of options for funding, because we will have sale of assets when these departments move out of the locations that we have currently as well as the discontinuation of lease, we will certainly work with Finance to determine if, based on how the funding was structured, if these are viable options. We also will continue with, again building this out completely. Early on in the negotiations of how we would fund this and the vendor that we selected, we thought that we would have to prioritize all of the services that we originally want to go into this facility, but we have learned that building out the 85,000 square feet will only take an additional three to \$400,000, and we have created a source for building that out. So we will build out the complete facility inclusive of senior services, and we anticipate the project completion in the first quarter of 2026. I would like to also add here that on today's agenda, 25-0469, we are seeking your approval of HHS South, which is the feasibility study, to build a similar structure in the south with similar project -- similar project design and offering of healthcare assets in the south. Moving on to the next project, which is the South Fulton Training Center, next slide, please, this is the restoration of an asset in South Fulton. During COVID, we discontinued some services and/or created services that were virtual in nature. However, due to continued criminal activity, break-ins and such, at the South Fulton DD training center location, we had to discontinue services at that location. So when we came back to in-person services for the safety of staff and constituents, we have been

transferring -- transporting those constituents to our central location in close proximity to where we are. Of course, that is a hardship on those families, and we made a commitment to restore this South Fulton training center access point. We are rehabilitating a former HHS facility in South Fulton using ARPA dollars, and we anticipate move in at the end of the year. We did run into an issue with mold remediation, and that has stalled the project by approximately 45 days. And so, instead of moving in October, we are now projecting a December move in. Next slide, please. The final project is the BHCC North. We have been awarded a \$500,000 contract from the State Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to determine the feasibility and a possible design structure for a similar structure as our Oak Hill facility. Because of our experience with Oak Hill, we are using many of those lessons learned and have assembled a team to look at situating the BHCC North in the parking area of 4700, so that it will be in close proximity to HHS North. Constituents who may need behavioral health services could then also avail themselves of other services that will be available at HHS North, and the completion of that study is underway. We will be presenting our findings to the state and getting their feedback and approval as we move forward to the design phase and ultimately an RFP process. The funding for the BHCC North is through a state appropriation, which right now is 9.4 million a year. That appropriation is also used for the -- during the construction phase on an annual basis. We anticipate this facility will take 18 to -- I'm sorry, 24 to 36 months to build, in comparison to Oak Hill, we were on a very rapid construction schedule for a variety of reasons. But this construction program will be aligned with the funding, which is an annual construction budget of 9.4 million. I will stop there, Mr. Chairman, and entertain any questions you may have."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Dr. Roshell. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Dr. Roshell. This is great information. I'm wondering about the update on the building that was senior center in South Fulton and what are the plans in the budget and the timeline for doing that?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "That's a -- thank you for the question, Commissioner Arrington. As a part of the HHS South feasibility study, we are anticipating the inclusion of a senior services component in the same way that we have with HHS North, which is inclusive of multipurpose as well as adult day. So that will be a part of the design that we're seeking for HHS South."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Thank you. I love it if you can add a slide for that, so that when we do that presentation to the public, the people in South Fulton can see that we're going to build a senior center."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much for that thorough report. You mentioned, when talking about the 4700 Northway Parkway Project, that you found a

source for the additional dollars. I think you mentioned somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000. What was that source?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Thank you, Commissioner Ivory. So for the HHS South feasibility study, we set aside 1.5 million. That budget, through negotiations that purchasing and DREAM made, came in under budget, and so we're going to redirect funding from that 1.5 million for mold remediation at the DD training center as well as for this project."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. With 4700 Northway Parkway, I'm glad you're going to be able to build it out. Last month in our meeting, we talked about leasing that space. Have you guys come up with some agreements or stipulations in leasing?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Leasing 4700? No, ma'am. So to be clear, the buildup that I'm referring to is building out our original plan, which is the inclusion of a senior center component. As you know, we do not have a senior center that far north, so this would be a new program and service. So we have the Dorothy Benson Center, an adult day program. This will be a new senior center and adult day program. When we look at our rough order of magnitude originally, we did not believe that we would have the financial resources to build out our original footprint, which includes again, behavioral health, DUI court, developmental disabilities, public health inclusive of a new vital records program. So we thought at that time we were going to have to prioritize and put the senior center in the third or fourth position to bring online, but based on how the construction is going and the costs associated, we're now able to build out the entire original footprint with an additional three to 400,000 to build out the -- and that's 85,000 square feet. To build out the remaining 20,000 square feet it would require approximately \$5 million and we, at this time, have not confirmed what the source of that is."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. So the 5 million, so that's almost, you know, a third of the 15.4 to build out 20,000 extra square feet, is what you're saying?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, ma'am, and a variety of different factors go into that; the timing, the uncertainty around when exactly that would happen. This again was a rough order of magnitude. It may be a bit lower, but we were trying to pull together some sort of approximation for the presentation today. We certainly have more work to do, and we'll continue to refine that and bring that back."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. And are you going to bring forward the ability to lease any empty space in our buildings?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "We certainly will bring forward a plan for the use of that space. The original thought was to add additional resources for the community so that it is not only inclusive of Fulton County assets, but for example, it could include the Department of Family and Children Services or other community assets. So we

certainly will bring a plan back to the Board inclusive of wraparound services that could be for lease or other purposes, and we will take direction from the Board."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "In your Central Library move project update, it indicates that the seventh floor was constructed to hold behavioral health, senior services, Ryan White and so on. Those agencies are where right now?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Community development, Ryan White, and senior services are all at the 137 Peachtree location across the street. Behavioral health, arts and culture located in 141."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Right. So moving them to the seventh floor -- I mean, obviously moving someone from here to another location doesn't do any -- we own this building, but it's the move for out of 137 Peachtree a cost-saving measure for us? Will that in the future save us money? Like, what's logic behind spending all the money on major construction and moving them from where they are right now?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "The logic simply on that one was twofold. One was to free it up if, in fact, if it was a target to be purchased. And I'm not here today to say we've got any interest or don't have any interest, but all that south downtown redevelopment made it something of interest several years ago."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Actually, it is interested in purchasing that building."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So if that's the case, then that would, you know, accrued our benefit. The second reason was, and this is a counter to that is the justice partner agencies, you know, have an increasing desire to expand and need to expand. And they are in leased space today, in some cases. So the notion was clearing that building in total in close proximity to the courts made it a viable option, and I just remind you when we received the presentation from accountability court, that was the -- you know, at least the plan of record, as we sit here today, was to move them from Jefferson Street to 137 Peachtree."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So the financial idea is to put more of our agencies in our owned property; free up the leases that we're paying for and then potentially look at long-term sale of some buildings that would bring larger amounts of revenue into the County?"

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "To lay it on top of that for us, this facility, 141, is probably 50 percent vacant at any point in time, so let's be real clear about what we're --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Right. And that's what I was asking about, arts and culture being moved. There are already so much empty -- there's already so much empty space at 141, so moving over, you know, agencies that already exist in 141 will free up even more space here, so I just wondered what that long-term plan is for filling that space."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "So the fundamental plan, if everyone will recall, was and both of those are good cases in point, was to move anything that was customer facing where citizens came in on a day-to-day basis and interact with us to the first, second, and possibly third floors. And then secure above that in terms of elevator access and the like so it would be more convenient for citizens to only be -- if they were to come to the Board of Equalization hearing to only to go to second-floor rather than trying to navigate their way sometimes with poor signage multiple floors up. It would also be more secure. So that was one element of the modernization of this building. The second element, which is now I'd say, not as valuable was, we were converting from what was standard office space with cubicles to more touchdown and facilitating folks that would come in multiple days a week, but not necessarily be here all five days. That, because of the construction costs as we saw those come in, is not feasible, because all of that is being funded visa vie ARPA dollars, and kind of the last piece of our overall \$300 million ARPA grant. So now I think it's time for us, and maybe this is also consistent with your question because I'm not sure we answered it, is to relook, and we've asked Joe Davis and Tim to do this, relook at our entire footprint for purposes of current use, projected use and by the way, including the courts, because they are right now kind of got a mini project to accommodate just the two state judges that are being added. So that's going to require reshuffling of courtrooms, which was alluded to earlier, but then also staff support for that. If we look at then one more step out, the lease space that I referred to, you still have the Public Defender in lease space; we have the DA in lease space. There's some Sheriff lease space that exists, underutilized. So there's a global, if you will, approach to say once we net all of this down, how much lease space can we eliminate, that being a fairly straightforward goal, and then if we're not using more of a touchdown kind of approach, do we then have enough space if we have people here generally five days a week. So there's more work to come to flush all of that out. Yes, sir. The last part of the presentation, I think, is fairly standard. We do not have any federal funding status updates with the Primary Budget Act being projected to pass on July the 4th. We are continuing to monitor that. We appreciate all of you making yourselves available to go to DC and interact with our legislators. I know that that's happened and now is planned to happen. So thank you for that. And then for the rest of the -- unless you have questions, or Mr. Chairman, unless there are questions, about any of the other things in terms of either financial projections or County Manager approved contracts for emergency purchases, that would conclude our report."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Commissioners, any questions?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

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

CLERK GRIER: "Bottom of page 8, **25-0466**, Finance: Request approval of a Resolution setting proposed 2025 millage rate for the general fund at 8.87 mils. Authorizing advertisement of the proposed general fund millage rate along with the five-year millage rate history and advertisement of the dates for the required public hearings authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to sign the pending appeals for tax year 2025 to allow the digest to be submitted to the State Department of Revenue and authorizing the County Attorney to petition the Superior Court of Fulton County for an order authorizing the immediate and temporary collection of 2025 taxes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right Madam Auditor -- I'm sorry, Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a presentation to share with the Board this morning if we can get that pulled up. I think you can go to the next slide. First of all, I wanted to say thank you to the Board for your patience as we work through obtaining and finalizing the information. We did not have it in time for the agenda, but we wanted to make sure that we made this meeting with the millage rate recommendation, so I did want to say thank you for that and to acknowledge the Board of Assessors and the Tax Commissioner's efforts that they made to get the information to us on Monday afternoon. With regard to the recommendation that we've made, we typically share with the Board some of the underlying assumptions and statistics that are coming out of each year's digest, and so that is what this first part of the presentation does. So for 2025, our underlining budget assumptions, if you recall, were that we would have three percent realizable billable digest growth as part of our revenue assumptions at a 96 percent collection rate. As we worked through our projections for the amount of property taxes that the millage rate would generate based on the digest information that we received, one of the things that we have to take into consideration is the impact of appeals on the amount of property taxes that we ultimately expect to be able to bill and collect. And so for that, as part of this exercise, we used the actual 2024 value of property taxes that went into appeal, and we increased it by the same percentage that the gross digest grew. And so, we wanted to point that out. That amount came to about 38 million, which means we're assuming that there's 38 million that we would not actually bill and collect this year as a result of the appeals process. The 2025 digest, based on the digest estimates that were provided, is \$121 billion and some change. That is -- it represents a 3.91 percent increase in the gross net digests over 2024 and after consideration of the appeals and exemptions and all of the other portions and values of the digest that do not get billed through the property tax billings that would include public utilities, motor vehicles, things like that, that had a separate building process. The net realizable value, digest growth value was 3.1 percent. For the tax allocation districts, for 2025, we have to calculate what the estimated hold back will be related to the tax allocation districts. These are Fulton County general fund property taxes that are billed, but they are remitted to the

redevelopment agencies and do not come to the County, so we have estimated that for the TADS that remain to be 57 million, which is about 6.5 percent lower than the amount in 2024, primarily driven by the closure of the Atlantic station TAD earlier this year, and as a result, it is not included in the numbers. We also like to calculate what the value of one mil generates and then one tenth of a mil. And so that's 78.9 million and 7.9 million respectively. So those are some statistics and assumptions that we used in our underline projections. Next slide, please. When we ran that through our worksheets to generate the projections, we used the rollback rate and then we used the rate that the budget was developed on. And so, the rollback rate this year that was calculated and submitted to us in the estimate package is 8.774. When we ran that number through, our projection worksheet it generated 691.8 million in current year property tax revenue, which is about \$7.3 million less than what we programmed in the budget this year. And the impact of that is it potentially could require us to look at constraining our expenditures in order to keep things balanced. The 8.87 rate, which is the '24 rate, what we have referred to as the flat millage rate, that rate when you run it through our model, it generated revenues of 699.7 million, which is roughly 700,000 more than what we had programmed and anticipated in the 2025 current year property tax projections. It will maintain our revenue base for 2026, and will allow us to maintain our program expenditures for 2025. Next slide. Our recommendations -- recommended action and next steps: we're recommending the 8.87 as the proposed 2025 millage rate for the reasons that were shown on the previous slide, primarily that it meets our revenue projection that we included in the '25 budget, and will allow us to maintain our expenditure expectations for this year. Because that recommended rate is higher than the statutory rollback rate, we will be required to advertise and hold three public hearings. We'll have to advertise a property tax increase and hold three public hearings. Because that rate is the same rate as what we certified to the Tax Commissioner as the estimated rollback rate back in February of this year in compliance with House Bill 581, we will not have that language on the tax bill that indicates the millage rate use resulted in a property tax increase. So because it's higher than the statutory rollback rate, calculated rollback rate, we will have to advertise a property tax increase and hold three public hearings, but because it is the same as the estimated rollback rate that we supplied to the Tax Commissioner, we will not have that language on our tax bill. The plan would be to hold the required public hearings, two of them on July 9th, one in the morning, one in the afternoon; and to hold the final public hearing on the morning of August the 6th at a Regular Board Meeting, and then to approve the millage rate in its final form. Once advertised, the 8.87 becomes the ceiling, that's the highest. We could go and the Board could adopt anything from there or below, but we would not be able to adopt anything higher than the 8.87. And then lastly, our recommendation would be that we consider requests because we're still formulating what the full cost of the DOJ Consent Order may be this year and in the future, our recommendation would be that we consider requests related -- only consider requests related to the DOJ Consent Order as part of our midyear review process. We are working on our projections for that. We are looking at them currently. As of May, we would like to be able to look at them as a true midyear mark in June, and we would be prepared to present that full midyear projection and discussion to the Board at the August 6th meeting. And with that, I think I have covered everything from the

