

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

December 07, 2022  
10:00 AM



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



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**MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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

**Ratification Date: January 4, 2023**

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**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)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Liz Hausmann, Vice-Chairman (District 1)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Lee Morris, Commissioner (District 3)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)	<b>PRESENT</b>
Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)	<b>PRESENT</b>

**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**

**22-0892 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Vice-Chairman Hausmann, to adopt as amended by correcting a clerical error and removing item #22-0894 for separate consideration as requested by Vice-Chairman Hausmann and Chairman Pitts. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**22-0893 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing “Heaven Bound Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**  
November 11, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Mary Meadows Lyons Remembrance Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
November 20, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Melissa Lewis Appreciation Day.” **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
November 22, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Benjamin Champion Remembrance Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
November 26, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Christy Merritt Appreciation Day.” **(Hausmann)**  
December 6, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Joan Compton Appreciation Day.” **(Hausmann)**  
December 6, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Katie Reeves Appreciation Day.” **(Hausmann)**  
December 6, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Linda McCain Appreciation Day.” **(Hausmann)**  
December 6, 2022

Proclamation recognizing “Julia Bernath Appreciation Day.” **(Hausmann)**  
December 6, 2022

**Commissioners' District Board Appointments**

**22-0894 Board of Commissioners**

**FULTON-DEKALB HOSPITAL AUTHORITY D/B/A GRADY HEALTH SYSTEM (HELD)**

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 expires: 12/31/2022

Vacant (**District 6**)

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

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve.

**(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

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

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

**Absent:** Morris

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**22-0895 Board of Commissioners**  
**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Pursuant to House Bill 595 (2015), there shall be seven Fulton County appointed members, with one such member appointed by each member of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County.

Term = Each member of the board of trustees appointed by a member of the board of commissioners shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing member of the Board of Commissioners and for the same term as the Commissioner making such appointment.

Terms below expire: 12/31/2022

Joseph Piontek (**Hausmann**)

Nina Radkovich (**Morris**)

Darren "Chip" Joyner (**Arrington**)

**Commissioner Arrington nominated Darren "Chip" Joyner for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.**

**22-0896 Board of Commissioners****FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The Arts Council shall be composed of fifteen (15) residents of the county. Initially, each member of the board of commissioners shall appoint two persons to serve on the council, one person to serve for a one-year term and one person to serve a two-year term. No term of any member shall extend beyond the term of the District Commissioner who appointed the member to serve on the Arts Council Board; thereafter, each year, each member of the board of commissioners shall appoint one member for a two-year term. Each member may continue to serve beyond his/her term until replaced. The chairman of the Arts Council shall be appointed to a two-year term by a majority vote of the board of commissioners. The council shall elect a vice-chairman and a secretary from its membership.

Terms below expire: 12/31/2022

Onaje Henderson (**Hall**)

Jan Collins (**Ellis**)

Kenny Kurtz (**Ellis**)

Joan Compton (**Hausmann**)

Marie Willsey (**Hausmann**)

Catherine Fox (**Morris**)

Sadie Talmadge (**Morris**)

Sandra De Shields Hightower (**Abdur-Rahman**)

Brandon A. Tonge (**Abdur-Rahman**)

Melissa Mitchell (**Pitts**)

**Commissioner Ellis nominated Kenny Kurtz for a District reappointment to a term ending December 31, 2024.**

**Open & Responsible Government****22-0897 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 20ITBC1320A-FB, Rip Rap Crushed Stones in an amount not to exceed \$32,590.00 with Luck Stone dba Stephens Industries, LLC. (College Park, GA), to provide rip rap crushed stones. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**Arts and Libraries****22-0898 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Library System - #22ITB0210B-EC Shelf-Ready Foreign Language Books for Adults in the amount of \$36,520.00 with Multi-Cultural Books and Video (Madison Heights, MI) to provide foreign language books in multiple languages to all 34 library locations. This action exercises the first of three renewal options. Two renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0899 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Public Library System, 21ITBC0407B-EC, Auburn Avenue Research Library, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 with Yankee Book Peddler Inc., dba Gobi Library Solutions (Contoocook, NH) to provide research material for Auburn Avenue Research Library patrons. This exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0900 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Library Systems, #21ITBC129236B-YJ Library Non-book Materials (CD's, DVD's and Spoken Words Audio Materials) in the amount of \$88,000.00 with Baker and Taylor LLC (Charlotte, NC) to provide Non-book Materials. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0901 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Library System, 21ITB129242B-YJ, Newspapers, Magazine and Serial Subscriptions (Books-Periodicals, Newspaper, and Serials - Multi Languages) in the amount of \$109,000.00 with EBSCO Information Services (Birmingham, AL) to provide Newspapers, Magazine and Serial Subscriptions This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Health and Human Services****22-0902 Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Forsyth County, the City of Milton and Fulton County for the provision of water services to certain property located within the City of Milton to be served water service by Forsyth County. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**Infrastructure and Economic Development****22-0903 Public Works**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Alpharetta, Georgia, and Fulton County, Georgia, to meet the public purpose of transportation and infrastructure improvements and maintenance including roadways and water infrastructure in The Gatherings Development. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0904 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 21,285 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from BCIF Palmetto Logistics Center, LLC., for the purpose of constructing the Wilkerson Mill Industrial Project at 500 Palmetto Logistics Highway, Palmetto, Georgia 30268. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0905 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Relocation Easement Dedication of 2,361 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Matthew and Susan Lohman, individuals, for the purpose of constructing the 135 Houze Way Project at 135 Houze Way, Roswell, Georgia 30076. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0906 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Relocation Easement Dedication of 2,386 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Rodney Darryl and Martha Woody, individuals, for the purpose of constructing the 145 Houze Way Project at 145 Houze Way, Roswell, Georgia 30076. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0907 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 Hugo Posh Holdings, LLC for the purpose granting conditional approval to install stormwater piping, fencing, light fixtures, a retention wall, an impervious plaza surface, a paved ramp, and landscaping within the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 1076 Canton Street, Roswell, Georgia 30075 for the 1076 Project. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Justice and Safety****22-0908 Juvenile Court**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Juvenile Court, 22RFP051A-KM, Family Treatment Court Peer Support Specialist in the amount not to exceed \$10,080.00 with Kelly Cox (Atlanta, GA) to provide peer support services for the Family Treatment Court. Effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0909 Emergency Services**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fulton County and Allied Universal Security Services, Inc. for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. MOU effective date of January 1, 2023, with three (3) consecutive one (1) year automatic renewal options ending on December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0910 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and Coweta County for the purposes of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD-to-CAD) connectivity between the two Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) agencies. Effective upon BOC approval until December 31, 2027 and will be automatically renewed for up to four (4) successive five (5) year terms not to exceed a period of 25 years. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0911 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Union City for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. The IGA is effective January 1, 2023 with three (3) consecutive one (1) year automatic renewal options ending on December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0912 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Johns Creek for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. The IGA effective date of January 1, 2023, with three (3) consecutive one (1) year automatic renewal options ending on December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0913 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Fairburn for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. The IGA is effective January 1, 2023, with three (3) consecutive one (1) year automatic renewal options ending on December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0914 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Fairburn for the provision of 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Services. The IGA is effective January 1, 2023, with three (3) automatic renewals commencing on January 1 of each successive year. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0915 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Chattahoochee Hills for the provision of 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Services. The IGA is effective January 1, 2023, with three (3) automatic renewals commencing on January 1 of each successive year. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**



**22-0916 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Chattahoochee Hills for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. The IGA is effective January 1, 2023, with three (3) consecutive one (1) year automatic renewal options ending on December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0917 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of College Park for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. The IGA is effective January 1, 2023, with three (3) consecutive one (1) year automatic renewal options ending on December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**22-0918 Emergency Services**

Request approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Fulton County and the City of Palmetto for the provision of the Digital 800 MHz Radio System Access. The IGA is effective January 1, 2023, with three (3) consecutive one (1) year automatic renewal options ending on December 31, 2026. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****22-0919 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to adopt as amended by revising items #22-0921 as requested by Commissioners Hall and Arrington, #22-0942 as requested by the County Manager, and #22-0952 as requested by Chairman Pitts. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**22-0920 Board of Commissioners**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Regular Meeting Minutes, November 2, 2022

Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 16, 2022

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**22-0921 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing “Richard Belcher Appreciation Day.” **(Ellis)**

\*Proclamation recognizing “Chief Judge Christopher Brasher Appreciation Day.”  
**(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing “Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. Appreciation Day.” **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing “Elder Reverend Carolyn Walker Appreciation Day.”  
**(Arrington)**

\*Proclamation recognizing “Ke’nekt Appreciation Day.” **(Arrington)**

Proclamation recognizing “Sage Mae Lima Jeffries Appreciation Day.”  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**

*\*removed during the meeting*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****22-0922 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 emails or 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 30 minutes at the Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed thirty minutes at the Recess Meeting.** In the event the 30-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. Similarly, written comments (that were timely submitted) not previously read, may be read at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office. **(CONDUCTED)**

**5 Speakers: Council Member Joe Carn (Elections); Rev. Lydia Meredith (DFCS Compensation); Julie Allen (Elections); Maurice Kenner (Staffing Gratitude & Support) and Toni - Michelle Williams (Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative Rights for Arrested Citizens)**

**7 Zoom Speakers: Lucia Frazier (Elections); Matt Rowenczak (Elections); Robby Caban (Animal Control); Ben Howard (Senior Services); Nichole Sloan (PAD); Stephanie Diaz (PAD) and Nicole Baker (PAD)**

**2 Emailed Comments: Aimee Uphues (Elections) and John Dusch (Crime)**

**22-0923 Finance**

Public Hearing for the FY2023 Proposed Budget. **(CONDUCTED)**

**28 Speakers: Honorable Clinton Deveaux (PAD); Elisa Gambino (PAD); Malik Hakeem (Sadie G. Mays); Pattie McGee (Sadie G. Mays); Patrise Perkins-Hooker (Sadie G. Mays); James Woodall (PAD); Wade Askew (PAD); Lily Ponitz (PAD); Clara Green (PAD); Chyna Quarver (PAD); Drew Umberger (PAD); ANH-TON TRAN (PAD); Tim Franzen (PAD); Bezaleel Jupiter (PAD); Allison Coffman (PAD); Micah Herskind (PAD); Monica Johnson (PAD); Roberta Meyers Douglas (PAD); Devin Barrington-Ward (PAD); Rabbi Mike Rothbaum (PAD); Graham Kelly (PAD); Dr. Stacie Schmidt (PAD); Allie George (PAD); Kristen Baker (PAD); Mason Goodwin (PAD); Sharon Burdick (PAD); Devin Franklin (PAD) and Madan Simha (PAD)**

**3 Zoom Speakers: Matt Rowenczak (Elections); Lucia Frazier (Elections) and Maria Moore Riggs (PAD)**

**30 Emailed Comments: State Representative Park Cannon (PAD); Natallie Keiser (PAD); Duke Virginia (PAD); Dan Immergluck (PAD); Melissa Florkowski (PAD); DJ Fontenot (PAD); Julia Maxwell (PAD); Aisha Washington (PAD); Elaine McCall (PAD); Mia De La Guardia (PAD); Anne Werkheiser (PAD); Chris Dixon (PAD); Shira Concool (PAD); Alex Galloway (PAD); Sara Gregory (PAD); Erin Smith (PAD); Jennifer Denning (PAD); Lauren Neefe (PAD); Ruthie Yow (PAD); Jennifer Willsea (PAD); Betty Barnard (PAD); Molly Paterno (PAD); Ishita Chordia (PAD); Henry Kahn (PAD); Rebecca Jones (PAD); Francois Rollin (PAD); Katie Sharma (PAD); Mark Spencer (PAD); Tony Molloy (PAD) and Elroi Windsor (PAD)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****22-0924 Information Technology**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Information Technology (FCIT), 20ITB042220B-FB, Countywide Structured Cabling and Physical Security in the amount not to exceed \$5,673,800.00 with GC&E Systems Group, Inc. (Norcross, GA) to provide countywide structured cabling services. This action exercises the third of three renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**22-0925 Information Technology**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Information Technology Department, 19RFP114474B-BR, Digital Multi-functional Devices and Support Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,334,800.00 with Standard Office Systems of Atlanta, Inc. (Duluth, GA) to provide maintenance, supplies, support services, and software and associated hardware for all multi-function devices countywide. This action exercises the fourth of four renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**22-0926 Registration & Elections**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Registration & Elections, 22ITBC031722MH-C, Ballot Printing in the amount of \$170,000.00 with Tattnell Journal, Inc. dba Tattnell Ballot Solutions (Reidsville, GA) to provide ballot printing services for the 2023 elections. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective upon BOC approval.

**(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Arts and Libraries**

**22-0927 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of the Library System, 22ITBC134505K-DB, Shelf Ready Book and Best-Selling books in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 with Brodart Co. (Williamsport, PA) to continue providing popular shelf ready books. This exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**22-0928 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Library System, 21RFP0210B-EC, Shelf-Ready Books for Adults, Teens and Children and Lease Books for Adults in the amount of \$800,000.00 with Baker and Taylor, Inc., to provide adult, young adult, and children’s books, and adult best-selling lease books. This action exercises the second of four renewal options. Two renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Abdur-Rahman

**Health and Human Services**

**22-0929 Senior Services**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Senior Services, 21RFP000027A-CJC, Senior Transportation Services in the amount of \$6,386,735.47 with Transdev, Incorporated (East Point, GA) to provide transportation services for Senior Services and Behavioral Health programs. This is the first of four renewal options. Three renewal options remain. Effective January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. **(HELD)**

**22-0930 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 201TB092320A-FB, Large Water Meter Installation Services in the amount of \$750,000.00 with Wade Coots Company, Inc. (Austell, GA), to provide large water meter installation services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**22-0931 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 201TB100620A-CJC, Small Water Meter Installation in the amount of \$550,000.00 with Wade Coots Company (Austell, GA) to provide small water meter installation services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**

**Open & Responsible Government**

**22-0932 Finance**

Discussion of FY2023 Proposed Budget. **(DISCUSSED)**

**22-0933 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend and reauthorize the Fulton County Purchasing Code Division 10, Small Business Enterprise Program effective January 1, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**22-0934 Registration & Elections**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Registrations and Elections, SWC#99999-SPD-ES40199376IS-02, In-State Car Rental in an amount not to exceed \$61,638.13 with Enterprise Leasing of Georgia, LLC (Atlanta, GA) for additional spending authority for the rental of box trucks, passenger vehicles and cargo vans for the November General, Nonpartisan General and Special Election and December General, Nonpartisan General and Special Election Runoff, if necessary. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Nay:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Hausmann