presentation and my notes that I had included and so at this point, if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Thank you, Madam CFO. Commissioner Arrington followed by Commissioner Barrett followed by Vice Chair Ellis. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you, Madam CFO. I'm looking here at, I guess, page three of your debt, which says the proposed rate of 8.87 would yield a surplus revenue of \$0.7 million, and then it maintains the revenue base for Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Tell me what that means, managing the revenue base for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir. That statement is really made in comparison to the rollback rate. If we were to use the rollback rate this year, that means the base that we start with for -- because it will produce less revenue than what we anticipated for this year's budget, it means the revenue base that we would start with for the 2026 budget would also be impacted by that, assuming that we start with what the current millage rate would generate in available resources and assuming a three percent growth in the digest -- three percent billable growth in the digest for 2026. So what we're saying is that by keeping the millage rate consistent and it generates the amount of revenue that we have in this year's budget, it keeps our base solid for moving into next year."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, because the next statement says it will maintain program expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, sir. That simply means that it would generate -- because it will generate the revenue that we built this year's budget off of, we would not need to consider any sort of spending constraints to keep things balanced because we would not be getting the same amount of revenue from property taxes that we had built the budget around and we expected to receive."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. So with those things out of the way, is that going to allow us to allocate \$3 million for the arts in 2026? Will the 8.87 allow us to allocate three million for the arts? Will it allow us to allocate a million for veterans? Will it allow us to allocate \$500,000 for youth jobs and programs in 2026? Will it do any of those things, Madam CFO?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Arrington, I guess my answer would be it could, if that's how the Board chose to prioritize and allocate the resources that it would generate."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Because maintaining the program expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 is completely unacceptable for me and my vote because we cut the resources. We cut a million dollars for veterans and veterans services in Fulton County. We cut \$500,000 for summer jobs and youth programs. We cut \$1.8 million from the

arts. So maintaining the Fiscal Year 2025 expenditures is woefully inadequate for me. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Madam CFO. I just am concerned about the expenses that we still don't know about related to the Consent Decree for this year. So do we have certainty that we know all of the money that's going to be -- that's going to need to be spent in this current year to address the Consent Decree requirements?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Commissioner Barrett, I can't say that we know for certain what all of the ultimate expenses will be. As you know, we're working through the process of identifying the steps that would need to be taken to comply with the Consent Order and potentially what some of those costs may look like this year and in future years. There are certain items that are still under review, and recommendations have yet to come forward, so we are beginning to accumulate all of that information. We don't yet have the full picture -- probably won't have that full picture for a few more months, particularly around the ultimate recommendations that will come out pursuant to the staffing analysis that it is -- the study and analysis that's being completed. So, no, we don't have the full cost. We're still developing them and trying to keep track of what we think the impact may be in this Fiscal Year and then what the impact may be for full a Fiscal Year based on whatever those particular items may be."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I think -- my concern is that \$700,000, which is the surplus you're predicting at the 8.87, is a pretty small margin of error. Should we have an expense of a million or two that we're not aware of right now, we don't have money to cover it, if we stick with the 8.87. It also sounds like, and correct me if I'm wrong, but it sounded like you were talking about sort of working through the midyear review numbers, underruns and such, and we won't have that information until the same day that we're supposed to pass the millage rate; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "That is -- if we're able to use June 30th as the cutoff point to complete the analysis, then we would have that information with true six months' worth of expenses and projections on the balance of the year, we would have that ready in August, yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So given that we don't know kind of what our performance is in terms of the first half of the year and what the second half of the year is going to look like, and we don't know what expenses are going to come out of the Consent Decree that cutting it that close, \$700,000 margin of error just feels sort of like we're not going to be prepared should something else come through unless I'm missing something. And also correct me if I'm wrong, whatever number we set today cannot be exceeded at a later meeting; that's it. So it would seem to me that it would be a more prudent recommendation to at least go up 0.1 mils to give us a little more wiggle room should new information come in, in the next six weeks or whatever it is -- six to eight

weeks, so that should those things happen, we can put a slightly higher rate in place. And if not, then we can on August 6th, and again, correct me if I'm misunderstanding the rules here, but then we could, you know, on August 6th still go with 8.87 if all those things don't turn out to be true?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, today's decision would set -- you are correct, today's decision would set the ceiling. And so, in August, you would not be able to increase above that without it requiring us then to start this process over, we would have to readvertise and hold additional hearings because we would be going above -- excuse me -- going above what we had advertised as our proposed millage rate."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "So that this is part of the conversation, when we passed the budget there was about 13.9 million, I think was the number that we said we weren't going to spend because that was going to be used to address some of the -- beginnings of the cost of the Consent Decree stuff."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And all of that money has been allocated at this time, correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And then whatever else has been allocated, which I believe the number is higher than 13.9, so far has been taken from nonagency?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, ma'am. We've tapped into the balance of -- excuse me -- we've tapped into the balance of what was remaining in the inmate services funding."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And is it your contention that the 700,000 is enough, because there's more money in nonagency that you'll be able to take advantage of, should our expenses for the Consent Decree go above?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Well, if you will recall, included in the budget this year, as well as last year, we had already built in \$10 million for a debt service set aside should we issue bonds to support construction for -- originally it was for the new replacement jail. And so since we're finishing up the facility condition assessment and recommendations with the current PMT group, we don't expect that we will have a plan in place that will require the issuance of bonds this year. So we will have that bucket of resources that we can use to address some of what comes out of the Consent Order for this year. For 2026, we would hope that we would be at a point with our PMT and the jail condition assessment and have a decision in place for ultimately what we will be doing with the facility itself and we'll be further down the road and would issue some bonds, and so we would need the money next year for debt

service. So we do have that bucket of resources available to us that we could pull from for compliance with the Consent Order this year."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And so that money has not been touched at this point, or we've already tapped into it?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "We have not."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So there's an extra 10 million?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "That is available, right. That could be used for Consent Order compliance as we progress through identifying what the actions are -- I'm sorry about my throat -- what the actions are and, you know, tying down the cost of those actions as we move forward."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. Again, for me, the comfort level of a \$700,000 margin of error is not great. I hear you on the 10 million, but I think it's such an unknown we really -- I mean, maybe we'll be fortunate and not have to spend that money this year, but I think the sooner we start addressing the problems at the jail the better, personally. And also I'm just going, for the record, sort of state that, you know, when we were doing the budget and, you know, I was suggesting that we take some of the money that was in nonagency in these various buckets and apply it to some of the things that Commissioner Arrington has already brought up today of serving veterans and, you know, retaining our level of arts funding from the prior year and some of those things that that money did exist in nonagency, and I was, not to use a technical term, but I was pooh-poohed basically, that that money was all allocated and it couldn't be touched and apparently, that was not true. So that's a little bit frustrating. But obviously, you know, well, I guess we'll just see what the rest of my colleagues say about where you want to go on today's millage rate decision."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, Vice Chair, you're next. Madam CFO, I think you've done an outstanding job, and I think the 8.87 is reasonable, is fiscally sound, and anybody who wants to make a motion at any time to raise taxes, they're free to do it. We can vote it up or vote it down. Vice Chair, you have the floor."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "You kind of stole my thunder, Mr. Chair -- you kind of stole my thunder. But I want to reiterate excellent work, too. I mean, 0.1 percent, that's a pretty -- that's a pretty solid hit right there in terms of all the budgetary assumptions that were made and where we are in that sort of you clearly outlined and we knew going into this, we, you know, approach things with some astuteness in terms of, you know, setting aside reserves, you know, for a year in which we have a lot of unknowns and we still have some unknowns kind of going throughout the course of this year, so you know, I do want to commend both the process that took place as well as, you know, the conservatism and the smart assumptions that were made, and I'm going to go ahead and make a motion that we agree to advertise at the rate of 8.87 as the Resolution outlines. That's my motion."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, is there a second? All right, seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Motion on the floor is to accept it at 8.87. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. This is where we have to have the very, very difficult conversation. I know that we're talking about the jail, and I understand that that is what some people want to talk about. But what I want to talk about is this so-called anomaly that we have. And what do I mean by that? We don't know federally what kind of funding is going to be snatched from us. Nationally, counties and cities are having to step in the gap when it comes to behavioral health, when it comes to seniors, when it comes to veterans, when it comes to arts and culture. And so, in good conscience, I want to save the taxpayers citizens, yes, I do, because I am a taxpaying citizen. I don't want my taxes to go up; however, I do not want one citizen of Fulton County to become homeless, to have an issue with behavior health, to have an issue with anything that we can step in the gap for. Because remember now, we serve all of Fulton County. And so, we're at a point now that we're going to have to ask all departments, y'all got to tighten your belt. You're going have to look at where you can cut the lean. But we're also going to have to task the County Manager and his staff with what are the unknowns, which is really a hard idea to decipher because it's changing almost daily. And so, in good conscience, I would not be able to go with an 8.87. I would not, because we have too many unknowns. Now what do I mean when I say that to the Fulton County taxpaying citizen that is being beat up every day? You go to the gas station and you go to the grocery store. My dry cleaning bill -- everything is going up. I know that that is -- pause that makes you think. But on the flipside of that, because you want to say the less of two evils, for the lack of a better word, what devastation is Fulton County going to have if we don't take a realistic approach? We do have the Consent Order of the jail, but we also have real life individuals that if we don't look at trying to do this balance act, we're going to do more damage. See federally, decisions are being made that are affecting us locally, and that's left out of the conversation. Decisions are being made federally that are affecting us locally because, in my opinion, for whatever that's worth, government is local. And so, what do we do locally to make sure that we stand in the gap? Department heads, hear me now, and I may get in trouble for saying this, you're going to have to come in front of us and justify your ask, at least with me because we're going to have to tighten up somewhere. And if you can't come here and have a conversation with us about anything else, you're going to have to have a conversation with us about your budget. This is where the rubber hits and meets the road. Fiscally, Fulton County has to run in such a way that we not only keep our rating, but we do not want individuals to fall in the gap. Somebody has to stand in the gap. And as much as I don't want to say it, I have to make a motion for 8.92. I hope I've got colleagues on here that will support that. But we have to look at it fiscally asking the department heads to do what they need to do, but it's not fair for us to ask arts and culture, hey, you all wait, hey, you all do what you need to do. We're going to try to come to the rescue and then come and say something different. Now, I'm one of the biggest arts and culture fans as anybody else, but I understand they are being hit nationally. HIV, nationally; behavioral health, nationally; housing, nationally. And I know that we are not in, quote unquote, the people business. That's what some people would want you to think; but we are in the people business. So sometimes we're going to have to make decisions that are not popular and people don't like them, but they must

be done for us to do what we need to do which is to make sure that we stand in the gap, we keep our rating good, and we do what we need to do locally what's best for everybody, and especially for the least of these. So I'm going to make a motion for 8.92"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Substitute motion, instead of 8.87, 8.92. Is there a second? Is there a second? Is there a second?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Ivory, you have the floor, on the 8.92."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much, Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, for that, a lot of what you said really hit me in my heart about the considerations. A year ago before I was elected, I sat in that audience when I came to every Commission meeting and heard the same conversation when the millage rate was being discussed, and I thought, what would I think if I won and I came to this Body about keeping a rate flat when everything in our society continues to go up, and I heard during public comment different constituents come up and say, please don't raise our taxes and please give us more services, which made me understand that many of our citizens don't understand how it actually works, because those two things can't exist in the same time frame. You cannot not raise the millage rate, but then give more services, because the services come from the money that we take in from property taxes. And so, I feel like fundamentally when our citizens completely understand how it works, they would be in support of spreading out the cost of raising the millage rate amongst all property owners so that everybody could get more; that the services that we provide which continue to go up and up in expense could be spread out and given to everybody. So it's just how it works as prices increase. So if you're at home and you're a parent like I am of six children and I see all my six children, I don't want to just address one of the crises that my children is having, one child is having, I want all my children to be able to get more for what they need and maybe not at the same level, but they all should do that, so then what do I have to do as a parent? I have to get a part-time job. I have to figure out a way to get more money from the job that I'm working at currently, or maybe I have to get two part-time jobs in order to bring more money in to pay for more things that all six of my children need, not just one, and I'm not going to just say over and over year after year to my other five, I'm not giving you any more money. Lean down on what you're buying. You just have to figure it out and do it that way, and that's what we do with our departments. We just tell them to keep on coming and leaning down what they're spending while the price of things are going up while changes are happening. And I'm a very fiscally responsible person, always have been, but it takes courage, like in DeKalb County, to raise taxes in order to pay for infrastructure, because the price of things continue to go up as you ignore them needing to be done. So the first thing that I want to say, which I don't think is a function of our finance department and the way that we are all pressed to get information and to process and give it to us, but I received the rate last night at 5:00 p.m. To consider a vote not even 24 hours later, and as I'm -- I don't blame you for that. I blame it just the

way our government operates, the way things are going, but it's not fair to us as Commissioners to be asked to vote on something that we were given the night before at 5 o'clock. I don't feel like I have enough information, because the information I want to know is what are the midyear projections? How do they impact us moving forward? So if I vote on something today that I don't even know what the projections are for how we've been spending the money in the past six months, that doesn't feel fiscally responsible to me at all. So I can't vote for 8.87 because I just don't have enough information about what I'm voting for. But bigger than that, I want to take care all of my six children, and that's all of the departments inside of Fulton County. And I've heard the departments come and say, we give the information about our budgets and what we need to operate year after year and we get denied immediately. We get told, and they're called enhancements, which I think is the wrong language for that, because to run your department with increased costs of things going up every year and asking for more to do that, it's not an enhancement like in the sense of let me give you some extra money to exist. It's what they need in order to provide the services that we say are our responsibility. That is in the documents creating Fulton County in saying what we need to do. So even before we started talking about the millage rate, we had many people come before us. The Magistrate Court said she needs more. She's been coming and coming and coming as well as all of our justice partners. We had a presentation where we needed more to find more funding for that elevator modernization at the jail. This is all before we even started talking about the millage rate. Then we were reducing Hoopla at the library, functions that we're responsible for; the jail, the library, the court system. And then we were talking about the additional funding for the Northpoint project before we even got to the departments and what they are asking for. We have got to have the courage to say that we are not going to keep this flat -- who stays at the same spending budget amount year after year after year in a rate when the price of things keeps going up and up and up? So last year I just listened and I thought, okay, I love the deep reflection of why we should not raise the millage rate, and I said when something big happens like a crisis, well, the County's going to have to do that, because in a crisis, you have no choice but to address the crisis. And here we are in a crisis, and even before in numerous conversations before this conversation today, many Commissioners contemplated raising the millage rate because of the crises that we're in, in this particular time with the jail. So we don't know what the expenses are, but how will we likely meet those Consent Decree costs without additional revenue? Constantly the argument well, we should go into nonagency, we have 10 million, we can issue a bond, no. We need to have money in our coffers to deal with these issues without also having to deny everybody else the money that they need. So what are the consequences of failing to adequately fund our public safety and justice partners over and over again? There's all the politics in that and we don't like the way this person spends money, but there is no doubt truth that people need more money to run their departments effectively regardless of what your political thoughts are about them. That is just a truth. How can we ensure equity in accessing health human with current budget restraints? All core services that Fulton County is supposed to supply. What departments or services will be cut if we don't raise the millage rate? If we keep going to the departments and we have them appear before us, which currently they do not do. They send you the information and you decide which to me is problematic. I want to hear from the departments. I want to know what is going on with them. I want to

understand why they need more money. And so, when they do that, they come before us and we can still, even if we raise the millage rate, say you need to cut back. That still doesn't -- millage rate increase or not, you still have too much in your budget that is not effectively working for the people, and you need to cut back. One raise in the millage rate does not delete them being able to look in their budgets and decide if they need to be leaner. Is it fiscally responsible to delay necessary infrastructure investments that will cost more later? One millage rate point is \$78.9 million, and to deal with not having to, on a broad stroke tell every department no more money for you. And what does it cost us to do that? When we tell our own agencies that they are not getting any more money from us to operate, it gets all kinds of crises, like the one we have right now. It gets lawsuits internally because they believe that we, as a Commission, are not doing our job by funding them properly, and we're not. If we don't take a hard look and fund properly, which cost more because I, as a parent, will get a part-time job, another full-time job if I have to bring more money in. Okay, my four minutes are up. I think you get the point. So I'm going to say that I would like to put a motion forward to raise a millage rate to 9.87, which would bring in an additional \$7.89 million, one point millage rate increase. We haven't raised the millage rate in years, and the price of everything continues to go up. I, personally, will be a part of having to pay more taxes. I'm willing to do that for the seniors. I'm willing to do that for the veterans. I'm willing to do that for the children. I'm willing to do that for the inmates at the Fulton County Jail, and I'm willing to do that for all of our justice partners that work so hard to reduce the problems that we have, which go together. Problems in the justice system create problems in the jail, and if we can fix that, then we will be all be better served."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So you're recommending 9.87?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a second for the 9.87, and we'll decide --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'm sorry. What do I need to do?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You want to dispose of the 8.92 before going to the 9.87?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yes, sir."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I will withdraw the 9.82."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Commissioner Barrett, you --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "8.92."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "8.92, I'm sorry."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman recommended 8.92, which was seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Do you withdraw your second?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Yeah, I'm fine."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, so Commissioner Barrett has withdrawn her second of the Abdur-Rahman motion of 8.92. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has withdrawn her motion. What's before us now is a motion by Commissioner Ivory to raise the millage rate from the proposed 8.87 to 9.87, which was seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Everybody understand what's before us? All right. Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I want to thank you, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, for your comments, and I want to thank you, Commissioner Ivory, for yours. It is a little frustrating to me because a lot of these things I brought up at the time of the budget in January as did Commissioner Arrington and, you know, we were not heard at the time. And you know there are organizations that suffered because we didn't make the decision then. That said -- including the departments -- you know, I think had something like a 23 or 24 million-dollar list of potential additions to what ended up in the budget that included a lot of the justice departments that have been asking that you were referring to, Commissioner Ivory. And so, you know, look, at the end of the day, the votes happened and they happened the way did at that time. It is what it is. I'm glad, you know, that we're at midyear, and we want to make a different decision. I think this does give us the leeway to see what information we get from the County management over the next six weeks, and I think it's much wiser than sticking to the 8.87, so I'm in support. I thank you both."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Wow. Commissioner Ivory, I am like you, my first year when I came in, we were approving our budget and we had a \$22 million surplus. And as I sat there and listened to the list of items that were just added, things I didn't even know what they were, programs I didn't know what they were, spending 22 million in about 20 minutes, we were over budget by \$37 million and then boom, we approved the budget. It was frivolous spending. So I feel like we need some kind of constraint. We need people to tighten our belts. Have we had any federal cuts that have affected us? Can anybody speak to that? Has the HIV, have they had any cuts to their program?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "No, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Has Behavioral Health had any cuts to their program?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "No, ma'am."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Have they had increases to their program?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "We don't have the new Fiscal Year budget, so I can't speak to increases for the upcoming Fiscal Year."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "But we have had the state that's come in and granted us money; approved?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "For the behavioral health crisis center, yes."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes, yes. And we're working on housing, we're working with our veterans, we're working with our seniors to expand services with the current budget. I would -- with our new facilities that we're going to be opening and all of that."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, FC COO: "Yes, those constituents can be served in those facilities."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So I appreciate the finance team; all the work you've done in creating a recommendation to us. But I do understand we have reached the highest rates of inflation last year. It was a 38, 39-year record inflation because of frivolous spending on the federal government level which, when you want to lower interest rates, you don't go and spend, you don't introduce money supply, that's basic economics that was touted as an inflation reduction act which is ridiculous to any economists. We have interest rates -- people are struggling for homeownership, they're struggling to make rents, they're struggling to pay their taxes now, and we think that increasing our taxes by more than 10 percent is going to help those people, because we're going to make them more dependent on us because they're not going to be able to afford to live here, so we're going to need more social programs. We're going to need to expand senior services even more, and we're going to have to do more funding for housing. Because we're going to increase taxes and make it unaffordable for people to live here. I have children that are trying to buy their first house; I have children that look at the taxes here and they look at other cities, and they're like, what the heck, I'm not going to buy here. I'm going to go somewhere else because the taxes are so much lower. So I feel like that the 8.87 recommendation is a good recommendation. It makes us tighten our belt. It makes us make the hard calls. You talk about our justice partners; we've increased spending in our justice partners year after year. What, is it 605 million we're spending this year, our justice partners? We've increased it year after year after year, but it's never enough. They come down every year wanting more and more and more. It would be nice. It would be great. It would be fabulous if we could fund every single request that we have, but we can't, not at this time. Not at a time when we have record inflation and high interest rates. Now hopefully in the future, those will come down; inflation will come down and interest rates will come down, things will settle. But right now, I think it's a struggle for the most basic needs for people to have housing, to have interest rates where they can't afford to buy, drives up the cost of

rentals all across; and I'm hoping that we can get some fixes to the economy here, but right now, I can't burden the taxpayers with more than a 10 percent increase in their taxes."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I just want to go back to, we adopted a budget, I think that five of us voted for; is that correct, in '20 for the 2025 Fiscal Year budget? Right now, if I read the financial projection, our expenditures, and correct me with this if I'm wrong, Madam CFO -- through May running at 35 percent; is that correct?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Yes, year-to-date."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Forty-two percent of the year, am I right? So it doesn't look like we're going to run out of money. We have adequate reserves. I will remind folks that, you know, we have not decreased our general fund budget. You've been here for ten years, Mr. Manager, right? We've not decreased that in any year, correct?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Yes, sir."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "All right. I'm showing our general fund expense budget was 800.3 million in 2021; does that sound about right?"

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Let's just check that."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Vice Chair, that sounds about right. I don't have the --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "-- and our general fund budget this year is at 989.7; is that right?"

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. So the point is we have been investing in -- while our millage rate may remain flat or it may go down, an individual taxpayer is still probably paying more in taxes with those adjusted millage rates because their home values are going up. So we're not asking people to stay the same -- pay the same amount of money even when we hold the millage rate flat. You know, I hear hem and haw -- cry about, you know, folks that come down and, you know, that they're not getting funded and, you know, I recognize that, hey, I do a day job and I've had to deal with funding cuts at my own organization, make adjustments, do things differently, and that's the way of life. But some of the folks that have come down and made, you know, complaints about things this year, I mean let's just sort of when we had one, you know, this morning that came down and made some remarks. But the fact is, that particular court, their resources have grown 50 percent from 2021 to 2024, and then their 2025 budget is 13 percent over their actual spending, an 11.11 percent increase over the prior year. So if anybody takes a step back and looks at what they've done -- what we've done, we have

invested in these operations, you know, so that's a fallacy to say that we've cut resources for any of these justice-related partners. Budget year-over-year are more if you look at in terms of, you know, 2024 actual spending. Probate court up 14 percent; District Attorney up 7.3 percent. We talked about some of the stuff with Behavioral Health, up 14.5 percent. We've made significant investments in operations. Our budgets have grown substantively. We are in the County that collectively pays the highest amount of taxes in anywhere in the state of Georgia with the combination of taxes from the city, school systems, and the County. I think we've done as was demonstrated earlier in the report, you know, from Dr. Roshell. The discussion related to health investments and that balance throughout the County, and doing it in a way that was fiscally astute, and going to be impactful throughout all of the county. So I'm a little bit of a loss as to how we are here today, with five of us adopted a budget, and there's nothing that sort of gone off track in terms of our projected spend or whatever that would suggest that we are going to run out of money and be in a financial crunch in 2025 in such a way that it would necessitate us having to raise taxes at all and certainly not to the degree of 10 percent. So I will appeal to my colleagues that if we stick with, you know, what we told citizens when we adopted this budget that we were going to assume a flat millage rate and let the numbers bear it out, and that we should adopt it. And I would encourage us to do that today."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Thank you. This is my 11th year serving as Commissioner, and we have not increased the millage rate in any of those 11 years, every year that our County Manager has been here, he has, based upon the millage rates and the budgets that we adopt, departments had to -- department's budgets were cut, if my memory serves me correct, like 10 percent -- I think it was a 10-percent cut for three or four years in a row and then a five percent cut. And so, while the -- while there may be some -- while the number may have increased and the budgets have increased -- are decreased on an annual basis every year, we're facing a jail and even -- even just all throughout the County, right? I mean, one of the biggest problems we have is that we're unable to hire and to retain people. And the reason we're unable to hire the people that we need to hire and to retain the people that we need to retain is because we don't pay enough money. People can go over to DeKalb County and get double or triple overtime. They can work in a new jail. They can work in a new building. They don't have to worry about whether the ceiling's going to fall in on them or whether an inmate is going to pull some metal out of the wall and attack them. And so, Commissioner Ivory is right. I really don't even know if the 9.87 is an enough, because we just got the 8.87 last night, and I've been saying this for years that we do this backwards. We do it backwards. We need to know what the budget is, right? And that's the same thing Commissioner Ivory and Commissioner Barrett just said. We got to know what the budget is before we set this stuff. We can't come in here and say oh, well, okay, we're going to modify the budget after we set the millage rate. Huh? Don't we have to know what the budget is gone be so that we can adapt the millage rate to the budget? So I don't know if the 9.87 is enough, but I'm happy to hear from Commissioner Ivory that she would like to have that cushion, if nothing else, so that we can restore a million dollars to our veterans and the veterans in Fulton County and

veteran services; so that we can restore the money to the arts organization; so that we can restore money to our youth summer jobs program, which just got eliminated altogether this year; after ten years, ten years of allocating money to a youth summer job program gone this year. In a year when the federal government is cutting money, Fulton County, as Commissioner Abdur-Rahman said, should be standing in the gap. We should be increasing our money to these organizations; to arts organizations, to veterans, to youth. Our youth are -- 50 percent of our population, but they're hundred percent of our future. Fulton County should be doing the opposite of what the federal government is doing; and the adoption of this rate does not mean that we actually have to adopt it. But this gives us the room. It doesn't actually have to go up to 9.87, because if you look -- let's go look back at this slide deck; adopted the final millage rate on August 6th. Please go to page 4. Please go to page 4. Adopt final millage rate on August 6th. So this give us the room to make sure that we can provide the resources and the services that we need to provide, to make sure that we can hire people to work in the jail and retain them and make sure that they don't go to DeKalb County where they're paying double and triple overtime. And make sure that our DA and our Public Defenders and our Solicitors can hire quality-competent staff and retain that staff. And so, again, this is not -- let's go back and look at page 4 again. The final millage rate will be adopted on August 6th. This gives us the ability to adopt a millage rate lower than 9.87, but it also gives us the ability to go up to 9.87, if after we get the midyear budget and after we see the expenses that have to be spent for this Consent Order at the jail, we have the opportunity, the opportunity to see this is not about oh, we're raising taxes. No, this is about making sure that we can provide the services that are needed to be provided. Everybody wants the jail population to go down; everybody wants all of these different things, right? But we can't do it if we don't have the resources and the money to pay the people to do it. And hopefully by adopting a rate at 9.87, we will be -- let's go back to page 1, one mil that gives an additional 78.9 million. And that is the point that I made when we were going through the budget. I said we can assume a different millage rate for purposes of the budget. I said that. And while I was disappointed that we didn't do it then, I am happy that we are doing it now. We should have done it then, but that's irrelevant because we are where we are now. And now we have the opportunity to make sure -- the only other thing I want to know is what can we get -- can we get this 1.1 million for veterans this year? Can we get the 1.8 million back for the arts this year? Can we put \$500,000 back in for youth jobs? Since we're about to go back up, that's the only other thing I want to know."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN.: "Thank you, Chairman. First of all, let me put on the record that I support and believe in our County management team. This is not something that you all do lackadaisical; it's not something that you all do just for fun. You make the hard decisions. They're not always going to be popular, but neither am I. But I have the utmost trust that you came to the decision that you came to with the thought process that it took to get to that while realizing that you all are not legislators, and the decision I make today, I'm going to have to answer for at the end of the day. But I go back to saying that any mistakes I make have to be my own. Some decisions I'm going to make are going to be popular; some are going to be very unpopular. But will