**22-0935 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval for use of Beltline TAD Funds - Fulton County Library System, Library Capital Improvement Program Phase II (FCLS-CIP), Design/Build services in the amount of \$998,000.00, to provide continued Program Management and Construction Services for an additional twelve (12) month period to complete project construction and project adds for Phase II library renovation and expansion projects. Effective dates: January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**22-0936 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB134949C-GS, Tree Removal Services Countywide in an amount not to exceed \$234,000.00 with ArborServ (Lithonia, GA), to provide on-site tree removal services under emergency/storm related situations on an "as-needed" basis Countywide. Effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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



**22-0937 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 22ITB135136C-MH, Testing and Repair of Backflow Devices in an amount not to exceed \$270,000.00 with B & W Mechanical Contractors, Inc. (Lawrenceville, GA), to provide on-site testing and repair of approximately 183 backflow preventive (BFP) devices for required maintenance on an "as-needed" basis for the Fulton County facilities. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**22-0938 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, Sourcewell Contract #042821-ORK, Pest Control Services in an amount not to exceed \$225,000.00 with Orkin, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide comprehensive pest control services on an as-needed basis for all County facilities. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Hausmann

**22-0939 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC90816, Motor Vehicle Maintenance & Inventory Management Services, in the amount not to exceed \$595,000.00 with Automotive Rental Inc. (Mt Laurel, NJ), to provide repairs and maintenance for specialized heavy equipment and other fleet vehicles for Fulton County. Effective date: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Hausmann

**22-0940 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC# 99999-001-SPD0000112-0001, Fuel Card Management Services in an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00 with WEX Bank (Salt Lake City, UT), to provide fuel card management services for Fulton County fleet vehicles. Effective date: January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**22-0941 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Fulton County Library System, 10RFP04122K-DJ, Program Management Services for the Library Capital Improvement Program (FCLS-CIP) in an amount not to exceed \$882,588.07 with CBRE Heery/Russell - a joint venture comprised of CBRE Heery, Inc. and H.J. Russell and Company, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), to provide continued Program Management Services for an additional twelve (12) month period in order to complete project construction and project additions for Phase II library renovation and expansion projects. Effective dates: January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Health and Human Services****22-0942 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Public Works, 22ITB134130K-JAJ, Graham Drive Pump Station Upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$13,350,000.00 with Reeves Young, LLC (Sugar Hill, Ga) to provide construction services associated with the Graham Drive Pump Station Upgrade. Effective upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP) for 430 calendar days. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**22-0943 Senior Services**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Senior Services, SWC99999-SPD0000136-0003 Temporary Staffing Services in the amount of \$127,378.59 with Happy Faces Personnel Group, Inc. (Tucker, GA), to provide staffing services to support the operation of the Department of Senior Services facilities. Effective January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Hausmann

**22-0944 Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities**

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fulton County, the Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) and Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation d/b/a Grady Health System for the purpose of continuing integrating strategies to provide medication assisted outpatient treatment of substance abuse for Fulton County residents. Fulton County shall pay Grady Memorial Hospital in an amount not to exceed \$464,000.00 annually or as otherwise provided by an amendment to this MOU. Effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**22-0945 Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities**

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD), 19RFP117031A-FB, Food Services Management in an amount not to exceed \$48,769.00 with Piccadilly Holdings, LLC, (Baton Rouge, LA) to cover costs associated with FY2022 to provide food service management services for BHDD Centers. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**22-0946** Public Works

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Public Works, 22RFP148596K-BKJ, Airport Planning and Environmental Consulting in the amount of \$125,000.00 with Fulton County Executive Airport - Charlie Brown Field and Michael Baker International, Inc. (Norcross, GA) to provide planning services for updating, modifying and implementing the Capital Improvement Program at the Fulton County Executive Airport - Brown Field effective 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023 with three renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**22-0947** Public Works

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Public Works, 22RFP134460K-JAJ Professional Services for Airport Consulting and Engineering Services Design/Engineering/Construction in the amount of \$715,000.00 for the Fulton County Executive Airport - Charlie Brown Field with Michael Baker International to provide design, engineering and construction services for updating, modifying and implementing the Capital Improvement Plan at Fulton County Executive Airport - Charlie Brown Field effective January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023 with four renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**22-0948** Senior Services

Request approval to increase spending authority - Department of Senior Services, #SWC99999-SPD0000136-0003 Temporary Staffing Services in an amount not to exceed \$78,000.00 with Happy Faces Personnel Group Inc. (Tucker, GA) to provide temporary staffing services to support the daily operations in the four senior multipurpose facilities. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**Justice and Safety**

**22-0949 Emergency Management**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Emergency Management, Animal Services, SWC 99999-001-SPD0000154-000, Facility Maintenance Solution in an amount not to exceed \$175,000.00 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (College Park, GA) to provide facility maintenance services for the Fulton County Animal Control Services facility. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 through July 14, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

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

**22-0950 Emergency Management**

Request approval to extend an existing contract - Fulton County Animal Services, 17RFP08092017C-BKJ, Animal Control Services in an amount not to exceed \$4,900,000.00 with Lifeline Animal Project, Inc. (Avondale Estates, GA) to provide animal control services, shelter operations and field services for an additional 12 month period. Effective dates: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Morris

**22-0951 Police**

Alcoholic Beverages License-Grant approval for license application submitted by Citgo Happy Store, for the retail sale of Wine and Malt Beverages at 4060 Martin Luther King Blvd, Atlanta Ga. 30336. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Morris

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****22-0882 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 2 (Administration), Article III (Finance), Division 2 (Budget) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to modify Code Section 2-261 to require the County Manager to present the budget requests for the next fiscal year to the Board of Commissioners no later than sixty (60) days before the millage rate is set; and for other purposes. **(Arrington) (HELD ON 11/16/22) (WITHDRAWN)**

**ITEM WITHDRAWN AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON****22-0884 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution consenting to and ratifying the use of Fulton County Ad Valorem property tax increment for a project located in Westside Tax Allocation Bond District Number 1- Atlanta/Westside. **(Morris) (HELD ON 11/16/22) (HELD)**

**22-0952 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to establish supplement for the Tax Commissioner and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD)**

**ITEM HELD AS REQUESTED BY CHAIRMAN PITTS****Commissioners' Full Board Appointments****22-0953 Board of Commissioners**

AUDIT COMMITTEE **(APPROVED)**

Terms below expire: 12/31/2022

Robert Koncerak **(BOC - Citizen) (Ellis)**

Jay Small **(BOC - Citizen) (Ellis)**

Commissioner Bob Ellis **(BOC - Commissioner)**

Commissioner Lee Morris **(BOC - Commissioner)**

**Commissioner Ellis nominated Robert Koncerak (BOC - Citizen) and Jay Small (BOC - Citizen) to Full Board reappointments to terms ending December 31, 2024.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts, Morris, and Arrington

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****22-0954 Board of Commissioners**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice-Chairman Hausmann, Commissioners: Ellis, Morris, Hall, Arrington and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; Chief Human Resources Officer Kenneth Hermon; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.**

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

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

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis, and Abdur-Rahman

b. A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the request for representation and settlement authority in item #1 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the request for representation in item #2 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

d. A motion was made by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the request for a Conflict Waiver in item #3 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

e. A motion was made by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to approve the Settlement Agreement in the matter of Roderick Franklin and Gary Harmon v. Fulton County, Georgia in the amount of \$85,000.00. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 2022  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solution, LLC

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning and welcome to the Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioner's. Today is, December 7th 2022. It is precisely 10 o'clock a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Vice Chairman Liz Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Lee Morris."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Natalie Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Present."

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **22-0892**, Adoption of the Consent Agenda - All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will

take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board we have one clerical change on page 3, on Board Appointment for Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has nominated Thomas W. Dortch, III for a District Reappointment to an unexpired term ending December 31st, 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What you say, a clerical --"

**CLERK GRIER:** "-- a clerical change. It was for an Appointment, but this is now considered a Reappointment to an unexpired term."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's talk about that. All right. Commissioner Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to pull that item off for consideration separately."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, I was going to pull that one off as well."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any others? Madam Clerk, Commissioners?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'll entertain a motion to motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Vice Chair Hausmann. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, Regular Meeting Agenda, **22-0919**- Adoption of the Regular Meeting Agenda. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have amendments to today's Regular Meeting Agenda. On page 8, Presentation of Proclamation and Certificates. The Proclamation recognizing Chief Judge Brasher is being moved to the December 21st Recess Meeting. On page 13, 22-0942, Public Works: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide construction services associated with the Graham Drive Pump Station Upgrade. This item is revised to correct the Contract and Compliance information. And on page 15, 22-0952 a Resolution to establish supplement for the Tax Commissioner sponsored by Chairman

Pitts. This item is revised to correct the supplement amount. They just left off a decimal point."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioners? Commissioner Hall.

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. It was brought to my attention that someone has misled the supporters of PAD in stating that today we were going to vote on defunding PAD. And I just want to check because I see a public hearing for the budget, which we normally do, but we don't vote on it. And I also see -- where is it? Yeah, that's the only thing that I see on here where we are addressing the budget to discuss it. And I just want to make sure there's no other item on the Agenda that addresses the budget and PAD, so we don't have people sitting here waiting because they think that we're going to defund PAD today. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any other comments, adjustments, corrections?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Regular Agenda as amended. Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0920**, Ratification of Minutes. Regular Meeting Minutes, November 2nd. Recess Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 16th, 2022."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "There's a motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0921**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Richard Belcher Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Ellis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How many are there? Five? All right. And just in the interest of time, I would appreciate it if you would limit your acceptance speeches to two and three minutes. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'd like to invite Richard Belcher and his wife, Sally to come down. Give them a hand. I think all of you know Mr. Belcher is heading in to retirement. We put him at the first -- at the top of the Agenda, so he'll leave and not be encouraged to come back and find anything else to report about. And, you know, I invited some of our friends from DeKalb County and the City of Atlanta to come over, too, but they said they had seen enough of him; but did wish him well. But in all seriousness this guy is certainly a legend and really sets the standard in Atlanta for investigative reporting. Many of us up here have been the subject of it, but he's definitely done it fairness, sternness at times, but he sticks with it, but he's definitely been fair. And I think all the citizens of the Metro Atlanta area have benefited from the great work he's done over the years. So with that I'm happy to read this proclamation: WHEREAS, Richard Belcher is a native of Atlanta, Georgia and graduated from Cross Keys High School in 1967. He furthered his education at Georgia State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in marketing; and WHEREAS, Richard's initial plan was to become a stockbroker, but he quickly discovered that his passion is reporting the news while working at WGST Radio while in college; and WHEREAS, Richard begin his career in television at WXIA TV, Channel 11, followed by 15 years at WAGA -- some of you may remember those call letters -- now FOX News as an investigative reporter and anchor; and WHEREAS Richard was hired by WSB TV in 1990, and spent 22 years of his career there as an anchor and investigative reporter over the course of his entire career. Richard has covered numerous high-profile stories including the Atlanta Child's Murders case, and subsequent Wayne Williams's trial, and the Atlanta Public School cheating investigation; and WHEREAS Richard's greatest achievement is his family including his wife of 34 years, Sally Sears, his son, and two daughters. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Richard Belcher; 51 years of professionalism as an anchor and reporter; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 7th, 2022, as 'Richard Belcher Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations. You got to say a few words, so."

**RICHARD BELCHER, RECIPIENT:** "Hey. Well, it's good to get this blue suit out of the closet. I'm not going to get much use for it. About 50 years ago, I was a young reporter who thought it was a great idea, after a Fulton County Commission Meeting, where there were only three County Commissioners at the time. I think it was Milton Ferris, Shag Cates, and Charlie Brown. And there was a very controversial decision that day about some rezoning up on the river; and I can't remember how it turned out, but I thought it was a good idea to follow Commissioner Cates out of the old Commission Chambers and into his office. And the way he later told the story to my general manager was that I chased him around his desk. Now, I don't necessarily agree with that, but my general manager did and said that would never happen again. And, you know, it generally didn't happen again on Fulton County territory. It might have

happened a couple of other places. But, you know, for 23 years old you got to live, and you got to learn, you got to make some mistakes. We live in a time where there's considerable friction between what I do and what these people do. Some of that's normal, but it can be fractious, it can be caustic, and it doesn't have to be. I would say on our part the best way to make sure it doesn't happen is get it right, don't be a jerk, and just report hits, runs, and eras. Don't, you know, don't tweet out what you think about something. Save that for your other life when you retire. Just play it down the middle. And from your side, keep the doors open, give us the records that we want, when we want them, and I will say that I've never had a problem here with long delays on getting records and meetings being close, and I thank you, Jessica. You know, sometimes, I mean, I get the answer I want, but I have never been delayed. Many of you will know that sometimes relations between government and reporters get so bad that -- well, let's just say, there's a government not so far from here where the Press Secretary was convicted of a crime for not abiding by all of those terms of the Open Records Act. That doesn't have to happen; it hasn't happened here. Thank you for that. I've enjoyed working with you folks most of the time; and I wish you well. Cause one of the things I learned over the years is governing is not so easy as we on the outside think it is. You have limited resources, everybody wants more, and it's tough to make these decisions. You get them right most of the time; you get it wrong sometime. But we need to understand that from our point of view that it's not as easy as we think it is. So God bless you. Keep it up."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Thank you, Richard. Hey, Jessica, come on up and share this photo with us. Yeah, Commissioner Morris, he's had a few rounds with Mr. Belcher, so."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Always on the same side of course. I usually don't make much in the way of comments on these kinds of things, but Richard and Sally and I go back a long, long way and we worked together on some things back when I was on the Atlanta City Council. And I've always thought that the press and the elected officials have a mutuality of interest; they shouldn't be on opposites. Both of us ought to have the same incentive, and that is to have the public know as much as possible about their government. And that's always been my attitude; that's always been Richard's attitude and Sally's. And congratulations as we both walk out the door here."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I just want -- and I wasn't going to say it to afterwards, but I think I need to say it publicly: This Body had flowers for you, Sally because you not only in your right had your own career, but you supported a wonderful man. And I apologize. I left the flowers at home, so I will, you know, forward the flowers to you because just like we support him, we support everything you did to

support him. So I have flowers for you. I just got to send it to your address now. So thank you."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Sigma Gamma Rho, Incorporated Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Come on down. Hey, good morning. Good to see you again. Hey. Good to see you. I didn't get a chance to say, hello to you at the event. Good morning. Good to see you again. All right. Spread on out. Good morning. It is an honor to present this to you. And it was so much fun being at your luncheon and celebrating all the awards, the honorees that you were honoring that day. And today, there are two proclamations because we're also honoring Evelyn Hawkins Hood, and Sigma Gamma Rho, and I will begin with Sigma Gamma Rho: WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated was organized on November 12th, 1922, in Indianapolis, Indiana at Butler University by seven young educators: Mary Lou Allison Gardner Little, Dorothy Hanley Whiteside, Vivian Irene White Marbury, Nannie Mae Gahn Johnson, Hattie Mae Annette Dulin Redford, Bessie Mae Downey Rhodes Martin, and Cubena McClure; and WHEREAS Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated mission is to enhance the quality of life for women and their families in the United States and globally through community service and civil and social action, and a vision of greater service, greater progress; and WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho has welcomed more than 100,000 college and professional women from every profession. And has more than 500 chapters in the United States, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Germany, South Korea, the US Virgin Islands, and the United Arab Emirates; and WHEREAS, the Eta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated was founded in 1923 by past national president, Fanny O'Bannon, and it is one of the oldest chapters in the southeast. The chapter advises Spelman College, Clark Atlanta University, and the University of West Georgia; and WHEREAS Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated continues to define greatness 100 years later. And continues to impact the community through scholarships, sisterhood, and service. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated for its tireless commitment to service for our local community and beyond; and celebrates with the sisterhood as they celebrate 100 years of legacy. And does hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 7th, 2022, as 'Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations. And for time's sake, I will continue on to: WHEREAS, Evelyn Hawkins Hood was born and raised in Macon, Georgia and earned her bachelor's degree from Paine College and her Master's degree in education from Atlanta

University. And Evelyn began her teaching career with Atlanta Public Schools at CW Hill Elementary School, where she taught second grade students for 40 years. She also volunteered at the Phyllis Wheatley YMCA for 25 years; and WHEREAS, Evelyn joined the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated sisterhood in 1950 through Eta Sigma the Metro Atlanta Alumnae Chapter, where she held many leadership positions in the local, regional, and international levels; and WHEREAS, most notably, Evelyn was elected the 14th International President of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated from 1976 to 1980. During her presidency, she established the sorority's national education fund that has raised more than \$2 million in scholarships that have supported over 800 inner-city high school students, undergraduates, and postgraduates across the United States. And in her honor, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated created a national service award called the Evelyn Hawkins Hood Distinguished Service to Mankind award. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Evelyn Hawkins Hood for her dedication to the education of youth and for her volunteerism and service to her community; and does proclaim Wednesday, December 7th, 2022, as 'Evelyn Hawkins Hood Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. And here to accept on her behalf is her niece, Tracy Dumas. All right. Congratulations."