they be what is right at the moment in time? It doesn't matter what was said two, six months ago. I've been here five years. Things change in the blink of an eye. I go back to what I said, local government matters. The budget federally has not been passed, so we don't know what cuts are going to be made. But you know what I do know, that my office received calls every day and there are calls that I can absolutely do nothing about, but try to get on the phone for a resource. And so, today even though I do not want to raise my bill, because that's what I'm doing today. I'm raising my bill. But we must understand in legislating and being a part of government, you've got to be willing to bend. You got to be willing to look and see that something has changed. I took heat for making some of the decisions I made. I was labeled as a Republican. All somebody go to do is look at my disclosure, baby, I am not a Republican. But I'm somebody who will work bipartisan, and I'm somebody who in all instances does the balancing act of trying to protect the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County while not letting anybody fall through the gap. And that's a very hard balancing act that requires you to sometimes make decisions that you're going to have to ask -- answer for later. And today, for me, that's the day, today. But having been one of the Commissioners that stay in the field, and I'm not taken anything from my other Commissioners because they all work hard for their Districts. But with me, I spend just as much time looking for resources, referring people to resources while resources that we don't have in the County or are limited at the County, may be cut off, may be pulled back; and we are in an anomaly. Why do we say that? I'm saying it again. It's not just about the jail, and I understand we hear that over and over again. It's about accountability and accountability comes with understanding we are in unprecedented times. The need is greater; it's people that were working last year for the federal government that have no job now. They didn't know they were going to be out of work. And so, I say to my colleagues, but more importantly I say to the listening public, I did not get to this decision haphazardly, neither did the County management team. But the difference between the County management team and me, I'm voted in. I'm accountable to all the taxpaying citizens, and it is with good conscience, a little reluctance, but I get it. I understand that this is a need now. It is no longer a want. It is needed, and I will support the increase based on that."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "So raising the rate -- at first a half a mil is sufficed, but then oh, we can get a whole mil, so now that's good, we can get 78 million more. I feel like we're just throwing numbers and just trying to see how much money we can get the taxpayers to spend. Raising the mil is an 11 percent increase in everybody's taxes. And that's not counting if we had roll back everybody's taxes. So everybody's values -- their property values are going to be valued more, so that's more than an 11.3 increase. It's probably closer to a 12 percent increase in everybody's taxes. We have a finance department that has come to budget; they do this every day of the week. They are looking at our budget, they are looking at our spending, they are tracking what we're going and we just throw out, well, we think we need \$78 million more; we just need to raise your taxes. Let's not forget when the \$2 billion jail was around, no problem. Let's just raise everybody's to 12 mil. Just raise everybody's taxes 30 percent, because we need a new jail." We're concerned incarceration, yet we want to increase capacity for

our jail so we can house 4,000 inmates in this fancy \$2 billion jail for the 2700 people that are incarcerated that may or may not be from Fulton County. A lot of them are from other counties, but they have to be housed in our jail, but we don't care about putting the burden on the taxpayer by raising their property taxes more than 30 percent to cover that. Oh, and there was even talk when the hospital closed. Let's just charge a hospital tax of 7 mil to everybody. The sky's the limit on the taxes that we can charge. We just throw numbers out of the air. We don't sit here and look at detailed spending. We entrust professionals who work every day, who touch every department, who are here that are analyzing and working on getting a responsible spending plan. So, you know, I can't support just throwing out, we'll do the one mil, but half mil wasn't enough, we'll do the 1 mil, I can't support that. We're just throwing numbers in the air seeing what sticks, because we think that we might need to spend and the more money we have, we find a way somehow to spend it. We find a new program. Want to talk about arts and culture, we had that face fashion program, we expand it. Anybody know about the fashion program that we have? How much we're spending on that? I wouldn't know, because my arts people don't get informed. They ask questions and they don't get informed on the board. It just kind of gets spent by the arts council. You want to talk about Fulton Films? We just increased their budget, just threw money, oh, they need another million dollars more, half million, 250, whatever it is, it's a goody bag. It's your tax dollars and we just go ahead and just want to expand, want to provide more which it would be great if it wasn't on the backs of the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County. And to me to increase property taxes by more than 11-1/2 percent on people is a serious decision and granted I know this is just the ceiling, and if you do pass this, I hope you will be responsible and try to bring it in lower when we do the actual -- after we have the hearings. I encourage everybody, if you want your taxes paid because you think we need to provide you more programs and more services, then absolutely, come down here and speak. We'll have three hearings. But if you want us to not raise your taxes -- 8.87, we're raising your taxes. Your properties are valued more; we are raising your taxes. It's just a matter of how much you want us to raise your taxes. So I hope people will come to the hearings. I hope they'll speak out, and that's all have to say, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "When most of us, all of us, ran for office, I know that we did not vow to join a theater production, make dramatic statements, or use the pulpit to, you know, make outlandish remarks that are just political in nature, but don't really have to do with the everydayness of living, and the people that we ought to serve are the least of us, actually. That's what we all should be worried about, the folks that are the least of us, and I will never figuratively or as a pond sit on an Ivory Tower when I'm in this seat. I will think about the people that need what we're supposed to be providing, so there's never going to be a goody bag, there's never going to be a let's just do this. I'm going to be thinking about it in every single way, and then I'm going to take responsibility for what I decide because there are problems. So when our average duration of length of stay for currently incarcerated inmates is at 210 days, which is more than half of a year for a mother who wants to know when her child is going to be able to get out of the jail, then I know we aren't giving enough money to our justice partners. So nobody has to

convince me if they've gotten an increase before or whatever, we're still not doing enough when our average duration of stay is 210 days more than one half of a year. So just think about when was the last time you saw one of your relatives in a six-month period that you were related to, so that's what I'm looking at. So I'm not looking at goody bags or a distrust of our finance department. I believe wholly in your professionalism and your astuteness with our budget, but I know that whenever I come to the County Manager or even to the CFO to say how can we do this to help with these services? The answer I get is, well, where's the money going to come from? If we had more money, we would be able to do it, but we don't have the money, and if that is the answer from the professionals that I go to for guidance, then I just know that they're doing what they're doing with what we have. But if we had more we could do more. And so it's a tough decision that not just this Body, all Bodies have had to deal with this, across the country, across counties in Georgia, 159 of them, have to decide how to bring more money in. If there is another way, then please I want to know. But right now as we decide on what the top cap is going to be, we cannot keep it where it is for the last 11 years, or for whatever the amount of time is that it's been flat. So I'm going to ask all of my colleagues to support -- supporting our departments, supporting our constituents, the least of them, that need more help from us in crucial areas that we are responsible for, courts, jails, libraries, human services, animal services. This is what we are responsible for. So let's do the right thing, be strong and courageous, and give our citizens what they need."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We've been on this for a long time. It's pretty clear. It's 9.87. Let's vote, because we've got people who have been waiting here on that water contract. We're going to deal with that as well. All right, the motion on the floor, motion to approve to increase the millage rate from the recommended 8.87 to 9.87 by Commissioner Ivory; seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Let's vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open on 9.87. And the motion passes; four yeas, three nays."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 9, **25-0467**, Finance presentation, review and approval of the June 18th, 2025 budget soundings and resolution."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Madam CFO."

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have two items in the soundings presentation. We have a transfer of funds from non agency to the County Manager's office to support the appointment of the Correctional Operations Technical Advisor. And I also have some changes to the annual hardware and software maintenance and support list, two items on that, both of them with the Tax

Assessor's office to increase annual spending authority by \$1,500 each, no additional funding necessary."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Any questions for the CFO on this one?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, thank you. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Please vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: **"25-0468**, Registration and Election request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$5,824,388 to provide temporary staffing services."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Hey, Hi, Ms. Williams. I just wanted to check with you. There was a public comment made about the company that we're using, as them primarily or only giving it to Democrat funding to candidates, donations, candidate political donations. So when we do an RFP for these companies, do we ever put a criteria that we'd like to see them to be kind of nonpartisan, instead of partisan organizations that are staffing our elections?"

NADINE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, ELECTIONS: "Good afternoon. I will defer that to the procurement process."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT, PCC: "Thank you. Felicia Strong-Whitaker, Chief Purchasing Agent. We utilize the state of Georgia temporary staffing contracts. There are 10 various companies on that contract. We put a solicitation to them to respond to all of those people that are on that contract. We do not ask that question. That question is not in the state of Georgia's solicitation documents either. So we do not know. We do not ask."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. I would just think with staffing our elections, it's you know, for me, I was -- find difficulty with the previous staffing agency when I was a long-term election worker, from getting hired. I was never called back, despite many attempts. So the whole partisan issue of staffing our elections, I think is very, very important, very important when it comes to elections. Other departments, doesn't really matter, but when it comes to our elections, to building trust, I think it would be important."

But you're saying that it's not a state requirement, so we can't require or look at that, or consider that?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT, PCC: "Correct, we're --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT, PCC: "-- we're utilizing their contract."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. And I do know that other counties forbid using temporary, as I've always said, temporary staffing agencies. Cobb County, Gwinnett County, they all do not use them for actual poll worker hiring. They use them for supplies, logistics, that type of stuff, but not for actual poll workers. And as I said before, I wish we could look at a staffing model where we hire the workers internally. You know, 20 to 30 percent of this contract goes to the staffing company. I think with the millions of dollars that we spend every year that we could save some money by having internal staffing as well. But that's it, that's all. Thank you, Ms. Williams. I didn't really have any questions for you."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "-- two nays."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0469**, Real Estate and Asset Management request approval of a recommended proposal in the total amount not to exceed \$497,966 to provide planning, engineering, and design services of Health and Human Services by delivering a feasibility study."

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 unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0470**, Request approval to utilize corporate purchasing in the total amount not to exceed \$150,000 to provide copy paper and related supplies."

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 unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0471**, Purchasing and Contract Compliance request approval to amend an existing contract with inmate medical services to increase spending authority in the amount of \$948,60."

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm in the queue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a question about this from a where the money is coming from standpoint. So this 9.5 -- I'm sorry, \$948,000 additional for -- for NaphCare than what was originally budgeted; is that correct?"

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "And was this additional 948,000 in the Sheriff's budget already?"

SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: "No, ma'am. We're recommending that it be pulled from the balance of the consent decree reserve funds that we had set aside as well as the inmate services unit."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. So this is one of the items that was already discussed that's part of that batch?"

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

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, great. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion is to adopt. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 10, under Justice and Safety, **25-0472**, Sheriff request approval to renew an existing contract to provide type-written title examinations, abstracts, and delinquent tax sales, preparation services."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0473**, Medical Examiner request approval to renew an existing contract with the Emory University School of Medicine Office of Graduate Medical Education Department of Pathologic to provide clinical education experiences."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0474**, Request approval to renew an existing contract with the Emory University School of Medicine to provide clinical education experiences for students enrolled in or visiting students participating in a rotation with the Medical School's MD degree."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "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: "**25-0475**, Request approval to renew an existing contract with Emory University School of Medicine to provide clinical education experiences for graduate medical students enrolled in the Anatomic Pathology Program."

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

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I am in full support of this, but I just did want to ask one question. Can we explore what partnership might look like with Morehouse School of Medicine to do this same kind of programming, giving the students at Morehouse School of Medicine an opportunity to do the same kind of training?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, ma'am. I will work with the Medical Examiner, Dr. Sullivan on that --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay, thank you."

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "-- opportunity."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's vote, please. Motion to adopt 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: "Under Arts and Libraries, **25-0476**, Request approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Contracts for Services Program funding recommendations totaling \$1,300,000."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, **25-0477**, Public Works request approval to extend an existing contract for operation and maintenance service for wastewater facilities and pump stations in the North Fulton service area in the amount not to exceed \$7,381,500.47, and also Chairman Pitts' item on page 13, Discussion, 25-0485, Fairness and Impact of Rebidding Contracts after a bid protest."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Both of these are dealing with the same subject matter, so let's take them all together. Let me start by saying that I know all three bidders. They're all capable, are all fine firms, and they've done great work for us, and we'll -- but one of them is going to win, and two are going to lose."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Mr. Chair, point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes, sir."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "One, I think it's going to take some time to get through one of these items, let alone two of them. Number two, it is now 1:00 o'clock, and certainly at least I could benefit from hearing from the County Attorney about these items in Executive Session. So I'm going to make a motion that we go to Executive Session."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, we could do that. But the representatives have been here, so it's okay, whatever we want to do is fine with me. But we want to deal with these two today. So we do it now or two hours from now. Madam County Attorney, if we're going to discuss both of them --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, they're on the agenda, so there's no -- there's no doubt that they're going to be addressed today. The question is, do we need to have the benefit of speaking with our Attorney prior to addressing these items in public? That's the question."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "There are --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "If you want me to address them in public, I will. But I don't think you do."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I don't think you do."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Go ahead."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I don't think you do."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I don't care."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I can guarantee you, you don't want me to address these in public."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, if there's something we need to know, let's hear it."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I made a motion, and it was properly seconded to go to Executive Session."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I already did it, I already did that. I made a motion, it was properly seconded."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Y'all, let me provide, we'll -- preside, we'll get through this. Now, this is a very, very, sensitive issue that we're going to resolve today, one way or the other. We have a motion by Commissioner Arrington to go into Executive Session to hear all of this. My personal feelings, all of this does not have to be done in Executive Session. I know that, at least I've been told, I just got back in town that there are, have been some indications that we may be -- litigation may be forthcoming. Anything that deals with possible litigation, I would agree that we should discuss that in Executive

Session. But the second part of this, I'm not sure that I would agree that that is worthy of Executive Session discussion. So let's vote on the -- Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you want to be heard on whether to go into Executive Session?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I want to be heard on it, I would like to make a motion to go to lunch right now. I'm on medication. Those of you that are down here, I see you waiting, and I just implore that you have just a little bit more patience, because I need to eat and take some medication right now. And Chairman, it's 1:00 o'clock, I would just implore --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We have --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "-- that we take lunch right now."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman is speaking in support of going to Executive Session for lunch, that's before us. Let's vote."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. We're going to recess for lunch and Executive Session, where we're dealing with issues of personnel, litigation, and real estate."