**TRACY DUMAS, RECIPIENT:** "I'm going to start by saying that she is 99 years old, and she has accomplished a very light in her lifetime and she's carried me along with her through her journey. And she just told me tell you all, thank you, thank you, thank you for giving her her roses while she's still alive to commemorate this moment."

**SHARON WILSON, RECIPIENT:** "Tracy is a member of our Philo Affiliate. They are women who serve along us in the community. And I'm Sharon Wilson, the president of Eta Sigma Chapter. And I just want to thank Fulton County for this honor. We are elated as we have just celebrated a hundred years of sisterhood, scholarship, and service. And so, if you see all this royal blue and gold on the Internet that is because we're going to be celebrating throughout the year, as well as Eta Sigma will be celebrating a hundred years in 2023 serving the Fulton and Atlanta community. So once again, I just want to thank our dear founder as our seven educators whose bravely -- who bravely founded the sisterhood during the heighten times of the KKK in Indiana, Indianapolis. I just want to thank everyone again. That's it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Commissioner Khadijah, I didn't know you were a member of Sigma Gamma Rho. Would you like to speak?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Oh, my God, I'm just wearing the colors --"



**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- oh, okay. All right, I just want to make -- all right. All right. Great."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Elder Reverend Carolyn Walker Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Welcome. Welcome. Councilman Carn, you gone to join us, please. Yes. All right. My pleasure to be able to deliver this proclamation today. The proclamation reads as follows: WHEREAS, Elder Reverend Carolyn Bernice Walker, affectionately called by many as Mother Walker is a servant of the Most High God of 60 plus years. And is currently under pastoral care of her children, Pastor Steve and Stacie Alexander at Restoration Christian Fellowship Church in the City of College Park; and WHEREAS, Mother Walker began to listen and study daily with Dr. J. Vernon McGee's Through The Bible radio program. And she has been a teacher of the Bible at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, First Missionary Baptist Church, Little Vine Baptist Church in Tyrone, Georgia, and Just Jesus Ministry all in the City of College Park; and WHEREAS, Mother Walker has grown and developed in to the scholar known to us today, and is a pillar of our community at the age of 83; who boldly declares, she hasn't gotten tired yet. Many have come into the Kingdom of God because of her obedience and testimony; and WHEREAS, Mother Walker was the proud wife of Mr. Lonnie Walker, Jr. for over 40 years before his transition, and had five children of her own, and raised seven all of which are living their lives and raising seed under the Blood of Jesus, the Christ; and WHEREAS, it is her earnest pleasure to be used for God and God's Kingdom building through prayer, praise, adoration, and exhilaration, as well as standing in the gap for those in need. Putting her hands to the Gospel plow and forging ahead in the name of Jesus, the Christ. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Elder Reverend Carolyn Walker for her dedication to the spiritual wellness of her community. And does hereby proclaim today, Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 as 'Elder Reverend Carolyn Walker Appreciation Day' in Fulton County. Let's give her big round of applause."

**ELDER REVEREND CAROLYN WALKER, RECIPIENT:** "What a day. First of all, I want to thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for the journey. It's been marvelous. And I want to thank you, all of you, especially Commissioner Arrington for allowing me to have this wonderful day. Thank you for remembering because sometimes when we start this journey, we think is anybody listening? And then 50 years later you find out yes, they were. I just want to thank all of you; and I appreciate the opportunity to handle His Word. It's such a wonderful -- it fills you up. If you ever get hungry, get your Bible. Everything you need is in there. And I guarantee you, you'll come our being totally

filled, and you can help somebody else because that's why we live and move and have our being because of Jesus Christ. I told the Lord, I said, Lord, I want a hundred years; and you know what, I'm still here, so apparently he said, yes. I have a birthday on the 10th of December; this proclamation was on the 7th of December, so the words that I heard years ago, your latter should be greater than your beginning. Thank you so very much all of you. Amen."

**CLERK GRIER:** "In the next proclamation is recognizing 'Ke'nekt Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON:** "All right. Do we have any representatives from Ke'nekt here? All right. So I think we'll hold this one. I can just deliver to them in the interest of time unless they are here. All right. We'll hold it and I'll present it to them at a later occasion. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Sage Mae Lima Jeffries Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Can I please get the -- Sage and her parents -- is Mr. Clark and the people from that department -- there you go. Sage, you can come up here. We had a program earlier that recognized all of these individuals, but however, Sage won the cover. And this project is one that truly represents 1-Fulton. This project allows individuals from Fulton County, whether you're in the north or south; from City of Atlanta Public School System, Fulton County School System. And whether you were in a homeschool or whether you were in a brick-and-mortar school, you were able to participate in this contest. And so, I want to applaud not only the leadership of this Board, but the leadership of Fulton County for not only the diversity, but the true meaning of 1-Fulton. Because from one end to the other, everyone had an opportunity to not only win but be represented. WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County finds that the protection of the environment is vital to the health, welfare, and economic progress of Fulton County and its citizens; and WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works seeks to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Fulton County citizens by providing high quality and cost efficient services related to the delivery of water, the collection of waste water, and the conveyance of storm water; and by complying with federal, state, and county regulatory requirements; and WHEREAS, Public Works has successfully promoted environmental awareness and consciousness of water resources, water conservation, water quality, and pollution prevention through school presentations, media campaigns, educational seminars, workshops, festivals, and community outreach programs; and WHEREAS, Public Works sponsored the 2023 Art Calendar contest which was open to all students, grades K-12 attending a public, private, charter, or homeschool within Fulton County. Students were asked to create

artwork promoting better water quality and water conservation uses, and practices. And from the 172 submitted drawings, 22 was selected to be featured in the 2023 Water Art Calendar; and WHEREAS, in recognition of her exemplary artwork, Sage Mae Lima Jeffries, an 11th grade student at Creative Mind Homeschool, was selected as the grand prize cover recipient of the 2023 Water Art Calendar contest and is a constituent of the Mighty 6. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the environmental contributions of Sage Mae Lima Jeffries and her contribution of promoting environmental stewardship of water resources; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 7th, 2022, as 'Sage Mae Lima Jeffries Appreciation Day' in Fulton County. Would you put your hands together for this wonderful young lady? And before she comes to the podium, I would ask David Clark to please give us a few words. Don't mean to put you on the spot."

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. I'm David Clark. I'm the Director of Public Works for Fulton County. And as I told the students this morning, this was really one of my favorite dates because as an engineer, I can draw a straight line and that's about it. But the amount of talent that all of the winners, but especially our cover winner has to show how water is so important to us. It's so impressive, so I'm so glad to be a part of this. Sage."

**SAGE MAE LIMA JEFFRIES, RECIPIENT:** "Thank you everyone. I'm so happy to accept this award. I want to thank my mom, my family, my grandmother, all my cousins just for supporting me in being there. A lot of my artistic journey -- my mom, specifically -- because she helps me come up with my concepts. I don't know if you've seen the picture, but it is Koa fish swimming around the earth and it's all surrounded by water. And the message that I was trying to convey is that we all need water from the fish in the sea to us. We're living on the earth, we need water. Everyone needs water. Water makes the world go round. And I appreciate everyone and thank you all."

**MS. JEFFRIES, MOTHER OF RECIPIENT:** "Hi everyone. Thank you for this honor. My children's like 5th year being in this contest, so it's a big part of our homeschool journey as well; and we're super excited that Sage got the cover. We lost my mom last year and she was an adamant supporter and critiquer of their artwork. And so, we're just celebrating her right now and Sage's cover win, so thank y'all so much."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "What I wanted to -- one second. And I hope you don't get angry, but the brother won as well. He did not win the cover, so I wanted to say, mom fruit does not fall far from the tree and we appreciate you here at Fulton County. Now, what we want to do is go into the certificates -- the District 6 winners. We will start with them since I am at the podium. And we want all of the individuals -- and this is our youth. Can you put your hands together one more time because we have

youth that won from every District? And so, we will start with Sage Mae Lima Jeffries. Can you come forward to get your award? Also, she won the April. For the May was her brother, Jasir [Phonetic.] Lima Jeffries. And last, but definitely not least is Kennedy Carlitos [Phonetic.] won HM Rebuild Bridges and Break Walls. Come on Kennedy. And next I will turn it over to Vice Chair -- oh, Vice Chair, Liz Hausmann -- Commissioner Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Thank you and good morning. I'm happy to celebrate with the winners from District 1. Historically, we've got a lot of winners in District 1 in this contest. And it's pretty fitting really because so much of our operations is located in District 1. And for the members of the public, we had the opportunity just in the last week to share what we do with our water system with the local city leaders and our new Commissioner for District 1 that's coming in in January; just to make sure that everyone is very well educated on what we do and the importance of what we do; and the quality of the work that we do to provide safe, clean water for our community. Because as it was said earlier, water is life. You can't have a quality of life without good-quality water. So, super pumped about this contest that we do every year. The calendar is gorgeous. I hope that everyone will get a copy of it because it's really, really something that you can enjoy all year-round -- the work of these students. So, how are we going to do this Carlos? Okay. You call out the names and I will pass them out."

**CARLOS FOR VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "All right. I will be starting with our monthly winners; first up is Vivian Geon from Lake Windward Elementary. Next unable to join us today Deborah Zane from Northview High. Also, unable to join today Aisha Taurine from Wilson Creek Elementary. Next up Winn Lee from State Bridge Crossing Elementary. Our next winter from Webb Bridge Middle School, (inaudible.). And next we're moving on to our honorable mentions: (inaudible) from River Trail Middle School. Next is Alex (inaudible) from Alpharetta International Academy. (inaudible) from Finley Oaks Elementary. Unable to join us another family pair; Miles Park and Landon Park from Doven Elementary. (inaudible) from Holcomb Bridge Middle. And next and last for me (inaudible) from Lake Windward Elementary."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I am Commissioner Bob Ellis from District 2. And as been said, water is vital and this calendar definitely serves as a reminder of how our water choices can impact our supply, our environment, our quality of life. And on behalf of the Full Board, I just want to congratulate all of the students and commend them for the great work that they have done; and with that we're going to read out the winners from District 2."

**UNKOWN SPEAKER FOR COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Pardon me. Excellent. Sorry, sir. Mical Abdul Kareem from Ison Springs Elementary. Amelia Abdul Kareem, Iman

(inaudible) from Ilom Academy. (inaudible) from Ilom Academy, and Amir (inaudible); unfortunately she wasn't able to join us today, but she's also from Ilom Academy."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. It's my pleasure to bring up the winners from District 5. First winner is Adelia Thompson, 8th grade from Camp Creek Middle School. All right. And our second winner is Annalia Woods, 8th grade from Camp Creek Middle School."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And so, once again, for these future environmental leaders, please, put your hands together for them one last time. We're going to take a quick group photo. Thank you parents and supporters."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Six. All right. Madam Clerk, continue. It's 10:47 a.m.

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**CLERK GRIER:** On page 9, Public Hearings, **22-0922**, Public Comment. Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or submitting their comments in writing online by registering on the county website, [www.fultoncountyga.gov](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 30 minutes. In the event the 30 minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with the speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received six speaker cards."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Hold on. So, speakers we have six people who have signed up to speak during public comment in general, and there's some 30 who are here for various issues related to the budget. So the first six are for general comments only and you have up to two minutes. When you have 15 seconds remaining I'll simply say, 15 seconds and that is your clue to begin to conclude your remarks. So, there's just six for this portion of the Agenda. The other 30 will be -- we'll hear from them during the budget."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Will the first six speakers, please come down."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Speak up a little bit, Madam Clerk."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm sorry. Commissioner, yes."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Excuse me, Clerk. I just wanted to recognize -- we had a visitor and I think he just left to get his flight, but you was here from the City of Philadelphia Office of City Commissioners -- Commissioner Omar Sabir. He is the Vice Chair. He had an opportunity to meet with our County Manager, and also tour our Elections here for best practices. I know, Chairman that you were out of town. You were not able to meet with him, but I just wanted this Body -- I know he's watching it on his phone -- this Body to recognize that one of our fellow colleagues, Commissioner Omar Sabir, City Commissioner and Vice Chair from Philadelphia was present at this Body. So, thank you for indulging me so we could, you know, be respectful and know that he was here. Thank you."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Will the six speakers, please come down. Councilman Joe Carn, Lydia Meredith, Julie Allen, Toni Michelle Williams, Abby Folksman, (inaudible)."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Councilman Carn one correction I need to make. There is no time limit within reason to current elected officials. That two minute -- two minutes do not apply."