Recessed for Executive Session at 1:01 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 2:20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Items from Executive Session, Madam County Attorney."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the requests for representation items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "So we need to check to fix the screen."

CLERK GRIER: "What's wrong with the screen?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The wrong motion is on the screen. You good? All right. Items from Executive Session, Madam County Attorney."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Do you want me to repeat the motion?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Yes. Yes."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Okay. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9 of the Executive Session agenda?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote, please."

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

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "There are no further action items from Executive Session."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Pardon me?"

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Continue, Madam Clerk, we were --"

CLERK GRIER: "On page 11, **25-0477**, Public Works request approval to extend an existing contract for operation and maintenance services -- service for wastewater facilities and pump station -- stations in the North Fulton service area in the amount not to exceed \$7,381,500.47; along with the discussion item on page 13, 25-0485, Fairness and Impact of Rebidding Contracts after a Bid Protest."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Now, what I was saying before we broke for recess, rather for lunch and Executive Session that, I'll repeat again, I know all three bidders, they're all capable and can do a good job for us. But two or one will lose, and one will win. This is one of the largest contracts that we have issued, probably second only to the jail healthcare contract. This one is approximately 13 to \$14 million a year for five years, with an additional five-year extension, one-year extensions with the built-in CPI. So this thing totals much more than about 150-plus million dollars. You recall at the -- at our previous meeting, the item was on the agenda. It was recommended to be pulled from the agenda by the -- by the executive branch. I objected to that at the time. The Board, though, agreed to do with that. My reason for objecting at that time was based upon the allegations, and I repeat, allegations that I had received, as many of you did also, allegations about the makeup of the evaluation team, interference from a Commissioner during the quiet period, talking directly, indirectly, with one of -- one of the bidders, which typically would serve to disqualify a bidder. Protests have been filed by at least one or two. We had multiple letters from the Attorney, and I could just go on and on. So but at this point, now, what I said at that time, and I'll say again, I predicted that this would get messy. And I think that's a term that we can all understand, and it has gotten messy. And I can understand people fighting for it based upon the value of it. So as I see it today, we have two options. One is to vote in favor of the firm that was originally

recommended by the department or the administration, or to follow the administration's recommendation, throw out all the bids and rebid. The problem with that, from my point of view, is that if it's based upon a protest that is filed, we will be setting a bad precedent going forward, which means that anytime a firm bids, not happy that that firm is not chosen to be the successful bidder, they file the protest, and that will lead to delays in the whole process. And that's, I think, is a bad prep -- precedent for us to set anytime. In other words, any losing bidder is able to file a process -- protest, would know that the process would be thrown out, start over, and that's just not, not fair. There were some issues that I believe, still believe, need to be addressed and answered before moving forward. And in spite of all of that, one thing is for sure that the -- we cannot approve a bidder today. Even if we approve a better today, the protests will have to be addressed. We can recommend today, but I -- and Madam County Attorney, Madam Purchasing Agent, you can correct me if I'm incorrect. Even if this Board were to agree upon a successful bidder today, there have been at least two protests filed, those protests would have to be adjudicated or resolved before an official award; is that correct or incorrect?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "That's correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. In the meantime, the first item on the agenda on these two is to extend the contract with the existing operator, because it's going to take time to -- but either way, it's going to take time. The rebidding is going to take time. I don't believe it's going to take six months. Maybe that should be changed up to six months, and we get to it as quickly as we can. But nevertheless, we are going to have to extend the contract with the existing provider for a period of time at the existing rate. Now, if it's up to six months, that's an additional six to \$7 million based upon the -- based upon on the current rate. But again, my overriding concern is that we resolve this issue today, one way or the other. And I'm really concerned about the president -- precedent that we would be setting if we reject the firm that was originally recommended based upon a protest that was filed. And that's where I think we are today, so what's your pleasure? Commissioner --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order, Mr. Chair --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "-- Arrington, followed by Commissioner Barrett. Yes."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order, Mr. Chair, I'm calling for a division of these two items. One has nothing to do with the other, and so I'm calling for a division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We're not taking both of them together. I'm just saying, the first one is before us as is --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. But you were just discussing the second one."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I'm discussing both."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. Well, that's why I'm calling for a division - _"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, I'm discussing --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Point of order, I'm calling for a division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We're going to take both of them."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm calling for a division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Not together, Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, we're not taking both of them. We're trying to take all of the items on the agenda. All of the items on the agenda are going to be addressed. So if you say we're taking both of them that implies that they're being taken together."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's not correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I know it's not correct. We're going to hear all these items on this agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I don't understand what you're saying --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Hear all these items on this agenda. And I've called for division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We're taking them separately."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, well, then they're not together."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "I didn't say they were together."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You just said we're going to hear them both."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We are hearing them both. We're --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "We're going to hear all of the items on the agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, we're going to vote on them."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "We're going to hear all of the items on the agenda."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "There are two items that deal with this issue --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "They're not two items that deal with any issue. There's one -- each agenda item is a separate item, sir. Each agenda item --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Point of order."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Are you finished?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Each agenda item --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Point of order."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- is a separate item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "No, let him go ahead. Go on."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I'm responding to you. I've already called for a division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We're -- it's not necessary to call for a division, because you're going to vote on one, then vote on the other."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay, so then we're not hearing both of them. She -- you had the Clerk to read them together, then you start discussion -- you started discussing the second item while we're on the first item."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We sounded the two together to be --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "That means they're being heard together, and that's why --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "That's not --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- this -- why I called for a division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: That's not -- you're incorrect.

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: That's why I called for a division.

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You're not correct."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Well, you're not correct."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Oh, I got a lot. I've got a --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I called for a division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It's not --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I made a point of order, and I called for a division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Division is not necessary to take --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You had the Clerk read both items together. You had the Clerk call both items, I called --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We have a point --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- for a division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It's not necessary."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Point of order. Question for the Parliamentarian. Can you call for a division on an item that's not a non-voting item?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "You call for a division on an item --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I asked -- I had raised the question --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I don't give a --"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Point of order, decorum, decorum."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I don't care what you did."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Decorum."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Decorum."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Decorum. We're going to vote on the decorum."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Vote on what you want to vote on. I called for a division. You cannot call two items --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We're going to deal with the decorum issue. Profanity was used on the floor by a member. Decorum was gone, those who believe that that was the violation of our decorum. Would you put this in the -- in the machine, please?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "It's going to all come out today. It's going to all come out today."

CLERK GRIER: "The motion of the floor is for the decorum."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. What? All right, it doesn't say it on the -- yeah."

CLERK GRIER: "That has to be done on the back end."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "What?"

CLERK GRIER: "We don't have a decorum."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "The Clerk sounded it."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Thank you. We'll take this up at the next meeting. Now, Commissioner Arrington, do you have anything else?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Oh, yeah, I got a lot once we get to these items, once we -- which item are we on? Because the Clerk called two items, she announced two items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "We're on --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "So that's why I called for a division, because I don't know which item to address. Once you -- once you instruct her to -- to announce two items, I don't know which item to address. So that is why I called for a division."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "The item that we're going to take up right now for purpose -- purposes of a vote is item 25-0477. Is there a motion? Motion to adopt by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Sound it."

CLERK GRIER: "Request approval to extend an existing contract for operation and maintenance service for wastewater facilities and pump stations in the North Fulton service area in the amount not to exceed \$7,381,500.47."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington, you have -- it's a motion on the floor is to approve. That has to be done, regardless of any other action that we take. Commissioner Arrington, you have the floor."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I already cast my vote for that."

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

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Sound the second one."

CLERK GRIER: "On page 13, **25-0485**, Discussion, Fairness and Impact of Rebidding Contracts after a Bid Protest."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. This is a discussion. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Oh, okay, y'all, this is what's really going on. His best friend and his business partner's wife is the one that got the lowest bid, and so that's why they want to shut me down, and they don't want me to say nothing. That's what's going to come out. That's what's really going on here with this contract, and why you don't want to put it back out for bid, because you want your best friend and your best friend's wife to get the contract. That's what's really going on; your best friend and your business partner."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'll just go on record to say that the previous comments from the Commissioner to my left were totally out of line and inappropriate. The reason that this is here before us is because apparently two issues that seem to be at place. The process by which the thing was bid, as well as the bid protest. And do we have -- sounds like we had advice. What is the advice from our counsel in terms of -- we've moved forward to extend the contract. Now, what is the advice from our counsel and staff in terms of bringing this to a conclusion? Is it to -- is it to hear out the bid protest and then move forward, or is it to cancel the solicitation for the new bid?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So perhaps I'll -- I'll respond first, then Ms. Strong-Whitaker can add to if she feels it needs to be supplemented. We believe that the best course of action is to rebid it due to the posture it's in currently, rebidding the cancellation of the original bid. And rebidding is consistent with procurement code and with the facts of this case and with state law. So that it is our recommendation for the best course of action."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. I mean, I'll say where we are is, is really unfortunate. I think, you know, as the Chairman alluded to before, they're three very qualified firms

that bid for this. And if there were, you know, if there were missteps that were made, you know, in terms of our process that made that a process which, you know, calls for what your recommendation is, then -- then that kind of stuff does not need to recur. And we need something that's clean. We need to get through it, and bring forth, you know, a clean bid that we can all act upon and move forward with this particular contract. You know, sorry for all the firms and all the time that's sort of been engaged with it. Hopefully, we're going to get to an outcome, you know, that's good for all parties and fair for all parties."

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Thank you, Chairman. You know, this -- this whole process has deeply concerned me. The county, Fulton County, has an obligation to be open, honest, and move forward in the way that's prudent for all. And I would hope and pray that that happened. However, I would be remiss if I did not tell you the amount of complaints that I have gotten from employees, Fulton County employees that demonstrate -- and I won't call anyone's name, but I, for the record, I will say, we should represent Fulton County in the best and highest light at all times. When we have employees that, or an employee allegedly having conversations or refusing to have conversations, when we have an employee that has inserted their own personal preference, at what point do we double check our process? It is not uncommon when one bidder wins and one bidder loses, that certain tactics will be put in place. That's common practice. What I have a problem with, and I want this Body to know that I have a problem with, and I want the general public to know that I have a problem with, the internal or the suggestion of the allegation of an internal person having a role in that causes pause. And so I ask that we do everything that we do or can do to make sure that the integrity of the process remains intact. So many times bids are done, one wins, one loses, the winning party celebrates, the losing party investigates. That is commonplace. What is not commonplace is for this entity, and I know we have had allegations, you know, that you have heard today, what is should not become in place is anyone that is an employee of Fulton County to put their own personal motives into this situation for any reason. Let the process take place. Let this be a call from this County Commissioner, I can't speak for everybody else. Stand down, be fair with the process. You're an employee of Fulton County, and your role is to allow the selection process to happen fairly and not to be brought into question. Now to my colleagues, whether I agree or disagree with you, I'm asking you to do the same thing. Let the process take place, a fair process, a open process. But also, let us be mindful that anytime that you have a bidding process of this magnitude or size of a contract, somebody's not going to like it. That is the -- that is a downside of bidding on contracts. There are winners and there are losers. I, myself, do not want to be part of any tool that anybody uses because they got sour grapes. And I'm not saying that that is the case here, but even if that's a hint of it, even if we have an alleged employee that feels a certain way, we have

to let the process play out. To me, this has an opportunity to put a black eye on what we do here when it comes to procurement. Are we going to give a nod to individuals not liking the process and throwing a monkey wrench in it? Are we going to give a nod to individuals that they know the contract is up for bid, they don't like who got it, and so in their role as an employee, they make it very hard for the winning competitor -- competitor? I don't know that that happened, that's why I'm saying allegedly. But what I will say to the individuals in this galley today, and what I will say to my colleagues and the County Manager's staff, let us learn from whatever mistakes we made with this, intentional or unintentional. And let us never, ever be at this junction again."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just -- excuse me, ma'am; excuse me, excuse me, excuse me. Anybody else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Let me just say this, the -- in every contract that I've been aware of, there's always a clause that says that we, city, county reserve to right -- the right to reject all bids at any time for any reason. That's always there. But that doesn't make that right. And Mr. Arrington used an expression about equal and equitable. I mean, there was a time when segregation was legal, didn't make it right. And I can give you many, many examples; gay marriage, interracial marriage. In this case, we had three firms, three capable firms responded to a solicitation that was offered by Fulton County government. All responded, had the same information, they all responded to the same thing. The bids were evaluated by Fulton County. One received the top score, met all the other, other qualifications, and theoretically should have been awarded the bid. But because of a protest that was filed, a decision was made to throw out all of the bids. And therein lies my concern. The precedent that we're setting going forward, whereby or wherein a losing bidder can file a protest, and that stops the process or causes all bids to be thrown out when all bidders, in this case, have gone to the expense of responding to the RFP to the request, had the same information, and submitted their proposals and one was selected. I just don't think it's right, even though we have the right to cancel at any time, it's not right, and it's not fair, which is why I raised my objection at the last meeting, when the Board, over my objection, my concern, voted to proceed. So that's where we are today. And I assume we're looking for an affirmative vote one way the other, either to rebid or to award. Do you need any direction from us, Madam Purchasing Agent, Ms. Whitaker?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT, PCC: "I'll defer to the County Attorney. I don't believe I need a decision from the Board of Commissioners."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So a decision on that matter isn't on the agenda. And it's my understanding that the posture of the procurement at this point is that the original bid has been canceled and that it is being prepared for a rebid."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. And will the protests have -- that have been filed by more than one of the bidders, will those be investigated?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Because of the cancellation of the original bid that would moot out any of the protests that pertain to only to the original bid."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. All right, Commissioner Barrett, you want to be heard? And I would think that -- I would personally, this is my personal opinion that the firm that was originally recommended should have received this based upon the fact that all three had the same information and responded, and the winning bidder should have been awarded this contract. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all due respect to your telling of the story, there's an important piece that was left out. And I just want to clarify that the decision to cancel was not because a protest was filed, is that correct, Ms. Strong-Whitaker?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT, PCC: "That is correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. And so my understanding is that upon review of the entire process, which you did after the protest was filed, which is sort of standard course, you discovered an actual problem that on the Fulton County side, where we did something in that process that did not comply with state law; is that correct?"