**JOE CARN, COUNCILMEN CITY OF COLLEGE PARK:** And I think two minutes is all I need. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hello all. Good to see all of these familiar faces. It looks like things are going pretty well at Fulton County. For those who don't know me, my name is Joe Carn. I serve as A College Park City Councilmember. I also serves as your Fulton County Commissioner from 2019 until January of 2021. I just wanted to come by and say, hello. Great job with this Election cycle. I think it was a great job for Georgia last night in general. It was a good night for Georgia and Fulton County Election's stepped up to the plate this time. As you all know when Fulton County Election's doesn't do it, I'm your harshest critic. But this year, Fulton County Election's got it right and I'm glad to see that and I'm glad to see that happening. Couple of other quick things I did want to mention that are going on in College Park. As you all know, College Park City Hall was recently renamed for our former mayor, Jack Longino, who served many, many years in Fulton County. His family members also served as Fulton County Commissioners and we were glad to make sure that that happened. We wanted to let you all know about that. Commissioner Morris and Commissioner Hausmann, my formal seatmates on each side of me: I really hate to see you all leaving. I had some really good seatmates. You all were very kind to me and it was a wonderful experience, and I really hate to see you all leaving. Commissioner Morris, you're one of the kindest, straightforward Commissioner's in public service. Commissioner Hausmann, you as

well. You've served so well and hopefully -- who knows what the future will hold. But again it was an honor to serve with you all as well. Last thing I had on my laundry list: Our City Fire Department. We're going to -- we've been talking to our Fulton County Board of Health about some health initiatives throughout our communities. Most of our fire departments are essentially medical departments because generally 80 percent of the fire calls are medical related calls; and not necessarily fire calls. So it's important that we start to pivot and change with things as the times are changing. And things are changing in Fulton County; so that's all I got. Just wanted to come down and say, hello. Also, the tiny house project -- thank you, thank you, thank you -- the City of College Park we want to thank you for the partnership. We are very, very excited about that. And we're looking forward to some great development with Fulton County. And we have a lot of the WNBA games and the Hawks D-League games. Any time you all want to come down, let us know. Feel free to give me a call. Again, partnership is important and we want to keep that partnership going and keep the communication going with Fulton County. I know firsthand how important it is for our cities to stay in touch with our county government. So, thank y'all so much."

**LYDIA MEREDITH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Please take a listen to this recent news report e-mailed to Commissioners Hall and Pitts yesterday at [www.mainstreethamptongeorgia.com](http://www.mainstreethamptongeorgia.com); Teen Housed in DFCS' office speaks out. How long will we turn a blind eye to children in DFCS custody sheltered in DFCS office buildings when there are vacant buildings, such as 475 Fairburn Road and dollars available to renovate to shelter these children? With these conditions persist if your child was suffering? Action is needed and we must be intentional about making a change in the lives of these children with urgency. We cannot afford to ask whose job it is to fix these abhorrent conditions: city, county, or state because as soon as we know it becomes our responsibility to handle whatever obstacles stand in the way of fairness and what is humane. Most of these children are black and other minorities. So I make another appeal for the attention by this Board to foster care children being housed in office buildings at DFCS staff compensation. Thank you so much for your consideration and happy holidays."

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Thank you for hearing my comments. I voted early in Fulton County for the Senate Run-off Election. I respectfully offer my feedback experience. I've been watching the Fulton Votes App all week to determine when, how to vote. I drove passed Milton and Alpharetta Libraries on Tuesday; no way did I have time to wait in those lines. On Friday, we drove Ponce De Leon Library; three block wait. We then drove 26 minutes to South Fulton Service Center where the wait time to be shown zero minutes when we arrived. At the same time, the wait was shown to be a hundred and 80 minutes at the Milton Library. Were

there really only ten early voting locations in North Fulton? On Wednesday, somebody fainted at the Alpharetta Library; Thursday, same at Roswell. Both required EMS to show up. Person at Roswell stated that they were lightheaded due to lack of food. Each county runs Elections individually. The responsibility for this debacle is Interim Election's Director, Nadine Williams alone. Wait times of the hundred and 20 minutes every day at the Milton Library, Alpharetta Library screams to voter suppression. Four voting locations with wait times of zero to 20 minutes all within close proximity within the City of South Fulton is great; what happened to the rest of Fulton? My experience suggest undeniably that Fulton County, Georgia voters are being driven to mail-in ballots. Early voting is promoted everywhere. Atlanta Votes Early signs are everywhere; however, early voting locations have been reduced in the Run-off Election. High Museum, John's Creek Environmental Center is examples of reliable, highly used early voting locations that were not used in the Run-off Election. Voters are being herded like cattle to mail-in ballots by making voters miserable who vote early in-person. So every voter also has the unacceptable Election Day challenge regarding the fact that no human can verify their votes with a two dimensional bar-code unlawfully printed on the back ballots and used by the --"

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

**JULIE ALLEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- QR codes need to go; voting machine needs to go voting centers need to go. We need local precinct. Early voting needs to go; mail-in ballots need to go except for variable need based examples such as the military. Democracy dies in the darkness. Fulton County needs to stop manipulating voters and this is on Nadine."

**MAURICE KENNER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Maurice Kennedy, Circuit Public Defender for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. And originally, I came to voice and show my support for PAD and the great things that they do for our office and our clients. But in light in the statement of Commissioner Hall, I won't get into everything I was going to say. But I would like to take the opportunity to thank this Commission, Alton, and Kenneth for their -- for all of you all's great support of my office over the past year. I've been able to do absolutely great things. The morale of the office has turned around 180 degrees. Even today, I'm hiring -- or bringing on board three new attorneys. If I had to take a guess, our staffing is probably at about 98 percent of what is authorized. And I just wanted to thank you all for the support that I've received, and for the support that I'll receive in the future. Thank you."

**TONI MICHELLE WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings and good morning. My name is Toni Michelle Williams and I'm the Executive Director of the Solutions, Not Punishment Collaborative aka SNAP Co in Atlanta. And I'm also one of the cofounders



and many organizers for the pre-arrest diversion initiative also known as policing alternatives and diversion. With folks from PAD and community organizers and supporters, please, stand if you are here for the pre-arrest diversion initiative. Yes. Good morning. We love to see it. Give yourselves a round of applause. So we are here for the budget, but we're also here because we are citizen's folks from Atlanta. I'm a Grady baby myself and live in District 1. But I wanted to come and tell you all a little bit about the history of how we started, right? SNAP Co is a black led LGBTQ organization fighting for everybody black in Atlanta; even when they don't fight for us. So we do this by building political power and taking care of our own through mutual aid and radical collaborations like the pre-arrest diversion initiative. I ask you, as we began, why take it away? The people knew better back in 2017 and also in 2015, we wanted to offer pre-arrest as a solution to the punishment; and also to the problems that many black and LGBTQ folks were facing. Problems like homelessness and having to engage in underground economies for resources and survival; economic and employment inequity, and of course violence. Violence within our communities, but the most impact fully, violence from the police and from the state. You are the state. In our report in 2016, the most dangerous out here is the police. We surveyed over 80 Tran's people asking about their experiences with the Atlanta Police Department; what we found that one in eight of those women were sexually harassed by the APD. We also learned that 36 percent of the folks that we surveyed had call APD for assistance and help, but were arrested and stated. After the murder of Rayshard Brooks in 2020, we got back on the streets in the middle of all the protests and we were able to survey an additional 600 people where we found that those folks --"

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

**TONI MICHELLE WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- overwhelmingly, 80 percent of those folks don't trust police. Our folks need community. Our community is PAD. Again, stand and raise your hand. Give love in these last one seconds for PAD; and all of the work that we've been doing. And we hope that we continue to hear you -- that you hear us."

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

**TONI MICHELLE WILLIAMS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "To keep PAD alive thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is that it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, the next speakers will be on Zoom. Will be on Zoom."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "On Zoom? All right. It's 10:49. Actually, 11:02, 11:02. On Zoom?"

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Although we have 26 attendees, we had but seven to raise their hand to speak for public comment. And the first person to speak is Lucia Frazier."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, everybody. Hopefully you can hear me."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "All right. Lucia Frazier Fulton resident. I just wanted to mention that in Elections we are still lacking in leadership that enforces Georgia law and creates efficient processes that save tax money and protect our ballots. Occurrences where public observers are being locked out are still occurring. We really need all party observers witnessing hand counts at the precinct level to verify scanner tape. The voter registration process has not been corrected to prevent duplicate registration. Even after the Registration Department has confirmed that all challenges are legit and have been working on removing the errors. At the precinct level, I had wonderful experiences working with my fellow coworkers. During early voting however, we still have the issue that people are being told that they have to work all 19 days. While it's very easy to have poll managers manage their staffing needs by splitting shifts and this would increase poll worker interest. In the trainings it's been revealed that inter-department communication is lacking. Many longtime managers and workers didn't know about proper equipment maintenance; so there's tax money being spent for a lot of damaged equipment year-over-year. That's it. Thank you very much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next speaker. Let's go."

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

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. It appears we have a continuance of Richard Barron 2.0 in the recent Elections. Are you aware, as you may be now that last week's lines were three hours long? Many voters got out of line since most don't have three hours to stand around. Should I call this voter suppression? Lines were a problem the entire week; yet no significant adjustments were made. Poll workers were placed in a terrible position due to this mismanagement; so much so that paramedics were apparently called on more than one occasion. Many felt ill because they were unable to eat lunch. So now it's harmful to your health to work in Fulton County Elections. This just keeps getting better. That is if

you make it pass the gatekeepers. Many Fulton residents designed to work still received no response and there appears to be discrimination in the hiring process when local residents are prevented from working in their own communities. Also, I could talk for another two minutes on the laws that were broken including the locking of doors at polls preventing public observation. And Ms. Williams went as far as to say that it didn't happen despite numerous witnesses. We need a change whether it's mismanagement or lack of transparency incompetence, or the blatant violation of the law; we need a culture change. We do not have leadership within the Elections Department today. We need a director that is capable, transparent, and follows the law."

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

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Yet over and over again, we received examples of this not occurring. We need a change. Thank you."

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

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

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes."

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Great. I'm reaching out to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners today because six whistleblower statements out of Fulton County Animal Control have been emailed multiple times to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners; every Commissioner, as well as the Department of Public Safety Director, Alton Adams, and who reports to him; and the County Manager and the County Attorney. These whistleblowers either former employees or either current employees, retired employees -- the severity of the allegations which are very detailed are including, not limited to, dangerous conditions impacting the public safety of our communities and residents. As you know we've had children mauled to death on the streets due to lack of animal control or incompetent animal control that arose into lawsuits into Fulton County. They also include abuses of employees, people, and animals; very serious abuses. The animals were supposed to care for. Unfortunately, Department of Public Safety Director seems to be directing all these substandard conditions to the current condition of the facility which we know is being replaced. That being said, the treatment of employees, retaliation against whistleblowers; retaliation of -- against employees who are coming forward, including unlawful termination; including sexual harassment; the lack of drug testing of our employees who are driving our animal control trucks; showing up at people's homes and properties and handling our animals has nothing to do with the facility. We are greatly alarmed that there's been such little

response from the Board of Commissioners. We have requested an independent audit of the vendor, Lifeline the tax funded county contract nearly 3.6 million. We're asking the Board of Commissioners to please allocate this to the budget as one that's never been performed whatsoever."

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

**ROBBY CABAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you for your time."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Aimee Uphues. Aimee Uphues. Okay. We'll go to the next one. The next person to speak -- sorry about that. Is Ben Howard."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings one and all. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. They say one monkey doesn't stop the show, but one monkey can throw a monkey wrench and mess with momentum. The Council on Aging monkey wrench has messed with Commission of Elder Affairs momentum all year long. The office of aging management recommends that the Council on Aging be replaced with one organization rather than three cogent organizations with diverse, but complementary perspectives. I submit that any business brought to you by office of aging management about senior citizens without the advice and consent of the Fulton County Commission on Elder Affairs is monkey business and then spoils the integrity of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Although they are on vacation, a special meeting of the Commission on Elder Affairs can be held on January 2nd or 3rd to develop group recommendations for the County Commission meeting on January 4th, 2023. See you next year. Stay tuned."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Nicole Sloan."

**NICOLE SLOAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. Good morning. Can everybody hear me?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**NICOLE SLOAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Great. Thank you for having me speak and good morning, Commissioners. I've worked with veterans in Fulton County which is a county I also live and vote in. I work directly with substance use, severe mental health, trauma, and homelessness. I came to speak on PAD even though I did hear that comment this morning, but I do feel I would like to speak just about the importance of allocating funding and increasing funding for PAD. The reason being, I feel like the jail is currently functioning as a treatment facility, but with no treatment. And I feel like the system could benefit from more mental health professionals to coordinate care in the community to reduce the numbers of people experiencing these acute psychosocial

stressors in the jail system. My opinion is that this could be a, yes, and. It's not really a popular opinion, but the idea being we could fund PAD and increase funding for the jail. If we look at options for funding for treatment, it's out there and available. I looked this morning. There's plenty of grants for cooperative agreements; for innovative community crisis response partnerships. Meaning that the funding is there if we coordinate care in the community to fund PAD and expand programs like this so that we can better serve the vulnerable people of Fulton County. And that's it. Thank you so much for taking the time to hear what I have to say."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Stephanie Diaz."

**STEPHANIE DIAZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "And hello everyone. Thank you. Good morning, Commissioners. I just wanted to give my perspective as a Fulton County resident, and also a former Fulton County Deputy Marshal. And although I no longer work there, I saw the different things that happened and how PAD services are extremely helpful and beneficial in supporting individuals who do not need to be in jail; and who should not be in jail because of quality-of-life concerns. And so, this program is so important and the hope is for it to expand statewide not just Fulton and the City of Atlanta. And preventing this from happening is a really a discredit to the community and the people who Fulton County is so longing to serve and to support. So I would hope that you all continue to fund them and even expand services, and put more money into the program and to more services like them. That's all. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Aimee Uphues. Aimee Uphues. Okay. The next person to speak is Maria Moore Riggs. Maria Moore Riggs. Okay. The next person to speak is Aimee Uphues. And I believe she's having issues with her audio. And the last one to speak is -- well, she just dropped off; Nicole Baker. Nicole Baker."

**NICOLE BAKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "And hello everyone. I also submitted a written statement, but this could suffice instead. My name is Nicole Baker and I have a master's in public health from Emory University. In 2019, I conducted research and completed a master's thesis on the transformational relationships in the Atlanta Fulton County pre-arrest diversion initiative. As we know, this innovative strategy, policing crimes serves as a helpful alternative, but not only saves the city money in the long term, it gives neighbors a chance to help each other access to services they actually need instead of turning to traditional incarceration, which results in harms in the long run. PAD is solving a problem the city is struggling with while transforming our social service and criminal justice structure around. It leverages the shared mission to impact long-term change in how we view our neighbors, and their ability to contribute to our communities. Losing this service that people actually want to be expanded would be a

departure from the values we elected our Commissioners to represent. I can still remember the day that -- next-door when I first saw a neighbor share their positive experience of calling 311 (door slamming in the background.) dispatch. And I think it would be a true shame to decline and revert back to an ineffective expensive systems instead of bolstering the efforts of PAD to aid in the expansion of hours and services provided. I know there is a recent report on the capital analysis on how much money PAD did save and how many missed opportunities there were. I think it was about \$2.8 million in missed opportunities. So thank you for your time and I hope this support here representative of the funding we'd like to see in 2023 and beyond. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is that it?"

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** And this concludes the public comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What's next? We have four minutes reminding."