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT, PCC: "That is correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Right. And so the bid was canceled, not because of the protest or any other reason other than you found something wrong in the process and wanted to make it right."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT, PCC: "Correct. In my due diligence, I reviewed the grounds of the protest. I looked at the grounds, I did my due diligence. I did find that although we had that component in there, it did not comply to the reading of the state law. Yes."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. I just want to make that clear. The bid was not canceled because of the protest, and it was not canceled because of any other comments or questions or anything other than the fact that you found a problem in the compliance with state law."

FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, CHIEF PURCHASING AGENT, PCC: "Correct."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay, thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "And on that point, Ms. Whitaker, and I don't want to -- I think we've been advised not to talk about the specifics of that, and I won't. But that omission on our part, that error, on our part, did not harm the three bids, the three bidders. They all bid on the same information, the same information. And you found, you discovered that after the fact, but that had no bearing on the three bidders when they submitted their bid. That's all I'll say on it, because I've been advised to not, to not get into that. Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Good people, y'all wake up. Good people, wake up. You see what's going on? He wants to push the contract to his best friend's wife. He wants to push the contract. No, don't -- don't throw it out, don't start over, just give it to the people that he got to get the contract in the first place anyway, right? Good people, pay attention, wake up to what's going on. He's going to clarify or say that this was thrown out because of a protest when we all know that it was thrown out because there was a law that not -- that was not complied with, a state law. We just went back there and we just had that discussion. And now, he comes out here and says, oh, well, this is being thrown out because of a protest. We should just give it to the company that got the recommendation. You better wake up, people. You better wake up. He trying to give his contract to his best friend and his business partner's wife. That's what he's trying to do. Wake up."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. I won't respond to nonsense. Go ahead."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Well, I'm going to respond to it. First of all, let me apologize to the listening audience, because we should not even take that posture, because once you point a finger, four others are pointed back at you. In public comments, we had an elected official that felt strongly enough to come down here and accuse one of our Commissioners of using his position to get a warehouse in the district. Now, I don't know if that's true or not, but don't start pontificating and putting stuff in because that's what you want to do. Just because you have an ability as an elected official to do it, don't make it right. That is wrong, Commissioner Arrington, for you to do that. I agree with you, you have the right to say anything you want to. But to say it public in this forum, is wrong. And if nobody else is going to say it, that's fine, I'm going to say it. We know that we have problems with contracts. When we have problems, do we -- do we rebid them, or do we not rebid them? We cannot start taking personal attacks at anybody. Any comments I said, I said, allegedly, and I said, on behalf of the employees of Fulton County, because employees of Fulton County, if they have nobody else to go to, they will come to Commissioner Khadijah. And so I felt like it rose to the occasion to say it publicly and go on record. But let's not do the community a disservice here to make somebody think that one particular person got all this power to make sure one particular company gets a contract when it was bided out to three

capable companies, okay? All three of the companies were capable. And so let's not do a disservice to the taxpaying citizen of Fulton County to make this a personal mudslinging agenda when truth be told, all of us up here are at fault, because we represent Fulton County. I can't put -- push my finger at Felicia Strong-Whitaker, the County Manager, the County Attorney, or any of my colleagues, because I'm pointing a finger at myself. We represent the entire Fulton County. Let's have respect for the process, and let's have respect for each other."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner, thank you for those comments. And I'll say this, at this point, and no more. I will not criticize no matter what is said about me, because only one person benefits from brothers saying things about brothers. And I'm not going to get involved in that. There's one beneficiary of that, and I will not be a party to it. You have the floor."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bringing it back to the issue at hand, I just want to clarify again, your assertion that the fact that we did not comply with state law did not give an advantage to one vendor or another may or may not be true, but it is not the point. The point is we did not comply with state law. We have an obligation to comply with state law. And for that reason, we cannot continue with awarding a contract to a vendor when our process was flawed to the tune of not complying with state law. So the fairness part of it then -- and is not relevant, and when it is rebid, it will be -- it was, you know, equally fair, but had a flaw in the process. And when it is rebid, it will also be equally fair. So you know, I just want to again, be clear that the point of pulling the contract -- or sorry, the RFP was because we found a flaw in our process, in that we did not comply with state law."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You have anything else, Commissioner Arrington?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Oh, no, I've said everything I had to say."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else, anybody?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0478**, Library request approval to use Beltline TAD funds for the purchase of Automatic Handling Systems to be distributed at six library locations. The cost of the purchase is not to exceed \$1,100,000."

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

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Hello, again. I just had some questions on this equipment because, you know, we have been talking about the use of digital books and the popularity of digital books. And my concern is the large investment in this equipment, which appears it only last about ten years, and you have to repurchase this equipment, given the cost and the maintenance of the equipment at roughly, you know, 183,000 per -- if you divided it up by six, not for the putting all the maintenance just for five years with the cost of equipment, could you hire a library intern at \$15 an hour to actually do this process? It just so happens I hired, recently hired an intern that that's what his job used to be at the Milton Library."

GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY: "Good afternoon. You are correct in that that has worked in the past when we had to do it that way. However, as someone who worked over 20 -- over 20 years, putting books back on shelves, readying them to the carts to go on the shelves, that's a lot of backbreaking work. And that's why has been a Godsend, so to speak, that you all allowed us to have funding initially, when we built and rebuilt, built and renovated these various libraries. The Automated Materials Handling Systems take up -- or fit the bill for that rush of materials every single day. Just as an example, the Alpharetta Library is our busiest branch. We do not have enough staffing at that particular branch already. To take those nine staff and have them go and do all that backbreaking work every single day, every single year, it's just unconscionable. And so that's why those Automated Materials Handling Systems make the huge difference. Right now, we have six that we need, and the problem is that after ten years or so, those branches being open, those machines are wearing out. They run all day, every day. When people return their books, they're just turning over. You hear all that noise and everything, because that's what it does. It has saved us a lot by having those -- that ability to do that. Jamar, I don't know if you want to say anything about the money parts of it. But the cost is well worth it. I'll let Jamar Parker, who's our Financial Systems Analyst, talk about it."

JAMAR PARKER, ANALYST, LIBRARY: "Good morning. So speaking with the vendor, we're basically to the point that these pieces of equipment, of course, are ten years old, but also they're running out of parts, and they're becoming very expensive to fix. And we're at the point now where we have to purchase these machines as soon as possible."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Are there multiple vendors of this type of equipment? Or did the one vendor tell you, okay, your equipment age is at ten years, going to cost you more, we recommend that you spend a million dollars and buy new equipment from us? How does that work?"

JAMAR PARKER, ANALYST, LIBRARY: "Well, there are multiple vendors. In this particular case, the vendor did tell us that they're having issues with the parts. But I did speak with Ms. Forest Whitaker, and she said that this did qualify as a sole source. But

you know, at the same time again, those, the equipment is extremely old. And so whether we bid it out or whether it's a sole source, either -- either way, we need to purchase new equipment."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. I was just afraid that we're investing in maybe a dinosaur system that would no longer be needed. But you say they run the entire time the libraries are open?"

JAMAR PARKER, ANALYST, LIBRARY: Yes. And then this particular request is just for use of the funding, so it's not necessarily going to that particular vendor. We did have to get the quote from the vendor to at least come to the Board and ask for this particular amount of money, which is above and beyond the actual quote, as you guys, I'm pretty sure, could see. And that's also because of tariffs. They did give us a quote that included a cheaper price because of potential tariffs, but again, this is not a part of the solicitation. It's only the request from the Board for the purchase of the units, not just that one particular vendor."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Thank you."

GAYLE HOLLOMAN, DIRECTOR, LIBRARY: "Yes?"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "How much is left in this TAD account?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "8.5 million, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Just for background information, this is where institutional knowledge comes in. So some people don't believe that means anything, but that was some ten years ago, about ten or maybe more than that, 12 or 13 years ago, when I watched that TAD money, and I knew that that money was 16 million when we started that, there was a clause that allowed us to use that excess money for capital improvements at the library, and we've been drawing down upon it since then. So that's where that money, to answer your question, that's where it came from. There was a hidden provision in there that when you read this stuff, you'll understand that you can file it away. Thank you. Next item. Yeah, let's vote. I'm sorry. Commissioner, Vice Chair Ellis, you want to be heard?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Just specifically, it's within the way the Beltline TAD was structured, there were pilot payments who were automatically qualified at the beginning and allowed for that. And you know, just I -- you know, I'm definitely in support of this, you know, and I would just -- we've got a great library system, you know. If anything, I would encourage us to be more vocal about kind of, you know, bringing -- bringing to light those things that need to be updated, repaired, et cetera, you know, so that we don't, you know, have citizens that are telling us about it, you know, after the fact, you know. So don't be afraid bring to those forward. And it sounds like we've got, you

know, funds still available within just the piece of the TAD money to be able to utilize on that based on what I just heard; is that correct?"

DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO: "Yes, sir, I did confirm that 8.5 million is the current balance in the Beltline TAD."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah. So let's not -- I mean, we've made significant investment and at least our taxpayers have made significant investment with this, with the bond and et cetera. So you know, let's not be a shy to use that money and bring forth, you know, kind of legitimate, good requests, so we keep these things in great shape for a long time to come."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, let's vote. The motion is to adopt."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Under Health and Human Services, **25-0384**, Senior Services request approval to amend an existing contract to initiate a six-month pilot program to provide transportation services to seniors at no additional cost."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Motion to adopt by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Ivory. Please vote."

CLERK GRIER: "And the vote is open."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I have one question."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I believe it was during last years' time frame, or might have been a little bit before this we were -- we were having some challenges with this -- with this vendor because of vehicle breakdowns, et cetera. I realize this doesn't change the nature of the contract. I was really bit confused in terms of why this even had to be modified and come to us. But just what is the background on this? It's just -- is this just a technical change to allow for this? It seems to me, this is what they should be required to do if they can't -- because whether they're supposed to be providing transportation services, they don't have the vehicles to -- of their own to go do them, then they should be able to go get access, whatever vehicles are necessary to do the services we contracted with them. So I guess, this -- I was just curious in terms of why this was here, and I have no idea why we held it twice either, so."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "This amendment allows the -- well, the contract requires the contractor to inform the county anytime they use a subcontractor. So this approval documents the change in the amendment. So you're correct, Transdev can subcontract with anyone."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay. And then my overarching question is, are we satisfied that this vendor has an adequate enough fleet to meet the contract needs and/or can you provide assurances that what we've contracted them to do is being met right now, and they're not deficiencies in it because of some deficiency in their fleet?"

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "Good afternoon, Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Director of Senior Services. Vice Chair, you did ask a question about the challenges we were having with contractor performance last year in 2024. That has significantly improved. To answer your current question, do we -- do we feel confident about the fleet and their ability to provide the service. They are providing the fleet per the contract. The challenge is the age of the fleet. So this subcontractor in the pilot will introduce an idea of how to bring in a more youthful fleet to serve our seniors and so they can fulfill the terms of the contract."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Okay, thank you."

LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES: "You're welcome."

CLERK GRIER: "And the motion passes unanimously."

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0479**, Request approval pf a -- for Fulton County Finance Department to enter into a contract to provide liability, accident and excess automobile liability insurance coverage for senior AmeriCorps volunteers, and to pay related costs of \$533.59."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "**25-0480**, Public Works request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$111,333.50 to provide water meters."

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

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

CLERK GRIER: "25-0481, Request approval of an IGA between Fulton County and the city of Chattahoochee Hills for sanitary services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a motion? Motion to adopt by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote."

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

CLERK GRIER: "On page 12, Commissioners' Action Items, 25-0482, Request approval of a resolution affirming current county fringe benefits offered to Superior Court Judges and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Ivory, with support from Commissioner Thorne, and Vice Chair Ellis."

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: "25-0483, 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 20 -- 209-16: Travel, Training, Parking and Automobile Allowance/Mileage Reimbursement Policy, and for other purposes sponsored by Commissioner Ivory."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Ivory. Is there a second to the motion?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Do you need me to request this -- we're in the queue."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Well, go ahead. Supposed to have a second, go ahead."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. So I'll be glad to explain what this is. This is just from a personal experience that I had when I first was sworn in and I hired someone who was working in my office when I quickly realized that she had not gotten the training that she deserved to have gotten throughout her tenure at the county, which by all assessment, made me feel like the county had failed her in her training. And so this resolution just requires department heads to go through and perform a training assessment of the employees in their department prior to the budget process, so that they can then say, this is the amount of employees that need training; this is what it would cost. And I sat down with our head of HR to make sure that I was correct in the