**CLERK GRIER:** "We have two emailed in comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Two emails --"

**CLERK GRIER:** "-- for public comment."

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

**REGINA WALLER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning. The first e-mail comment is from Aimee Uphues. My name is Aimee Uphues and I would like to comment regarding voter suppression and the psychic prediction of Robb Pitts regarding the recent 2022 Mid-term and Run-off Election. In both the Election and the Run-off the voter wait time in North Fulton was astronomical. I, myself waited over two hours to vote where in South Fulton there were consistently no wait times. Why was that? How is staffing an early poll locations determined? Why did wait times increase during the Run-off for North Fulton? Why was taxpayer money used only for democratic outreach and education? The job that Fulton County Elections management has done has been either intentional or just poor management. This is not new for the department and in either case needs to be addressed. Basically, nothing has changed since Richard Barron finally exited his position with Fulton County Elections. However, the shenanigans with our Elections continue. Chairman Pitts, has publicly stated we delivered President Biden, Senator Warnock and Senator Ossoff, and we'll all likelihood deliver Warnock in 2022. This prophetic statement by Chairman Pitts was made back in mid-2021. The word choice is telling candidates are elected not delivered. This Board of Commissioners, however, is in a position to make changes to the Election's Department and they refuse to listen. We are a republic not a democracy. We don't

deliver candidates. The people elect who they wish to represent them and this Board of Election's continues to fail the citizens on every level. I ask again, do your jobs according to the Constitution and the oaths you have sworn to uphold. The next comment is from John Dusch. The Fulton Board of Commissioners, the Atlanta City Hall, and the delegation of power in Atlanta are skewed. When a city's government does nothing when its mayor gives unconstitutional curfew orders. When a city's police department doesn't take that experience to denounce their leadership and encourage resources like policing alternatives divisions. When the city police department's government are silenced during record poverty and will not come together to denounce cop city as a gross misallocation of resources. Without justice, all we have is a criminal system. We Atlantans demand accountability and improvement on the issues of police alternatives. The budgeting and land use of cop's city and all illegal government actions and injustices. This concludes the public comments."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, no further speakers."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 9, under Public Hearings, **22-0923**, Finance. Public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Proposed Budget."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. How many speakers signed up?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "We have received 30 speaker cards. Will the first six speakers, please come down. Judge Russell, Honorable Clinton Deveaux, Elisa Gambino, Malik Hakeem, Patrice Perkins-Hooker, and Josie Pegues [Phonetic]."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Repeat the names. You got 30 speakers. That's 2x30. That's an hour assuming everyone takes 30 -- I mean, two minutes. Yeah, what? Repeat. And again, if someone's already said what you wanted to say, please don't feel obligated to repeat what's already been said in the interest of time. But we'll try to hear from everybody. Repeat the names again, please."

**CLERK GRIER:** "We have Judge Russell, Honorable Clinton Deveaux, Elisa Gambino, Malik Hakeem, Patrice Perkins-Hooker, and Josie Peguese [Phonetic]."

**HONORABLE CLINTON DEVEAUX, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I'm Clinton Deveaux, retired (Speaker not on mic.). Judge Camille Russell was here and had to leave. I apologize (inaudible.)"

(Unknown speaker advises that speaker cannot be heard.)

**UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** "Try this one sir. Sorry"

**HONORABLE CLINTON DEVEAUX, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Yeah, no problem. Should I start again?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes. And get the timer working, Madam Clerk."

**HONORABLE CLINTON DEVEAUX, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Judge Camille Russell was unable to remain. She left at about 11:30 -- 11:15. She was supposed to leave at 11. I know that she wanted to speak in support of PAD. My name is Clinton Deveaux and I'm a retired municipal court judge in the City of Atlanta. I served from January 19 -- excuse me. January 1981 until 2011 in June, appointed by Maynard Jackson and served with many administrations. I know a number of you from working on issues of PAD, and I know some of you because I knew your parents. And I Chair the Board of PAD and have done so for the last two years. And I came out of retirement to do this because I believe the jail is not the only option for people who are poor; for people who are substance abusers; for people who are encountering sort of mental health issues on the streets. PAD emerged as a program of this County and the City of Atlanta. Fulton County is pioneering in this work. And to withdraw from it now, after we have demonstrated how successful this efforts is. When I first joined the PAD Board, I guess it's about three and a half years ago now --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- about 15 seconds, judge.

**HONORABLE CLINTON DEVEAUX, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- yeah. We were operating only part of a whole day. We are now operating 12 hours a day, seven days a week. And it is important to continue this work. You will hear from a number of participants today in the public comment. Please listen carefully to the success that you have created. That you and the City of Atlanta have created. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Come on, ma'am."

**ELISA GAMBINO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Elisa Gambino and I'm a resident in Buckhead. I'm deeply concerned that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recently discussed defunding PAD.

Commissioner Hall, I realized that there's no voting going on in this matter today, but when things are said, words matter. People react to them. And so, that's what you're seeing today. It's our voices. And I'm sorry if some of this is repetitive, Commissioner Pitts, but some things are worth repeating. I wonder if any of you have relatives, or friends, or loved ones who experience extreme poverty, harmful substance abuse, or mental illness. People who struggle without a safety net. Have any of you ever gotten a call from someone you care about who in jail for a nonviolent offense? Maybe, some



of you have known that sense of hopelessness. Has the Board of Commissioners ever been struck by the idea that if we keep doing more of the same we will only have more of the same problems? That if we keep demanding that the police work outside of their scope, we will continue to put stress on them as well. Have any of you tried to envision Metro Atlanta where your neighbors and families are able to access needed support instead of having to face the despair of in carceral? Have you known that by continuing to incarcerate people in crisis the jail population of Fulton County will only increase? And this is a problem I've been hearing about over and over again at City Hall and here as well. Don't you think it's time to recognize that solution to jail overcrowding is investing in proven solutions that keep people out of jail and connected to the resources they need --"

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

**ELISA GAMBINO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- in the communities where they live. Those are just some questions to consider and to answer so everyone can understand why we should continue the funding of PAD. Thank you."

**MALIK HAKEEM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Malik Hakeem and I am the Assistant Executive Director for Sadie G. Mays Health and Rehabilitation Center. We are an organization within Fulton County that provide short-term and long-term care for many of the citizens of Fulton County. We have recently celebrated our 75th year in business, and if you all are familiar with Sadie Mays she was a pioneer in her time. She had a vision that has succeeded and continued to succeed at this time. We have a representative -- a former resident who would like to say a few words here. Thank you. Ms. Peguese."

**JOSIE PEGUESE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello everybody. I began my stay at the Sadie Mays in July of '19, 2019. I went in as a stroke patient. I had a stroke on my right side. I've then, when it was time for me to leave, my daughter was not able to keep me in the house because I couldn't go up and down the stairs; she works every day. She would not be able to care for me, so I was therefore (inaudible). While I was there, I received the most excellent professional caring care; and I also want to say that the people of Sadie Mays treated me well at all times. No. 2, I stayed there for two years. I did get an apartment across the street from where I was staying, and I managed to stay in that apartment by myself all day long with just my left-hand side. Now, I want to say this: I went also to go back to teach Bible study every other Wednesday at the facility because I received the excellent care that I did, and because I care about the patients there. I want to say thank you very much for listening to what I have to say. But what I have to say, it's important for the Sadie Mays facility. Thank you very much."

**PATRIS PERKINS-HOOKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "It's working now? Good morning and happy holidays and Merry Christmas to all of you all, Commissioners. As you know, my name is Patrise Perkins-Hooker. I am one of the members of the board for Sadie G. Mays. And I'm here after this organization has been around for 75 years doing the work for Fulton County. Under your 1880, 1881 creation law that Sections 9 and 11, gave you the responsibilities for taking care of the poor, and taking care of the folks who had health issues. That's what the county is chartered to do. And so in 1968, the county was running its own healthcare facility called Happy Haven for elderly people. And you contracted with Sadie G. Mays to run the facility after the county had gotten numerous negative results with regard to how they were treating patients. So, Sadie G. Mays has been Fulton County's arm for dealing with seniors, and incapacitated, poor people since 1968. We've received funding and we appreciate the funding from the county for years. However, the funding base on the contract, allows us to ask you for monies to close the gap between what is provided through sources like Medicaid, Medicare, and the actually daily care of a citizen. That amount -- it totals for the number of Fulton County residents over a million dollars a year. We've only been allotted a hundred and 35,000. I know with the rollback you're going to have priority -- prioritization and monies and what. But when you prioritize what you spend your money on, it ought to be based on the law of which --"

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

**PATRIS PERKINS-HOOKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- you are responsible for. And we're asking that you look at that and please increase the funding for Sadie G. Mays operations. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Madam Clerk. Next group."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next six speakers: James Woodall, Wade Askew, Lily Ponitz, Clara Green, Chyna Quarver, Drew Umberger."

**OLYMPIA BILLINGS:** "Speak into this mic."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, it's 30 speakers."

**JAMES WOODALL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is James Woodall. I'm a policy associate at the Southern Center for Human Rights. And I just come to voice my support for the policing alternative and diversion services that you all have contracted with and have supported for number of years. We all know that continued collaboration is of a great importance for us right now in this moment. And with your continued support, we will not only be able to save taxpayer dollars, but we will be promoting public safety. We've had numerous conversations over the course

of the last several years about issues related to public safety; and PAD is one of those organizations that have produced results. They have made our communities safer and they have really in quite honest terms, changed and transformed lives and build community. And so, with your continued support, we would hope that we continue to allow there to be funding for that program and to continue to support the people of Fulton County. Thank you so much for the work that you all do. And I wish you all happy holidays and a happy new year. Thank you."

**WADE ASKEW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. My name is Wade Askew. I'm the --"

**OLYMPIA BILLINGS:** "-- speak into --"

**WADE ASKEW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- wrong microphone. Sorry everybody. Good morning. My name is Wade Askew. I'm the policy manager at Georgia Justice Project and just want to echo some points that my friend, James just made as well as speak about our unique collaboration with PAD over the years. Georgia Justice Project has served Metro Atlantans and Fulton County residents for over 35 years. We represent folks facing charges; we stand alongside those who are getting ready to come back to their community after incarceration; and many people know us for the work we do for folks who have criminal records who are trying to move on with their life. In our work we know that PAD receives referrals from a diverse set of partners because we ourselves refer clients to PAD. When our clients are released and need services, we very often send them to PAD. When our clients have a pending court case, we often facilitate their release to PAD upon the dismissal, bond determination, or as part of a diversion program. We've seen firsthand the invaluable services of PAD and those that it provides not just referrals directly from law enforcement, but also to those who are already in the legal system. As we've heard, PAD services reduce recidivism and they save taxpayer dollars. And moving forward, both our office and PAD have worked with both the city and the county to create a future diversion center. Our role at GJP will do - - be to assist individual resolve warrants that would otherwise prevented folks from moving forward with the diversion program and what services with PAD. So through that work we anticipate that even more folks are going to be eligible in needing PAD services."

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

**WADE ASKEW, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "We thank you for your work. We thank you for your support of programs that cause -- that lead to root cause solutions. Thank you."

**LILY PONITZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, Commissioners. My name is Lily Ponitz. And I'm a graduate student at Georgia State University. I'm here to express my support for PAD. PAD has not only providing a more humane alternative to jailing, they're also saving Fulton County money. According to a new cost analysis in 2022, PAD's work -- estimated resulted in estimated savings of over half a million dollars. And the \$400,000 that some Commissioners are proposing to defund from PAD will more than pay for itself in a year. PAD needs more funding and more support from the Fulton County Sheriff, not less. This year two people every day, who are eligible for diversion to PAD were instead arrested and taken to Fulton County Jail. Incarcerating people rather than diverting these people cost Fulton County an estimated \$2.8 million. As you build next year's budget, keep in mind that how supporting PAD actually saves the county money. Incarcerating rather than diverting these people also exasperated the overcrowding in Fulton County Jails. As you build next year's budget, keep in mind how supporting PAD helps the county reduces its reliance on leased jail beds. Finally, keep in mind how supporting PAD helps the county meet its resident's basic needs and treat those in crisis with humanity and dignity. Thank you."

**CLARA GREEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Clara (inaudible.) Green and I lead PAD's community engagement strategy. I'm also a resident of Atlanta in Fulton County. I was born and raised in this city less than ten minutes from here and I'm a proud graduate of Atlanta Public Schools. So to suffice it to say, my love for the city and this county is immense. Everyone you saw stand earlier today are PAD staff, board members, participants, supporters, and partners. We are one organization, but the people who are here today represent a community of people who know that change is possible both within ourselves, within our community, and within our systems. We believe we can create safer and healthier communities by moving away from punitive responses and expanding community resources. PAD belongs to all of us because it represents a direct practical application of this belief. PAD was created by community members, advocates, service providers, and our county and city governments to respond to what our community members said they needed. Every day PAD works to meet those needs. Our team has canvased over 1500 local businesses to talk with them about their concerns. When community members make a referral to PAD, we follow up with them to let them know how their concern was address. That's over 1900 calls since January 2021. What we hear from the people that call us is that they want more resources in their communities. They don't want to jail people who are just trying to survive. They want to know that their neighbors have what they need not only to survive, but to thrive. Together we are here today because for far too long, we, as a country have invested in punishing and incarcerating people rather than directing resources to meet people's needs."

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

**CLARA GREEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "In order for a new approach to succeed for us to finally lay aside a punitive and ineffective response to some of our community's most challenging daily concerns, we need to take collective responsibility for it. That collective responsibility belongs to Fulton County, too. Thank you."

**CHYNA QUARVER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, everyone. My name is Chyna Quarver and I'm the director of community response services at PAD. I want to talk with you all today about housing. At PAD, we got our participants from being unhoused to being permanently housed; a goal that nearly all of our participants want to achieve. We are focused on solutions. Solutions to homelessness and all of its affects including poor physical health, unmet mental health needs, and increased risk of incarceration. We believe that housing in this city is not a luxury. It should not be something that people have to earn. It is a basic human right and that people are better equipped to gain stability in their lives if they have a safe reliable place to live. This year alone PAD has placed 74 individuals and families in permanent supportive housing. That's 74 people that are not only off the streets, but also significantly less likely to be re-incarcerated or to experience violence by another person. We have also assisted 263 people with emergency housing with our hoteling partner; 135 people with residential substance use treatment; and paid for shelter beds for over 80 people. Another 133 people have been placed in bridge housing which means that they have significant progress toward our permanent supportive housing. This would not be possible without the current funding PAD has to assist our participants with a prerequisite of permanent housing such as emergency housing placements, obtaining IDs and vital records, and transportation assistance. I'd like to ask all of the PAD staff to please stand very quickly. When considering the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, I encourage you to make this personal. Take a second to ask yourself if someone you loved was experiencing a mental health concern, a substance use concern, homelessness --"

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

**CHYNA QUARVER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- or another quality-of-life concern, what sort of solutions would you want in place for them? For me, I'd want the people at PAD to support them. Thank you."

**DREW UMBERGER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Drew Umberger and I'm a peer advocate on the street wellness and enhancement team or sweep team for PAD. If PAD had been an available resource ten years ago, I, myself would have been a participant. I was a very different person back then experiencing

chronic homelessness due to a heavy opioid addiction. I quickly became a familiar face to the Fulton County Jail. In and out of the jail as if it was a revolving door. Each time I will go in, it was for the same thing: committing a law violation to support my addiction. And every time I was released and found no resources out in the community available to me. This vicious cycle reoccurred numerous times and is what ultimately sent me to prison. I served a five-year prison sentence and was released in April of this year. Not long after my release, I stumbled upon PAD and saw the amazing work they were doing. Super excited to hear about a job posting that would allow me to use my lived experience to help others. I'm able to gain rapport with our participants because they know that I too have been where they are and what barriers they face. As a peer advocate on the sweep team, I engage with participants that need the most intense case management; people who need support out on the street where they are living and struggling with serious behavioral health concerns. I also go into the Fulton County Jail every week to meet with potential PAD participants. Between January and October of this year, 26 people were referred to us from the public defender's office. These are people already detained in Fulton County Jail, who without our services, might still be sitting there today. Each sweep team consists of a peer advocate, like me, and a clinical advocate. Together we work with the participants to create a safe plan for release. My goal, our goal as an organization is to break the cycle of incarceration. PAD plays a crucial part in so many people's lives. Creating a safe and stable life takes a lot of hard work, but it also take the services and support that organizations like PAD provide. If you question the benefits of our work, I urge you to reach out to me to learn more about how we are transforming lives and creating true public safety. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next speakers: Anh-ton Tran, Anh-ton Tran, Tim Franzen."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Start over. These are the next six?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes. Anh-ton Tran, Tim Franzen, Chris Johnson, Linda Winter, Bezaleel Jupiter, and Allison Coffman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Repeat them quickly, please."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Anh-ton Tran, Jim Franzen, Chris Johnson, Linda Winter, Bezaleel Jupiter, and Allison Coffman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Come on down, please."

**SEAN HUNTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning everybody."

**OLYMPIA BILLINGS:** "Right here, sir."

**SEAN HUNTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Hello everyone. My name is Sean Hunter, former inmate, current client of the PAD program. My experience is an opinion: PAD is a very vital program for my experience and opinion. The statistics also show the answer isn't to expand the jails. It is not to defund the program which gives individuals the tools to function in society; as opposed to mass incarceration which isn't the answer in the majority of cases. Stats show as of six days ago, percentage of people in state prisons diagnosed with mental health illnesses is 43 percent and locally run jails the percentages is 44 percent. One in four people experience serious psychological distress. Percentage of people in federal prisons who reported not having received mental healthcare was 66 percent. Percentage of police shootings in 2015 that involved a mental health crisis was 27 percent. Portion of the people jail three times within a year will report having a moderate or serious mental health illness is 27 percent. Lasting effects of incarceration cause posttraumatic stress anxiety, impaired decision-making and more. More than half the population of inmates suffer from mental health issues speaking from experience as someone who suffers from several different mental illness myself. PAD has help me with housing, food, transportation, clothing, and has also connected me with the Grady --with Grady where I'm able to get mental health services, medication, therapy, and everything to ensure that I can be more productive in society. Because in jail my mental health was severely declining. PAD has helped me to get out of jail when I wouldn't -- when I would have stayed in jail because I had no address. PAD has helped to sustain me and countless others like me. They give support in so many ways providing the sense of self-worth in a real sense that someone cares. Defunding PAD would be taking away the heartbeat of a lot of lives whom they have helped turn around."

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

**SEAN HUNTER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "And also given a sense of hope and purpose with everything seem hopeless. That's it. Thank you."

**TIM FRANZEN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Tim Franzen. I'm with American Friends Service Committee. I work in the Atlanta Economic Justice Program. We've prepared a statement that the Atlanta Economic Justice Program with American Friends Service Committee would like to voice its support for the policing alternative and diversion initiative. AFCS has long-held that punishment does not solve the issue of economic inequity and health provision that make individuals vulnerable to arrest in the first place. We stand with any effort to minimize citizen's contact with incarceration. We are appalled that anybody -- any of the Commissioners would even just consider defunding PAD in 2023, especially given the severe levels of overcrowding within the Fulton County Jail. This crisis being largely

driven by the arrest of people whose only crime is doing their best to survive in a society that refuses to meet their needs in a sustained and meaningful way. Those suffering from mental illness, substance-abuse, and extreme poverty. A recent report from the Justice Policy Board found that more than 3,000 people were jailed in Fulton County this year for charges that were eligible for diversion. PAD has diverted hundreds of people from arrest in 2022 alone; and it's unthinkable that any Commissioner would seek to remove their funding during a time that their program is needed the most. Fulton County must continue to resource this critical service. And I don't know all of you. I've met some of you and there's a few good folks on here that I know y'all would not allow this to happen on your watch. And I'm just going to have faith in that. Thank you very much."

**BEZALEEL JUPITER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello everybody. My name is Bezaleel Jupiter. I'm a community activist's and resident living in Vine City. I'm speaking today to oppose the discussion of the defunding of policing alternative and diversion initiative or the PAD initiative. In fact, PAD needs more funding. PAD is a resource for the community, by the community that's proven that it can deal with the realities of poverty that's often labeled as crime. The reality is that inflation is pushing up the prices of necessities like food, clothes, utilities; residents are pushed out of their homes by rising rent. And property values and, yeah -- and in the US, Atlanta has the most in equality between the rich and the rest of us working-class people. And when times get harder the solution is not to lock up people for trying to get by. or to cope. The solution has been demonstrated by PAD. PAD provides people in need with housing, transportation, and food so they can actually get on their feet instead of being burdened by a criminal record. As of August of this year, PAD was servicing 400 people with long-term care -- long-term care and it has an average response time of 20 minutes. 120 people were diverted by PAD over a ten month period as of this month; and these diversion saved our county more than half a million dollars. During this same period \$2 million of taxpayer money were used to incarcerate more than 600 people eligible for PAD. Not only does arresting people cost money, it also causes long-term community safety and enrichment. Instead of a crowded jails, prisons in our facilities, we could help create the beloved community that Dr. King envisioned. We can expand the scope of care that PAD uses --"

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

**BEZALEEL JUPITER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to help get people back on their feet. The bottom line is that PAD has reduced the number of people in jail because of mental illness, drugs, alcohol, or generalities of extreme inequality, and it needs to stay well-funded if not receive more funding. Thank you."



**ALLISON COFFMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Allison Coffman and I'm with the Amplified Georgia Collaborative. I really hope we have your attention this afternoon as we talk about this really important issue that's so many of us have time off of work to be for, and found childcare for our children so that we can speak to you about this important resource to our community. My organization -- we're working for world for bodily autonomy where everyone -- not just those with resources can create the families that we want and parent with dignity and safety free from state violence. This is not possible in an over policed city like Atlanta. PAD plays an important role in diverting people away from Fulton County's already overcrowded jails. The recent report about human rights violations at Fulton County; about lice, scabies, malnutrition are shocking to say the least. This is simply unacceptable. These are our most vulnerable neighbors. People should not be incarcerated for poverty, for malnutrition, for houselessness. We are still in the midst of a global pandemic. We are entering a recession. People are going to need more services like PAD offered, so I encourage you to, please increase the funding you already give to PAD. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next speakers: Micah Herskind, Monica Johnson, Roberta Meyers Douglas, Devin Barrington-Ward, Rabbi Mike Rothbaum, and Graham Kelly."

**MICAH HERSKIND, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good afternoon. My name is Micah Herskind. I'm a policy associate with the Southern Center for Human Rights. Good to see you all today. I'm of course here to talk in support of PAD. I specifically want to highlight the crises that we're all aware of at the Fulton County Jail. This year 14 people have died in the jail to give you some, you know, a comparison there. Around 18 people -- 18 people have died in Riker's this year. There are far more people in the Riker's Jail -- in the Riker's Island Jail than there are in Fulton County. And, you know, that just puts into perspective just how much of a crisis we really have in our county jail. And what's, you know -- the only positive Silver-lining here is that you actually do have a solution at your hands to decarcerate the jail; to get people out; to get people services; to get people in to homes and that solution is PAD. I want to be clear that no one in this audience was misled about there being a vote today related to PAD funding. In fact, there's been comments both at the county level and at the city level from lawmakers who've made clear that they are coming for PAD. And it's been clarified by even a Commissioner on this council that it's in retaliation to PAD's stance on the jail. We've seen that in news cover; we've seen that in public statements. So, no one here has been misled. It is on the record that this Commission has suggested defunding PAD. You see that this entire community is against the defunding of PAD. We will continue to show up. We will continue to support it. This is a real solution that can help us turn away from mass incarceration and towards resources that actually keep our communities safe. Thank you."

**MONICA JOHNSON:** "Okay. Good morning. I'm here also to speak in support of PAD. And I can't help but notice that across comment, we've had people begging for funding for anything positive, but what is never threatened is the funding of the police and jails. So, I'm sure you hear a lot of people claim to be humanitarian; that we're supporting the community. I think it was -- keep it nice that we're funding and supporting children doing environmental work. But we have to realize that we won't have a world in which we have the resources we need if we continue to go down the path of incarceration rather than providing services. The United States is far and away the highest incarcerator in the world with about 20 percent of all people incarcerated in the world and Georgia is actually higher in that rate of incarceration than the United States at large. So, I think that all of us here have to consider what part you're taking in that process, and if that's something you want to contribute, too. It seems that against all the evidence, and against the deaths of people, PAD is on the chopping block while you seek to add more beds to Fulton County Jail when it has not been succeeding. This is a five alarm emergency with conditions -- the lice, the overcrowding; and it's an indictment on each of y'all for failing to act. There should not be expansion of a jail that is having a negative effect on the health of the community. PAD is sort of an office that can address the root causes of jail overcrowding which is the criminalization of struggling to survive; and I know of no other office that can fail and cause death and destruction and be widely hated and continue to increase in funding like the police. So it's far beyond time to try something else. We need to try making resources available to the community --"

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

**MONICA JOHNSON:** "-- instead of PAD funding. Thank you."

**ROBERTA MEYERS DOUGLAS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. I'm Roberta Meyers Douglas with Legal Action Center, and we're a nonprofit law and policy organization that has helped hundreds of thousands of individuals protecting their civil and privacy rights, promoting a health first approach, breaking down discriminatory barriers, and fighting systemic injustice, and racism. While the budget is not being voted on today, obviously, we wanted to make clear that when the time does come, we hope you all would recognize the value and the role that PAD plays in the county's efforts to support people at risk of arrest and incarceration. Diversion and deflection should be the central public safety strategy for this county. And so, we hope you will continue to stand as a national leader in this effort. Fulton County and PAD in particular was recognized in a series that the New York Times did around reimagining justice. Do not turn back the clock. Do not turn back on your leadership that you've establish as an entity that supports progressive, effective, and

evidence-based solutions to supporting the needs of people who have serious conditions that need to be helped and address. So that's all. I'm going to continue to stand here. And, yes, the threat for PAD has been very clear. That's why many of us are taking time out of our workdays to come down here to support this amazing organization that is fighting against allowing people to be caged as a punishment. Thank you."

**DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Devin Barrington-Ward, Communities Over Cages ATL. I'm here today because I think that there is an issue with ego on this Commission. Commissioner Arrington, you said that PAD should not bite the hand that feeds them. Well, we're the public and we're the hand that feeds y'all. And you all are biting the hand that feeds you all as taxpayers. I'm a resident in Fulton County. I own property in Fulton County. I'm the hand that feeds Fulton County. We are the hands that feed Fulton County. And the hands that feed this county are saying, keep your hands off of PAD because the money that you all merely allocate -- it's not your money -- it's our money. The money that you all merely allocates to PAD we have elected you all to make that decision on our behalf. But we can make different decisions at the ballot box. Commissioner Ellis is not here right now, but he is the one that kicked this off with this very reckless comments around: If they're just going to do whatever they want we can just do whatever we want and defund PAD. Let me be clear, the \$400,000 that you all are potentially going to cut from PAD, will not impact. They'll still be able to do their work. But what you'll do is you'll be hurting the people that they serve. The people that they serve that don't end up in your jail so that you all don't end up being sued, so that you all don't end up having continued blood on your hands. They're helping you all out; and this is the thanks that they get? This is the respect that we get as residents of this county? How dare you all. Enough is enough. I'm sorry, I'm not gone play no more games anymore. It's late in the day and --"

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

**DEVIN BARRINGTON-WARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and someone got to speak truth to power. And we have the power; the people. Remember that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of privilege. Point of privilege --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- just a minute, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- point of privilege. I want to make sure we get the record straight. I along with Kwanza Hall were the two people that brought PAD to Atlanta. And I am not going to do anything to stop PAD. I am a criminal defense lawyer. My day job is to get people out of jail. And so, the quote that you just credited

to me was what I say it was -- that is the frustration that I think you heard in Commissioner Ellis' statement: The don't bite the hand that feeds me. It was not me saying that. I said that is the frustration that I think that you heard from Commissioner Ellis. You have a partner, and when you have a partner you do not have to bring 300 people down here; you get on the phone and you call the partner. This thing is not going anywhere. Commissioner Ellis was the only person that said that. Nobody is talking about --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- okay. Commissioner --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- defunding PAD, but y'all."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner. Commissioner. Let us -- come on, sir."

**RABBI MIKR ROTHBAUM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Chair Pitts, Commissioners, I want to thank you for the opportunity -- I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. My name is Rabbi Michael Rothbaum. I live in Summer Hill here in Atlanta Fulton County's 5th District. I am blessed to be the Rabbi of Congregation Bet Haverim also in Atlanta. Many of my congregants are here. I serve hundreds of Jewish families who believe that justice is a sacred Jewish calling. I urge you to increase funding for the PAD program. I want to tell you a story this morning about a troubled young man born into a society shot through with injustice, inequality, racism; he came from a family condemned to live a life of oppression and degradation. Walking down a regular street on a regular day, he saw yet another one of his brothers suffering yet another beat down. His wild heart knocked with rage and bewilderment. On this day this young man said, no more. He struck the perpetrator harder fiercer until the perpetrator lay dead at his feet. Word spread, authorities were mobilized, and the young man had to flee. Might sound like this comes from a local papers, but this is the story from ancient Egypt. The young man is a man Jews called Moshe Rubino [Phonetic.]; Moses our teacher. Moses grew to not only become a teacher, but a leader, a Redeemer partnering with God to free the Israelites only because God teaches about redemption. Redemption can only be real for societies if it is real for individuals even those who make mistakes. PAD's a social services support is not just about diversion, but about who we are as a country, as a county; seeing the sacred light within those others would cast into the oblivion."