way that I was writing this thinking about it. And he agreed that I was. So it's just a planning for employee training, which ensures departments can meet professional certification requirements, keep skills current, and prepare for any emerging needs that they may see are coming, and make sure that their employees are, you know, prepared for it. Annual assessments help departments estimate training and travel costs accurately, they avoid budget overruns, and take advantage of early registration savings on training courses. This resolution directs updating Fulton County's Personnel Procedure, 209-16, to formalize this new requirement and ensure clear and consistent implementation. It's the responsibility of department heads to submit these assessments, to inform the County Manager, the Finance Department and the Board during budget review."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is this time sensitive?"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Well, it's just sensitive in that we're going to be heading into another budget season and another -- it's an opportunity to give our head of HR an opportunity to let the department, give them any guidance they need on how to assess what training needs. Folks have to, again, look at savings that can be savings that the county can find by adequately shopping for training courses or any certifications that are out there, and not wait right up until the point where, you know, the full rate may not be - - will have to be paid instead of maybe an early-bird sort of training. So it just says, like, let's get to the business of training our employees in a way that is planned and directed. And this is just the personal experience that if I would have had this, I think I would have been able to help out one of our employees greatly, greatly --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Ivory, I know we talked about this briefly --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- and I certainly appreciate the motivation. And I think, you know, everybody can agree that we want to make sure that our employees are getting, you know, access to training as needed and that, you know, they're being -- or, you know, afforded that opportunity. I think I would personally be more comfortable if it was more of a -- if this were more of a ask to our head of HR and to the County Manager's team to come up with a proposal for how to address skills assessment and training opportunities, versus a requirement for all departments to do something and it -- it feels a little bit unspecific to me. So I'm guess -- I'm -- what I would like to do is make a motion to hold if it's not time sensitive, so that we can maybe get a more fleshed out version. I don't know if you're amenable to that or not, but --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "I'm not -- I'm not opposed to if you need more information about it, but I've done that exercise already. So I didn't write, I didn't propose this resolution in, you know, un-researched manner. So I've already spoken with our head of HR as to how this -- this is his recommendation on how we do it. And this is why I brought it to the Board to do it. I've made it formal because I don't think that we've had something formal, and leaving it up to the department heads to just do it is exactly what failed the employee that I was working with, because it was not a requirement. It was more just a suggestion that folks do it, and they were not doing it. So I have already fleshed it out. This is the fleshed out version after speaking with the head of HR. And I do want to move forward to make it a requirement, because I think our employees deserve that. It doesn't require anybody to spend money that they have to spend. It just says to do an assessment, and then if you find that you do need to give employees training to submit that with the budgetary requirements for it, so that it can be considered during the budget process."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'd like to make a motion to hold."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. So the -- there was no second to the motion to approve. So you have a -- your motion is to hold? Or is this second to the motion to hold?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "I'll second it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Now, Commissioner Thorne, you want to be heard on the motion to hold? No?"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. I'll just find out more --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you want to be heard, the motion to hold?"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I just want to go on record saying I'm not -- I'm - even though I understand where Commissioner Ivory is coming from, I'm a little reluctant to support this, because one, does this really need a resolution for what she's trying to aim at? I just want to be real careful about not only what lane we stay in, but requirements operationally, of what our County Manager and our HR department is doing, I don't know, and after we hold this, I may be convinced, but on -- I've read it and I've heard her comments. Do we really need this? Because if the person that you hired said that she wasn't trained, is that a training issue? Was she trained incorrectly? Was that something that got through the cracks of what HR does? I'm real leery about resolutions being put in place in lanes that I specifically don't really want to be a part of if that is understandable, County Manager, as to what I'm saying. I -- and I could be, like I said, this is -- this is going to be put on hold anyway. But I'm just saying in my mind, I've thought about other resolutions we put in place, and we have to be very careful as to what we're asking or requiring when you all require it anyway. Now, if someone didn't

get what they were supposed to out of it, if someone did not get the full crux of it, that's one thing. But another thing to require it of individuals that maybe some are doing it, maybe some are not. So from an operational, I'm just wondering if, in fact, we need this, for one. Two, is it enforceable if they don't do it? And so I just -- I just want to openly put it out there that I'm kind of -- when it comes to things that I just want to be crystal clear that maybe should be handled by the County Manager's Department or by the HR Department, exclusively, in my mind. And we know how far that goes, everybody have their own opinion. So I just want to put it out there. Not that I want support it, Commissioner Ivory. I'm wondering, one, do we need it? Two, how do we enforce it if they don't do it? And so those are my concerns."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Commissioner Ivory, followed by Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you so much to all Commissioners for asking the questions. I don't have any issue at all with holding it and answering any questions that you want further, you know, further insight into it. But I do want to just highlight that we don't already require anything. So there is already no requirement. So I'm not coming on top of a requirement and asking for more of a requirement, because there isn't any requirement. And I also have already spent the time with our head of HR, if this was in line with what he could do and would recommend and thinks is a good thing. So I would not have ever skipped over that, that process --"

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "He's not going to tell you no, Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Well, I mean, I'm not -- let me just -- let me just say this. Let me -- okay. Let me just -- then let me just say this third thing, then. Well, if that's the case, then I want to have a whole meeting with a bunch of people tomorrow, if no one's going to ever say no to me. But the third thing is that there's no, I don't believe, as an educator, that there's ever a such thing as over education, over training, or giving people the opportunity to learn more, whether or not they're going to do it. So I'm not opposed to -- I'm not advocating for an enforcement mechanism for training. I want just to know what this does, which is it just says to each department, perform and submit an annual training assessment in your own department about who you think could really benefit from it, and then let's give it to them at rates that are well planned out, and is at a good cost savings to the county. And that's really a planning measure for that. And we don't require it now, but I think we should, and I think that more education is a wonderful thing. So I'll be glad to answer anybody's questions after this goes on hold and bring it back up at the next meeting."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah, I'll be brief. I just would like to know the cost associated with this. I know you can't -- not every department is going to have the same cost. But what are some examples of some costs? And are we opening ourselves up to some kind of liability? Like someone could say, I was fired because I didn't get training. I should have had more training. You should have sent me to a technical college. You should have done this, where maybe they weren't the right person for the job, and the job requires on-the-job training, and they just weren't getting it. Is it going to open that up? So those are just a couple of questions I'd like to get answered first. Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis. The motion on the floor is to hold."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, I -- and I have the same reservations as both Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and Commissioner Thorne. You know, I think training and individual assessment a lot of times is an individual management thing. I mean, I've managed people for a long time. You know, I look at all my staff, in terms of trying to assess what their individual needs are. And you work and you develop particular plans around that. Also, you know, I -- this, there's a question in terms of, when we hire people, you know, they're required to have certain skill things that are sort of annotated out in, you know, the job requirements. And if we're hiring people that don't meet the job requirements, that's not a training issue, that's a hiring issue. And I don't know if that's what played out within the scope of, you know, an individual situation here. Then I'm just sort of -- I'm hesitant to react to this in terms of policy, as opposed to, you know, an urging process in terms of just the way that we approach the management and development of people, generally speaking."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, for that Commissioner Ellis. And although people can -- we most certainly screen and we most certainly ask questions upon interviewing, we don't ask people to actually perform the tasks of the office when we're interviewing them. Like you do not open up a computer and ask them to write a paper in front of you while you are interviewing them. So I think there are times that things will fall, you will find out later on that somebody is not as able as you had been told. And so I'm just trying to provide and make sure that nobody slips through those cracks because we have a duty, not only to our constituents, who many of them are also employees of Fulton County, to make sure that they have the things that they need to perform a hundred percent."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else on the motion to hold? Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "All right. Yeah, Commissioner Ivory, I -- yeah, I don't know how many department heads you've spoken with, but I would recommend

talking to them about how they may implement it, or if they feel it's necessary for their department. If -- it might be something more relevant to just Commissioners then to actual departments. But I guess if she came from a department, maybe not. But just my 2 cents worth."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Let's vote on the motion to hold, please."

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

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Next item."

CLERK GRIER: "Commissioners' Full-Board Appointments, **25-0484**, Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors, Commissioner Thorne has nominated Michael Fitzgerald for a Full-Board reappointment to a term ending June 30th, 2029."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Vice Chair Ellis. Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I'm just wondering if this is time sensitive. Do we know? He can stay on if -- he can stay on if -- yeah, the only reason, I would like to make a motion to hold if you don't object, just because I didn't get his phone number. Well, I didn't get his phone number until this morning, and I just had never spoken to him. And it is a Full-Board appointment, so I'd just like to be able to speak to him, is all. There's no -- there's no issue, I just don't --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "He's been on the board for, I don't know how long, eight years or so. And I think everybody, pretty much, is very familiar with him. He's one of my most active board members, and he spends countless hours with anybody who has a tax assessment issue."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, but it's a Full Board --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- appointment, not a district appointment. So that's why I just --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "But he was put on the agenda on Friday."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "No, I understand. But I asked for a phone number from your staff, and I didn't get it until the morning."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "When did you ask?"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "I don't remember. It was probably yesterday, to be fair. I'm not -- it's not a criticism of anybody. I'm just would like to talk to him. If it's urgent, we can vote on it. And if I don't have the support on a motion to hold, I don't. But I'd just --"

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "-- like to be able to talk to him. There's no -- there's not a complaint about him. I just literally do not know him. So yeah, I mean, I'd like to make a motion to hold, and I would ask my colleagues to just give me the grace to be able to talk to him."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Is there a second to the motion? Is there a second to the motion to hold? One more time, is there a second to the motion to hold --"

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Okay. I --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, fails for lack of a second."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Vice Chair Ellis."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I seconded it."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Oh, he seconded it."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "It was after the fact."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Well, I mean --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I seconded it as you were doing it. She had to withdraw her second, so that I could put my second in there. Seconded while Commissioner Abdur-Rahman had her second in there. So I had to wait for her to withdraw her's before I could put mine in."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion on the floor is to hold. Any discussion on the motion to hold? Vice Chair Ellis, you want to be heard?"

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Yeah, I would just request that we move forward with this. And while, you know, I recognize these are generally district appointments, this is a representative in the northern area of the county, which is entirely, you know, represented in terms of by Commissioner Thorne and I, in terms of where this rep is coming from. I think maybe the only one that's located in, you know, either District 1 or District 2. The term is about to expire. This board does a lot of important work, and we're coming into where we're in a very busy season for them. And to go into

something with uncertainty around them operating in a full board, you know, I'm not -- I'm not supportive of that without any real basis to hold this up, particularly for somebody who's been on here for, you know, eight years or so."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Just like the Election Board Member, he will continue to serve in his role if he's not reappointed, or until he gets reappointed, he continues to serve on the board unless and until a new appointment is made. So I don't think this would have any interruption of services for our Board of Assessors. And he will continue to serve. And like you say, he's been on there eight years already, so it's going to continue to serve, so there's -- there shouldn't be any reason to not give Commissioner Barrett the time that she needs. And it just absolutely will not affect the Board of Assessors, nor this person's role on the board."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. What? What do you --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Mr. Chairman, if I may, I just wanted to note that there is a recent statute that the most recent amendment provides that there is no holdover for this particular position. So at the end of the term, there will be an empty seat until the next opportunity for the Board to be able to make an appointment."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "What is the update? What is the law? What's the citation?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "It's a state statute, 48-5295."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "48 --"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Georgia Code 48-52-95."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Okay. If you can have your office send that to me. Thank you."

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

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "I want thank the County Attorney for stealing my thunder, you know. Any other time, you don't say nothing. No, I'm just kidding."

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "Sorry about that."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Please, I'm just playing. Seriously, though, I don't -- I think we, here again, I want to be careful in my comments. But I also want to be realistic. The five years I have sat on this Board, I have had two Commissioners

reach out to me about appointee, either the appointee maybe was not showing up to meetings or the appointee was kind of causing a little conflict or problem. And so when it was time for me to reappoint them, I had a conversation with them. And some adhered that they felt like that they may needed to change the decorum or how they was doing it, and another one decided to resign. That was a conversation that I had between me and the Commissioner. I would tread lightly on holding something because a Commissioner didn't receive a phone call back from the person that you want to reappoint. And there is -- there is no issue that you all have discussed, I don't think you -- I mean, I'm just assuming, because you would have said it. I just think that this, one, it's time sensitive. They -- they're not a holdover. But what I really want to say to my colleagues and the public, that's the purpose of us having communication. If I am a little, you know, I want to know more information about your appointee, if I feel like that's going to impact my vote, I want to reach out to you and say, you know what, I really need his credentials or something. I wouldn't personally, myself, and this is -- she has, Commissioner Barrett, with all due respect, she has the right to move the way that she wants to. But however, I would not interject with that person having to have called that Commissioner back without having a conversation with me, and I would hold it up. I think we have to be very careful how we operate with these appointees. Yes, this is a Full-Board appointment, but this is -- this is an appointee that has served, hadn't had any complaints about, this also is one that is not in my district. And so I just want us moving forward to be a little bit more realistic of what we're asking of an appointee that the Commissioner who is appointing isn't asking. Why -- why do you kind of feel like your questions got to be answered from that appointee as opposed to being answered by that Commissioner? That is my area of confusion, and so I'm going to -- I'm going to vote for it to go forward. But I just -- I just want to put that out there that that is a concern of mine."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Barrett."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not realize that the position would be empty if that person was not currently reappointed. So I'm sorry that I did not know about the new statute. And honestly, the reason I asked is because, with all due respect, Mr. Chairman, to you, when you appointed the head of the Board of Registration and Elections last time, not the reappointment --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "When I nominated."

COMMISSIONER BARRETT: "Nominated, I apologize. You made a point of making sure that we all had the phone number since it was a Full-Board appointment, and that if we wanted to speak to her ahead of that vote, we could. And I just was -- it's a Full-Board appointment, I just wanted to take that responsibility seriously. And it's a four-year term, and it's an important job, and there's nothing more to it than that. I have

nothing disparaging about this person, and I certainly don't want to have a problem on the Board of Assessors, so I'm happy to withdraw the motion to hold."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Commissioner Arrington?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "No objection."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "You're going to withdraw your second?"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yes, no objection to her withdrawing --"

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "-- I'll withdraw my second."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "The Attorney already -- given that the County Attorney has stated that she would not be able to serve and that there would be a vacancy."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Okay. Back to the original motion, which was to approve."