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

**RABBI MIKR ROTHBAUM, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I'm proud to live in a county with a program like PAD that lifts up souls who some see as monsters and recognizes that within them may be a Moses. A program that doesn't define us by our worse moments,

but supports us in becoming our best selves. I urge you to fund this essential and sacred work. Thank you."

**GRAHAM KELLY:** "Good afternoon, councilmen. Out of respect for what representative -- Councilman Arrington said, I'm going to talk about something that's different. I'm a PAD participant. I was right outside the Greyhound bus station; I been there since -- for since 2018. I was incarcerated, and PAD came to the jail and the judge released me to PAD's custody. I'm a veteran; I suffer from mental health issues, PTSD during my military service. I didn't know what was wrong with me. As a part of my PTSD, I medicate. When I go in to the streets, I'm suicidal. I tried to kill myself. so PAD saved my life. They gave me the opportunities to stand up in spite of my disability and make my vital stance now at my age to come back and be a part of -- a productive member of society. I now work with Ms. Denise White of the PAD program and training the Atlanta Police Department and the Atlanta Police Academy in diversion techniques. I'm a frequent speaker for the PAD program and I volunteer at the drop of a hat any time they called me to help them in any way that I can. This is what I can do to pay them back. All the murders that happened right outside of these walls, downtown Atlanta, I know all them people. So PAD has saved my life on many occasions. And we just want you all to know it works. It gives people like me the opportunity to step back up in society --"

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

**GRAHAM KELLY:** "-- and be persons that we were meant to be. Councilmember Pitts, if you remembered Geraleen [Phonetic.] Bryant -- Geraleen Pitts-Bryant that's my mother. She was a part of your campaign when you first started in the state."

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

**GRAHAM KELLY:** "Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next speaker Stacie Schmidt, Allie George, Kristen Baker, Mason Goodwin, Sharon Burdick, and Devin Franklin."

**DR. STACIE SCHMIDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, y'all. Thank you so much for having me and thank you for your service to this county. My name is Dr. Stacie Schmidt. I represent Internal Medicine Physician delivering both inpatient and outpatient care at a tertiary care hospital in an urban area just down the street from here. I do not speak on behalf of that health system or any organization. I speak on behalf of the experiences and the service that I give every day to patients within this community. I serve on the PAD community leadership team; a diverse mix of stakeholders from across the community to give feedback on its work and to help guide it. I want to be clear that for

me and for so many of the patients I serve: This is not about politics. I repeat: This is not about politics. And I firmly believe that we can have a both and for community that meets the needs of the jail system -- as much as I wish we didn't have one -- and at that meet the needs of the mental health, physical health of our community and our patients. I speak on behalf of so many who don't have a voice, who can't take off of work, who don't have financial transportation or the ability to even pay parking to come here and speak for themselves. What does it mean to be unhoused? What does it mean to be arrested for simply having to use the bathroom when you have no other place to use it? I lost my daddy earlier this year."

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

**DR. STACIE SCHMIDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I think about him every day and I think about the home that he created for me; and every time we arrest someone for something as simple as peeing on the street when they have no other place to go, we take them away from their home, from their kids, for those little ones you see standing here who are going to help our environment. Let them stay where they need to be and -  
-"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- thank you"

**DR. STACIE SCHMIDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- thank you so much for hearing me."

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

**ALLIE GEORGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello, Commissioners. My name is Allie George; I'm a medical student in my final semester here. I'm here to show support for PAD. Having worked in emergency rooms and trauma bays, I've seen the downstream effects of the lack of social programs and support every day. I understand how a lack of direct services put people in danger and psychological crisis and puts them on a path toward the hospitals or jail. PAD is an alternative that offers humanity and dignity to people experiencing houselessness, as well as people with behavior health needs. This year 65 people are arrested every month by Fulton County when they could have been diverted to PAD. With the supportive an effective healing resource like PAD available, Fulton County should be doing everything and more to support them including diverting everyone they can. We know that incarceration takes away people basic resources; takes away their community; their dignity and further damages their mental health. Today when Fulton County Jails are overcrowded and one of our main in town hospitals just closed, PAD needs to be funded and not defunded. Thank you."

**KRISTEN BAKER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good afternoon. Thank you for your time. My name is Kirsten Baker and I am representing Feminist Women's Health Center in

Atlanta. We've been providing comprehensive and compassionate reproductive healthcare including abortion care to the people of Atlanta since 1976. We also work in our community to address systemic inequities in society; and we are rooted in a commitment to reproductive justice. Meaning, we are committed to reimagining and creating a system beyond the violence of in-carceral systems like the Fulton County Jail. We're here in support of Fulton County's continued funding of the policing alternatives and diversion initiative or PAD. PAD provides direct services to the Fulton County community like emergency shelter, food, transportation, and assistance with clothing, and identification. Our neighbors deserve community care; it's their human right. Continuing to fund PAD ensures that there's an alternative to incarceration which includes compassion, humanity, and agency. The Atlanta Police Department is responsible for approximately 50 percent of bookings into the Fulton County Jail on any given day. When an APD officer diverts to PAD that means one less person booked at the Fulton County Jail. With the recent findings from the Southern Centers of Human Rights pertaining to the health and well-being of the people incarcerated at the Fulton County Jail, one diversion to PAD will be lifesaving. With the growing evidence of egregious human rights violations at the Fulton County Jail, it should be clear to this Board that policing and incarceration are not solutions for a lack of access to housing and basic needs. If your commitment truly is to the people of Fulton County, you should be doing everything in your power to maintain community programs that divert our neighbors away from malnourishment, parasitic outbreaks, viruses, and death; and towards housing, food, transportation, and mental health resources. Maintaining funding for PAD should be of the utmost priority to this Board."

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

**MASON GOODWIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Mason Goodwin and I'm a public policy student at Georgia State. As a public policy student, we focus on the facts and the data to decide whether or not policies are an effective solution. Here are the facts on PAD: A hundred and 20 people were diverted -- diverted to law enforcement this year. That saves Fulton County around \$524,000 using diversion instead of incarceration. During that same time, at least 658 people who were eligible for PAD services were instead incarcerated. This cost the county about \$2.8 million when those costs could've been cut. We know that incarceration is costly and ineffective, and that PAD gives us an alternative. But we also know this isn't a conversation around just the facts. We know PAD is effective. We know it's good use of resources, but this also a conversation about what's right. PAD is ultimately effective because it puts people at the center of policy because there is a community. It takes people who are typically been through the most in their lives and

are dealing with the worst consequences in our society, and gives them a chance at the dignity we all deserve. Thank you."

**SHARON BURDICK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you for allowing me to speak today. MY name is Sharon Burdick. I'm a resident of East Atlanta Village which is the City of Atlanta/DeKalb County, and I would like to speak on behalf of the residents in your tiny sliver of DeKalb County which is also served by City of Atlanta services. We are also able to call the PAD program -- especially when we're crossing over the county line at Moreland Avenue to help our unhoused and experiencing mental health crises neighbors. And we very much appreciate the program that you're running and in our kind of liminal space where we are -- people question who is providing services and what is -- what jurisdiction we are under. It is nice to have a program that we can count on to help our unhoused neighbors rather than bouncing them around between different police departments. So, I would -- please ask that you add more funding to PAD and consider reaching out to other local governments to expand it. Thank you very much."

**DEVIN FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I believe it's afternoon now. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Devin Franklin, (inaudible.) policy counsel for the Southern Centers for Human Rights. I've spoken to you before. You all know I'm a former public defender here in Fulton County for 12 years. I think the source of the reason why we are here stems back to the reasons why I originally came and spoke to you all. Fulton County has a overcrowded jail. And although the extent to which that is true today is a bit novel. Fulton County has always had overcrowded jail. And I'm here today to speak on behalf of PAD because PAD is an organization, which at its core, is designed to divert people away from jail. In action that will in and of itself alleviate or distract from the overcrowding that is faced at this point and time. I would like to speak to a couple of findings from the jail population review committee study that was completed by justice system (inaudible.) here in Fulton and City of Atlanta with a couple of findings as it relates to persons who are homeless, and persons who have mental health illnesses. As of a snapshot source of data done by this Body -- I know we've had issues with snapshot data sometimes -- on November 11th of this year, at the time of booking there were 11 percent of the jail population, 3,218 people had been designated as homeless. On average those people had been a custody 236 days. Nineteen percent of the population had a known mental health flag. They on average spent 311 days in jail. So, what we're seeing is that people who are homeless and mentally ill are spending an inordinate amount of time in Fulton County custody. And these are the exact type of people who PAD is designed --"

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



**DEVIN FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I will end by just saying that the conversation over funding is one that I relate, too. One it's like cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. It is an expression used to describe an unwise and the needlessly self-destructive overreaction to a problem. It is a warning against acting out or pursuing revenge in a way that would damage oneself."

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

**MADAN SIMHA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay. Is it working? Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Madan Simha. I'm from Advancing Justice Atlanta. And surprise, surprise, I'm here to talk about PAD. You know as a young guy who works at a community level, folks often tell me that I'm idealistic. Sometimes excessively, so. Maybe. But let me tell you about a man named, Willie. I met, Willie when I was stopped at a light just a few blocks from here. He had a sign that said that he was without a home and that he could use of money. When he came up to my car I said, hey, man I don't have any cash, but if you need anything else I'm happy help; and he said, actually, I haven't eaten in two days. And right as he said this the light turns green; you know, there's nowhere around me to park or stop. You know, its Atlanta. Cars are honking behind me already, so in that split second, I made a decision: I unlocked the car door and I said, let's get dinner. Now, Willie and I spent over an hour talking and eating before dropped him back to his tent. And about halfway through our conversation, I asked Willie, what you want to do when he had a home again? And he said, if I live that long. I must have given him a confused look because all he said was, I've got prostate cancer, son. I had it for over a year. And he just shrugged. Now, I spent the next week researching how he could possibly get the care that he needed; to, you know, to get an appointment you need -- to get specialty care you need an appointment, and for that you need an address; and there were so many documents that he didn't have."

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

**MADAN SIMHA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I had no idea where to even begin. And then one of my colleagues mentioned Atlanta PAD which is created by all of you specifically to provide assistant to people like Willie. So when people say that I'm idealistic; that government doesn't help people the way it should, I don't know about that. All I do know is that Willie is off the street, in the process of getting the care that he needs now. Please fund Atlanta PAD."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. How many more?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "We have two cards left."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Two?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Jay Ansley Sleuth [Phonetic.] and Abby Folksman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "And now we'll have the speakers that are on Zoom for public hearings."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How many?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Two."

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

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Hello, Commissioners. This first person to speak is Matt Rowenzcak."

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. Looking at the budget for Elections if you look at it from an apples to apples perspective, the budget keeps increasing, and let's please not sign in the budget where it's \$18 million less than this year. It should be less than this year. It should be significantly less than this year. And it's hard to distinguish if the total number is 15 million for 2023, or it's 20 million because it mentions an additional 15 million which seems to be on top of 5 million. So we're saying that we're going to spend somewhere between 15 and 20 million next year for one Special Election. I'll remind you in Cobb County this year, their budget was approximately 5 million. And, yes, they had fewer register voters, but it's about 75 percent. So you can do the math and see very clearly the gross overspending in this county. It needs to be addressed. It's an saying how much money we're spending. And just as it was mentioned earlier this year, the proposed budget was about 37 million, but that was with the assumption that there was -- were not going to be two Run-offs which we all knew that was likely to happen. So when it all comes in this year, I'm assuming it's going to be over 40 million all in one year. And the worse that that we're going to between 15 and 20 million next year with one Special Election? That is definitely gross overspending because when you compare to this year it's not an apples to apples comparison. It's out-of-control. I'm not aware of any actions that we've taken from the financial audit of last year --"

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

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- it's the same old same old status quo. So that needs to be relooked at seriously and improved dramatically. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Lucia Frazier."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning again. I'd just echo the comments that you just heard on the overspending. You know really just hasn't changed and it's not looking like it's going to. I think the only thing that can be help is by changing a lot of our processes. So just -- as I was saying earlier today, there's a lot of things that I've noticed and have called out. It will be great to have oversight from the Board of Commissioners to help incentivize changes that we'll reduce the tax burden. Thank you very much."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The last to speak is Maria Moore Rigg."

**MARIA MOORE RIGGS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I just want to thank the, Commission for supporting PAD and putting us in your budget. Because as a local business owner, I have had the unfortunate circumstance of needing to make frequent calls to PAD to help get some assistance for folks that are impeding -- having behavior issues, mental health issues, and issues of poverty. And having the ability to call PAD and have professionals come out and help us with finding best resources for folks that are struggling in this way, has given us -- has just lifted our spirits. It's just a dreadful thing to have to call the police for a situation of somebody struggling with their mental health. So having mental health professionals come out and address -- properly address these challenges to operating a business in the city, it's been tremendously helpful. So, I just want to urge you all to continue to support PAD and thank you for your support in the past and your ongoing support. Thank you."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And this concludes the Zoom public hearing comments."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Lastly, we have e-mailed in comments."

**REGINA WALLER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The first emailed comment is from State Representative Park Cannon. Distinguish Board Members of Fulton County Commission, thank you for considering a proposal regarding pre-arrest diversion and for listening to the concerns of supporters of the program that provides a de-carceral option in the state's largest county. As you know, Georgia's incarceration rates stand out because we are ahead of every other state in America, as well as every other country in the world. With this devastating fact, we need every program possible to divert our neighbors from entering the penal system. As a person who was unlawfully arrested last year and spent four hours in the Fulton County Rice Street Jail, I have continued to push for the State of Georgia to decriminalize poverty and divert Georgians from jail. I am proud that the State of Georgia passed a statewide pre-arrest diversion program

with mental health code responders in April 2022. Thanks to positive data shared with the pilot program here in Fulton County, staffed by PAD within the House District I represent, District 58. It is very dangerous for the State of Georgia largest county to now reverse course and remove up to 400,000 in funding for PAD because this can have an impact on other counties willingness to decrease their incarceration patterns in the coming years. I am working to gain the support of the 22 members of the states Fulton County delegation to increase judicial finding in 2023. So, please, work with us to make this possible. Again thank you for your deliberation. The next comment is from Natallie Keiser. I'm reaching out to express my support for PAD. Please continue Fulton County's financial support in partnership with this desperately needed initiative. I've been living and working in the City of Atlanta for 25 years and the birth and growth of PAD has brought me a lot of hope about what could be possible for our most marginalized citizens; that we would treat them with care and match them with the services they were desperately in need of. It is not the best use of police and fire to have them trying to address the infractions and desperate needs of people who are mentally ill or just improvised. Others with similar comments in agreement include: Duke Virginia, Stephanie Diaz, Melissa Flokowski, DJ Dontenot, Julia Maxwell, Aisha Washington, Elaine McCall, Mia De Le Guardia, Ann Werkeiser, Shira Concool, Alex Galloway, Sarah Gregory, Chris Dixon, Jennifer Denning, Lauren Neefe, Ruthie Yow, Jennifer Willsea, Nicole Sloan, Betty Bernard, Molly Paterno, Ishita Chordia, Henry Kahn, Rebecca Jones, Françoise Rollin, Katie Sharma, Mark Spencer, Tony Molly, Elroi Windsor, and Nicole Baker. This concludes the e-mail comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further speakers."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Thank all of you for your comments. Madam Clerk, continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 9, County Manager's Renewal Items under Open and Responsible Government, **22-0924**, Information Technology: Request approval to renew an existing contract to provide countywide structured cabling services."