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

CLERK GRIER: "Back on page 7 on the Consent Agenda, item removed for separate consideration. **25-0460**, Emergency Management request approval to extend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$4,540,000 to provide Animal Control Services."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Hi. How you guys doing? I just had a couple questions to ask about some things I think that are out of LifeLine's scope, and that's like flooding in the play yards, some complaints we've gotten, clogged air ducts, stuff like that. Or just in general, is there anything that we need to help with on the shelter?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA: "So we are -- good afternoon, Commissioner, Joe Barasoain, Director of Emergency Management. Yes, we are aware of that issue, and it is being caused by the way it was designed. So the drain fields are being clogged. We originally had to design that allowed for these rubberized tire, shredded tire pieces. So we are in the process of getting quotes right now, to make that correction."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "And then --"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA: "There's an urgency to that, that's for sure -
-."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "I know we've had extreme amount of rain too, so it's probably exasperated the issue. Yeah, I -- I just, you know, I'm, you know, deeply concerned about the treatment that LifeLine's gotten. And I'm also concerned about our animal activists that come down here and give us public comment all the time. But I really -- we have no other company that would want to run our shelter. Like, LifeLine is it, our sole bidder, correct?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA: "So I'll let Vern Sawyer maybe speak on this. So he's the Director of Animal Services. But I will tell you this, I walk that shelter rigorously. I mean, and Vern walks the shelter every single day. I mean, we are present, hands-on involvement. If we would notice something like that, or some mistreatment of the animal, or anything like that, we're acting on it. We're not waiting for somebody to let us know, hey, that's what's happening. We're going to go in there and take whatever action we have to, and we have taken, whatever action we had to to correct issues. You have to understand it is a contractor, but we are enforcing the contract as -- as it's written. And I've never observed, personally, any mistreatment of animal inside that shelter. And I'm -- I'm there a lot, and Vern lives there, I think. I know there's a bed in the back, I think, for him. And so we're -- we're very hands on, for sure. So I don't see any of the -- I mean, we do look at when the complaints come across, because I see all of your names on them. We do go in and look at the complaint to validate or not validate that complaint. We don't just let it go by the wayside. So we are looking at these issues every day."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yeah. I feel like, I don't know, our intake is what, 40 dogs a day, and adopted about 25 out? So we're set up in a situation where we're going to have an overpopulation of animals. We built a \$35 million shelter, and it's overcrowded. You know, we could build a, I guess, a 50 million, and it'll probably be overcrowded. So I would really -- I'm really going to try to encourage maybe some kind of legislation or something, try to find out the root of the problem as to why we have such an overpopulated shelter. We're not alone. DeKalb County recently did an audit as well. And perhaps we can see things that they're doing and work together to try to curb the population. And right now, I feel like LifeLine, given the conditions that they're - they're in with this influx of overpopulation of animals, it's a no-win situation for them, no matter what."

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA: "It's a nationwide problem, it's not just here. So, I mean, we're looking at articles from all over the country. You can -- we compare ourselves to shelters outside of the metro area all the time, just kind of see

what other -- we were just looking at what, you know, Arizona was doing at one of their shelter, because they're all, everybody's in the same boat. You know, the overpopulation is an issue nationwide."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Okay. Well, I'm happy to hear that you guys are feet on the ground, you're addressing these issues. You look into these complaints that we have, and you're doing the best you can, given the situation that you're put in."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Ivory."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Hi. Thank you so much for being here today. If I were to rank the calls that come into my office, animal services would be at the top with, I think taxes probably. I represent the large part of Atlanta, so this is a problem that I deal with all the time. In fact, just last night, or maybe it was the night before, my husband was putting out our garbage can, and a stray dog followed him right into the house. And you know, we did what most animal lovers do, and we fed it, and we gave it water and all that. And now it's, you know, someone in our neighborhood wants to take responsibility for it, which I'm glad. But this is a very large contract that we've talked about extensively. And in fact, I'll be hosting an Animal Services Town Hall next Thursday because of the concerns my constituents have about it. But we, in our conversations, you talked about dealing with some issues that maybe weren't spelled out directly relating to data and the collection of information in the contract. So okay, if you want to address it. So I feel like, in order to give concerned citizens some, you know, reassurance that we're moving forward to address all of these things, what are the areas in the contract that need to be addressed and need to be remediated?"

JOE BARASOAIN, DIRECTOR, AFCEMA: "So we are looking at data collection, so there's not two sources of data, there's one source of data. And the goal is to make that data public, so it's public facing, put it on the public website, put it on the county's website, you hit the button you want to see what's there, it's there, it's open. We're not hiding anything. As far as what was -- I guess, what we want to say is we're going to streamline the contract to kind of look at it and the facts as they're presented to us through the data collection points, which is like our, the way calls come in through 911, the way the reports are being written by the field -- field officers and collected in one place, filter it, and then put it out to the public. When I mean filter, it's, we're not going to put -- we'll put the calls in priority levels, so people can see, if you live in the city of Atlanta or you live in the city of Chattahoochee Hills, you can look at it and go, these are the calls in my areas, these are the types of calls in my area. So we're working towards that public-facing website as we speak. We actually met on it just couple days ago to go, let's do a draft of it and see how it goes, and the dry run went really, really well, so."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "Commissioner, did you want a more comprehensive list of things that we were working on? That's what Mike could address."

There's 20 to 25 improved or new key performance indicators that we are -- and that's the reason for this extension is to get those negotiated, you know, got trialed in terms of ability to meet. And then when we come back at the end of the year with a, what will effectively be a revised contract going forward with LifeLine. And maybe if Mike can have a minute or two, he'll run through that list of key performance indicators --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you."

DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER: "-- which I think directly speak to many of the issues that either we see as problematic or you're hearing from constituents."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Thank you, because I think it is important that we -- if we did not have KPIs in the original agreement, then there was no way to measure what LifeLine was doing. And I think that residents are looking for some measurement, along with increased data, which you have indicated will be given, but some measurements as to their success. So when we find ourselves evaluating the contract, if they're not meeting those measurements, then we're going to need to look at that and decide if they should continue. So please share with us what those KPIs are."

MIKE ROWICKI, DIRECTOR, STRATEGY MANAGEMENT: "Mike Rowicki, Strategy and Performance Management. Again, as Mr. Barasoain had said, we have been working with LifeLine to negotiate different terms on the extension of the contract going into next year. Some of those KPIs, I'm not going to go through all 24, but I'll highlight some of the ones for you, are actually a cap on the number of animals that are actually allowed into the shelter. The shelter was designed for 475, so we're trying to keep it somewhere in that. They have some suggestions for us. And we want to listen to their terms, see what they come back with. We are looking at 100 percent of the animals going out of the shelter all have to be spayed and neutered. There is no exceptions for that, but that would be age appropriate, when it is the animal is old enough. We are looking at staffing levels, where they would have to maintain 90 percent of staffing levels for both the shelter services and the field operations that are out there. We would actually look at the repairs to the facility, the reporting on anything that needs repaired, making sure that it is properly submitted through our Maximo system with drain on those items. We are looking at service complaints. We want to -- we're going to actually start customer service, where we have the kiosk actually at the facility, making sure that people are rating our customer service. Whenever Field Services is actually going out to the field, having a response time back to the constituents on the status of that complaint or that issue, to make sure that they feel like they've gotten that issue addressed and have responsiveness. We are putting in adoption minimum rates. We are putting in foster rates. Those types of items are all items that we're going to be negotiating over the next six months with them."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Excellent. Thank you so much. Can I get a copy of the KPIs that you are going to include in the contract negotiations, is that possible?"

MIKE ROWICKI, DIRECTOR, STRATEGY MANAGEMENT: "Let me review that with you just to make sure that --"

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "Okay. Sure, if it's legal --"

MIKE ROWICKI, DIRECTOR, STRATEGY MANAGEMENT: "-- negotiated -- it's possible I can do that."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "-- only if it's legal, sure. And I just have one question for County Attorney. When we, as a matter of process, we -- if we approve this extension today, but then all of these items don't end up being included in the contract extension, then do we have the ability to cancel and move forward with somebody else who is willing to accept KPIs?"

Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY: "So I'm not sure the logistical hurdles in making that kind of pivot. But all of our contracts have cancelation provisions. It's typically 30 or 60 days, or whatever is reasonable for the type of transition that's involved."

COMMISSIONER IVORY: "And again, I'm only -- I'm asking these questions because we want to respect the concerns of the community, and this is an area that they've had a lot of concerns. So it would almost seem to resident or a constituent that if we were just going to move forward and renew the contract, even though they're telling us that there are great problems, that then we're not listening to their concerns. And what I want to get across is that we are listening to their concerns, and we are addressing those concerns. Because a lot of those things that you just mentioned are the concerns, overcrowding, dealing with the overflow. And I've talked to both of you about this, and I thank you so much for going deep into this. But I want to make sure that we understand that we need to have a measurement of performance for LifeLine. And moving forward, we need to make sure that those items are put into the contract so that we can measure success like we have measured with any other of our vendors. And then if they're not performing, we can take action from there. So thank you very much."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN: "Okay. My comments are biased. And it's biased for a couple of reasons. But I think I need to just go on record saying, five years ago when I came into this Body, I was met with a barrage of accusations against LifeLine. And I was like, oh my God, because I am a animal lover. I got my dog as an adoptee. I feel like I'm connected to the hip of these three men right here. I'm not saying that LifeLine has not had its challenges. But I want to be crystal clear that just like we have election deniers that come down here at contract time or whatever time

and say, oh, they're doing this, they're doing that, everything that my office has gotten, I have investigated and has been unsubstantiated. Dealing with the overcrowding, we know, and when I say we, people of color, we love our dogs, we don't neuter our dogs, we don't spay our dogs. That's an educational issue that I always address during the year when I have different events. I have been at the Animal Shelter, the Animal Services Shelter, and stood there and held the hand of a young lady who was surrendering her dog because she was evicted, and she said, I have nothing else to do but to surrender the dog. Where I live in Southwest Atlanta, we've got a homeless man, and I don't I hate to say homeless, but he's at the expressway every morning, panhandling with his dog. And I stopped to talk to him one day, I said, how do you be homeless, and own a dog and the dog gets fed better than him? He said, because many a days, that's my only friend, and the love he gives me is unconditional. And so am I here to say that LifeLine does not need accountability? No, that's not what I'm saying. But what I'm saying, personal and up close, I have watched you all address everything, put in better processes and deal with issues that sometimes were really out of your realm. But you had the forethought to step to the plate and handle them. And so I'm going to sing the praises of LifeLine today, whether somebody likes it or not. Because what I am tired of, people politicizing stuff. I got ten emails, I remember one year, last year, they talked about LifeLine in every other state, but this one. And they wanted me vote against the contract, because what was supposedly going on in another state. I get it. You all are not perfect, you don't walk on water. But what I saw coming in as a Commissioner, and how cramped the earlier facility was, and how limited we were in educating the public and the new facility that sits in my district that I've been there unannounced several times, I sing the praises of LifeLine. That doesn't mean you can't be accountable. That doesn't mean that the contract needs review. But I want to be crystal clear in not only my support of LifeLine, but those that for whatever reasons, whether they got fired off a job for LifeLine, I don't know. But I do know that some of the assessments or the blame of things that you -- that people have said of you, have not been substantiated, and they have been very personal in their attacks. And so I want to go on record saying, I support you all, especially the leadership I see here. I can't say that with everybody, but with this leadership, I support you all, because I know that your job goes past getting a check. You all three, have a love for those animals and a love for that shelter over there. And I don't want to say shelter, I want to say Animal Services Center, you know, the politically correct. But at the end of the day, I'm an animal lover, and I watch what you all do. And I want to go on record saying I appreciate the hard work that you all do. You're not going to get everything right, nobody does. We don't get it all right down here. But I want to address this -- this segment that want to say, if LifeLine, no, LifeLine, about, no, we don't want LifeLine. Well, when I ask them, okay, if you don't want LifeLine, can you give me alternative? It's mute. And so I just want to go on record saying, I appreciate what you all are doing. Continue to move in the great

direction. When I came in five years ago versus now, I have only seen, County Manager, a trend of it being better. And so thank you for what you do."

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Commissioner Thorne."

COMMISSIONER THORNE: "Yes. On the Animal Welfare Board, my appointee, is the Chair of that board. So I asked her for some updates, and besides the play yard maintenance and flooding, she said that could lead to mosquitoes, which can cause heartworm in the animals. And in my understanding, it costs thousands of dollars to treat heartworm issues if it goes rampant in our shelter. She says there have been reports of ticks attaching themselves to volunteers and dogs when they go out for walks, so they need insect maintenance. There's hornets that have taken up residence outside the shelter in the play yards. They -- there are concerns that closing intake on Sundays hurts the community more than it helps, that it can maybe help if we could keep it open over the weekends. And then several complaints about calls for an assistant going unanswered. Currently, there's 11 service officers. They think they need double that amount to handle all those complaints. And the volume of the animals is coming in is 20 to 25 a day, and they hardly get that many adoptions in a day. So as it continues to increase, it would be difficult for any contracted company to meet the expectations of a passionate animal advocate taking that all into account. So those are just a few of the comments that were given to me."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Commissioner Arrington."

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "Yeah, I just wanted to say is, regarding the capacity issue and the proposed resolution of limiting the number. I know I've gotten calls when they were not accepting animals. And so we got to really regroup and think about the best way to try to handle that, because we have people with dogs that are trying -- stray dogs that are trying to deliver them to our facility, and the facility is turning those people away. And so to the extent that I'm already getting calls about that, I'm worried that there -- that that may happen more in the future if there is a limit imposed. And obviously, I guess there has to be some type of limit. But I'm already getting calls about them turning people away. And you know, it defies logic that we built a new \$35 million animal shelter and we're turning people away, they have stray dogs that want to turn them in. So we definitely need to put our heads together and come up with something on that that makes sense and that will allow for people to be able to drop the animals off. Now, whether we take them somewhere else or ship them somewhere else later, or whatever, but if we've got residents that are coming by with stray dogs to drop off at the shelter, we've got to come up with a way to be able to receive those animals."

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

VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS: "Be brief. I am supportive of the extension, to say, you know, on this particular topic, we've come a lot -- long way from where we were three years ago, three, four years ago. But we definitely have things that we can look at in terms of how we can improve, both in terms of whether it's shelter operations and/or the way we're doing enforcement. I'm glad we're looking and taking a fresh look at it. And I would just encourage you all to, you know, really get creative with it and come back with, you know, ideas which we think can really take us to sort of a different level of quality, both the operations as well as the enforcement, you know, with what we come back, because it's -- it's definitely the right time, the timing is right to do it. I'm glad we're -- glad we're leaning into it, and I think we've got the right, right folks doing that particular work right now. So thank you for that, look forward to seeing where we're going over the next few months."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anyone else?"

COMMISSIONERS: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. 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."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "Anything else?"

CLERK GRIER: "No further items."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right. No further items today -- okay, all right, just a minute, ma'am. Just a minute, just a minute. Are any other matters that come before us today?"

CLERK GRIER: "No, Mr. Chairman."

CHAIRMAN PITTS: "All right, come on, I'll talk to you. All right, we are adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.