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Oh, I'm sorry. Just a minute. Just a minute. Commissioner Morris was in the queue. Oh, I'm sorry. Hold on. Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, just a quick question. So if I understood -- I don't know who could speak to this. We got anyone here of maybe Sharon or the Manger could speak to it. But this number jumped up significantly, but this is mainly because of all of the physical, you know, plant -- physical, you know, updates and remodels and that sort of stuff in movement, right? Or expected over the course of 2023?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** Yes, Commissioner. Attached to the agenda item is the list of all the projects to be done next year for this -- under this contract."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Speak up, Ms. Strong Whitaker."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "I'm sorry. Good afternoon, Commissioners. There's a proposed project list that is attached to the agenda item that list all of the projects -- construction projects, new projects for next year."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So do we build those costs into the actual construction piece? When we land a project, is this a piece of it, you know? So, if we didn't -- if we didn't meet that not to exceed number it's coming back the following year? It's not getting sort of held in held in reserve with the overall construction cost?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Correct, it's not to exceed."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Thanks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion is to approve. Cast your vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10, **22-0925**: Request approval to renew an existing contract to provide maintenance supplies, support services, and software for all multifunction devices countywide."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Hall. Is there a second? Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please, vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- it's 12:30."

**CLERK GRIER:** "-- the motion passes; six yeas, zero nay."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0926**, Registration and Elections: Request approval to renew existing contract to provide ballot printing services for the 2023 Elections."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. What's your pleasure? Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. No questions please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Arts and Libraries, **22-0927**: Request approval to renew an existing contract to continue providing shelf-ready books."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hausmann, Vice Chair Hausmann, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0928**: Request approval to renew an existing contract to provide adult, young adult, and children books and adult best-selling leased books."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **22-0929**, Senior Services: Request approval to renew an existing contract to provide transportation services for senior services and behavioral health program."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Sound the amount when you do it, please, Madam Clerk. You have a motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Commissioner Morris, you have the floor. That's six million, three hundred and eighty-six thousand."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "Right. which is a very large number. And the indications are that we serve about 1800 folks which is like almost \$3600 a year per person, \$300 a month per person. How many trips on average do these folks take? And how is this charge? Is it charged by the usage of the vehicles per trip? So help me because that's a lot of money."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Good afternoon. Ladisa Onyiliogwu, Director for the Department of Senior Services. Commissioner, the cost is by revenue hour. And we're up to -- we've provided about 71,000 trips to date for this service."

**COMMISSIONER MORRIS:** "This year?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "This year."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "71,000 for -- I mean, 1800."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Say that one more time? How much per trip? It's about -- I believe when we presented in June the cost per trip is -- I think I need to get that cost for you and follow-up. I get right now. Maybe, about 50 -- 50 per revenue hour, I think, around that amount."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, not around. Now, what's the amount? What is it?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Chairman Pitts, it's \$52.45 per revenue hour."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Thank you, Dr. Roshell."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "You're welcome."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What is it, Dr. Roshell?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "\$52.46 per revenue hour."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's come back to this. Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I'm in -- I'm in support of this, but just sort of a couple of questions. You know, the -- certainly, it's a large number. Certainly, we know we got significant demands. Certainly, we know that this is sort of critical to get -- getting participation within from some of our most vulnerable citizens, right? To get them out and to get them in to day-to-day service activity, right? So, you know, that's -- there is a cost associated with it. It's a big number. We're certainly managing this cost. You know over time we've had ebbs and flows with this. I sort of had two questions: No. 1,

this is not really related to the contract renewal, per se, but I understand they -- we were out of service for a while because they had a number of vehicles where their catalytic converters were stolen. Are we still out of -- are they fully back to service? Or we still not receiving full service yet?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We're just now getting back to that. We have projected to have all of the vehicles online around November --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- okay."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "-- but this is the month where we had received information from the contractor and they came up with some --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- did we -- so during that period of inactivity, what's been going on in terms of payment? You know payment on the contract? Are we not paying sort of a full amount or is it -- we're paying based upon their use -- based upon their activity? What's -- what's going on?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We're paying based on use. So most of the contract is used for fixed routes --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** -- okay."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "-- transporting seniors to and from neighborhoods senior centers."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We have converted programming to hybrid just to account for the vehicles that were out of service due to the catalytic conversions. So, as seniors use the buses to go to the centers for programming, we've received invoicing from the contractor based on use."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So we didn't -- so it hasn't -- -- so the cost for this period of, you know, where they've had reduced services has been -- our outgoing cost to them has been reduced?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And it should be -- you're saying that we should be fully back online this month or right now we're back online or we're pretty close to back fully online?"



**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "The last time I talk with the team, December was the target in the information the provider had given to us to bring vehicles back into service. So it was the month of December. And based on invoicing, there has been a slight increase from September when the catalytic converters were stolen and were slowly increasing services as we're bringing vehicles back online."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I thought I saw somewhere in here that one of the things that was explored in terms of being able to bring down costs, and then maybe I misread it or misremembering it. I thought there was something in there that was discussed relative to use of our fuel centers and storage to be able to offset cost, but may be that wouldn't been able to be fully worked out, you know, before this structure of the contract would come before us. What was that and is there still some opportunity to explore that and what sort of cost benefit would there be to that if we can work something out?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "I'll let Felicia and Joe speak to that, Commissioner. And just for clarity: This is renewal of the contract that the Board generously approved earlier this year --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- right."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- because of the timing of when that presentation was made. It is time to renew the contract that was previously approved, so that is why it's before you again. So, I'll turn this over to Felicia and Joe to discuss the conversations that we've had with the provider regarding the use of our fueling stations and some of the operational challenges that presented."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Good afternoon again, Commissioners. Yes, this cost is based on the county providing the fuel cost, so it was lower as a result of that. The first year included the full cost; this year wouldn't -- not include the fuel costs because they would have to fuel up at market rate, and we couldn't control the market rate, but we can control the county's bulk fuel rate. So, there's much like the Lifeline contract does -- contractor does we're going to operate this contract the same way that the county -- they will fuel up their vehicles using the counties resources."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right. So this contract does -- they -- the fuel is bulk rate? Okay."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "And they're using our fuel centers. What about the storage aspect?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "I'm not sure about the storage."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Are you referring to the facility -- are you referring to the facility past for discussion --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- yeah."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We were not able to support or accommodate that request."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We did do a search of available property that the county own, but we were not able to fulfill that."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. I mean, what about the vendor itself? I mean, in this particular whole -- I mean, the sustainability of the vendor, I mean in light of this, you know, issue where they had, you know, theft; significant amounts of time off-line, you know, what assurances have they given us about, you know, ensuring physical security of their vehicles such that we not get placed in a position like this, you know, again?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Well, this is the first time that it did occur, so they do not have a history of poor performance in terms of securing their vehicles. We can get -- we can consult with legal just to make sure that there's some types of insurances and confirmation about that. Dr. Roshell."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes. Thank you for the question, Commissioner Ellis. In the conversation with the vendor, they are going to implement security protocols to minimize this risk in the future. As far as there operational stability, Fulton County is not the only county; they are a national company. And so, we believe their viability is pretty strong. And we will continue to monitor the situation as far as specifically what security protocols they are putting in place to minimize risk in the future."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, and I guess sort of the bigger thing to me -- it just sore of struck me as that they didn't have any sort of backup plan, right? I mean, they has these, you know, vehicles that went off-line, but yet, you know, they couldn't, you know, really didn't really seem to have a backup plan of obtaining, you know, similar vehicles or what. I mean, that was -- that's -- as much as the security that was the one thing that sort of left me scratching my head when I heard about this."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "And some of the reason for that, in other markets where this company provides services for multiple jurisdictions, they have an opportunity to borrow, for lack of a better word, from other fleets. They've solely purchased or specifically purchased this fleet to provide service in Fulton County. So they did not have a backup fleet in order to continue the provision of services in this instance. So that addresses some of the reason why they did not have a backup plan because we are the sole customer in Fulton County for this service."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "They don't have any neighboring customers they could have pulled from?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Not that they shared with us. But we will certainly take a harder stance on continuity of services in the future for this and other -- other instances. So for example, when they had an issue with some of their labor, they did quickly pivot and continued the service. And we will press them for a specific plan for continuity of services in the future should an occurrence like this happen again."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "One other thing that Dr. Roshell had us do was to speak with DREAM and we'll do that again in the new year just to talk about their contracts, and to consult with purchasing as well so that we can develop a plan should this happen again in the future."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Then lastly, of the 6.4, 4.6 is general fund and the remainder is grant -- grant funded?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, sir, it's a combination of grant and general fund. The breakdown of -- Ladisa if you have that before if you produce that."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "I do. We actually received additional grant dollars to support this one, so we had a grant from the Department of Human Services, 355,000; ARC is providing an additional 509,000 to support traditional transportation and bus services. And then we submitted a proposal and were awarded funding through the ARC ARPA funding, so we're getting about 439,000 to support transportation."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. But the general fund is 4.6 of the 6.4, correct?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Correct, 4.6 million for the general fund."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right. Thank you."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Vice Chair Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Yes, good afternoon."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Good afternoon."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "I want to get back to the service hour charge: You said it was 52 --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- 52."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "What's all encompassed in that calculation?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "That is the revenue hours and the average rider per route is seven -- seven riders per route that's the average."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Okay. Because you said early, 71,000 trips. What defines a trip?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "What defines a trip?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Is that one person? 71,000 trips or how is a trip defined?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Well, the way that were reflected it on our performance dashboard for Fulton County is that that trip should account for that route for -- well, I need to go back and confirm. But it's 71,000 that we've accounted for so far."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "I mean, if you just divide that in to the 6.3 million here that's \$89."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "And it's individual trip, per senior, so fixed route on demands 77,000.1, 77.1 thousand trips year-to-date and that's per rider. So we have -- each senior is in the system and then we account for the number of trips a rider takes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "How does this charge compared to the ridesharing cost?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "So --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "-- Vice Chair Hausmann, the ride for one rider versus seven per hour or per trip is 19.39 per trip for one Uber rider and \$17.31 per trip for one Lyft rider".

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "And this does or does not include gas what we're doing right now?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "What we're doing for the new year for the contract renewal does not include gas."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Who's -- How are we paying for gas? What's the cost associated for this program with gas?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Felicia."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Because the ride share would include gas, correct?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Are you referring to Uber/Lyft?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "The ride share would include gas."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Common courtesy, it's all-encompassing."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Right. So, I mean, there's no additional charge outside of the, I believe she said, \$17 per trip versus not -- I'm very confused."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This is not -- this shouldn't -- well, it should not be complicated; but for some reason, we're having trouble explaining it."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "I think we need some detailed --"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "-- so, for the contract renewal -- and I'll yield to Felicia, again just to talk about what we tried to do to address costs and cost increases, and whether or not there was a fuel pass-through available through the county -- a facility pass-through through the county. So the facility pass-through was not there; the fuel was. And I'll defer again to the Felicia just to talk about the plan to utilize the county's resources for the fuel costs. So within the contract the language indicates that the contract amounts include cost adjustment increases per year for the services without fuel and that's the language within the contract."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Well, the fuel is not free."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "No, it's not."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Okay, so --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- Vice Chair Hausmann, the fuel is absorbed by the county. It is not included in the contract cost."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "But it's an additional charge. And so, I guess, what we're all struggling with here, I think, everyone up here supports senior transportation. That's not the issue. The issue is how we can afford the transportation services that are needed, and what's the best way to provide that. So, I'm really unclear on what we're actually paying for this contract because we're adding gas to this number, you know, even if it's absorbed, we're still paying for that in some fashion compared to ridesharing. I just really think that it's important if we're going to continue to be able to do this in light of what we're facing that we're doing it the most economical way to serve the folks that we're trying to serve."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes, ma'am. When we looked at the cost to include the fuel which the vendor would've paid at a commercial rate, it would have made the provision of this service -- it would have been unaffordable. So the strategy that we have recommended and or employing to continue this service is for the county to assume the fuel costs under the counties contract because of the cost savings that we are able to leverage; and this contract includes the provision of the service which is picking seniors up at designated points throughout the county; for them to travel to multipurpose and neighborhood senior centers, dialysis, and community trips. It pays for the labor, the maintenance and use of the vehicles that are being used. That is what this contract covers. We can provide you with the cost of the fuel which is again absorbed through the DREAM fuel contract."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is this time sensitive?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yes."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "It is because it --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "It's a renewal. It's time sensitive."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I understand that it's a renewal, but is it time sensitive?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What does that mean?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Based on the code that's reflected in the agenda item and our requirement to renew contracts that are tied to the next year's fiscal budget."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "So we can --"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "-- until the 2nd. I'm sorry. Go ahead."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, Chairman Pitts, we can -- I jotted down the questions that the Board has; we can make a presentation at the next meeting and present this item for renewal at that time to clarify the questions that you have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, it's not time sensitive?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "As long as it's approved before the end of the year. Our next opportunity is December 21st that wheel allow us to answer the questions that the Board has and we can renew or present this for renewal again at that time."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I think that's makes a lot of sense to me."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Well, I wasn't finished."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I know you're not. I'm just saying. I was asking if this is time sensitive and if not, the answer to that is, no. You still have the floor, Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Thank you. I mean, I think it's imperative that we make sure that we're fully informed on exactly what this cost us. I've yet to hear number for the gas. I mean, I understand what you trying to do, but what is that number?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Yes, ma'am, we'll get that for you and provide that prior to the meeting in a memo and we'll present it on 21st."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "And I think it's important also to include a comparison of the ride share cost. What that really looks like and how that fits in. And I think we really don't know at this point the overall plan. And I don't know anything about the theft, or the downtime, or any of that. So if I missed that information that's my fault, but I don't recall being notified of that. What exactly happened?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "I believe that we had -- not believe. Please, excuse me, Commissioner. We did provide some information about a theft that occurred a few months ago where catalytic converters were stolen; so

that caused the buses to be placed out of service, and we could not use them until Trandev was able to replace."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "So during that time period, did we access ridesharing to cover the transportation or what did we do?"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "We converted programming into hybrid. So instead of seniors attending neighborhood senior centers daily, we divided them up into pods to account for seniors who still needed to use the service for dialysis, or to go to medical appointments. So one of our strategies was to split up the days that we would transport seniors to centers."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "All right. Again, I appreciate the thought to hold this two weeks so we can get a comprehensive evaluation of exactly what we're being asked to approve. Thank you."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "And so, Chairman Pitts, we will provide the information in a second presentation when the Board approved this transportation contract in June. We did provide the comparative information with the ride share as well as options to save dollars regarding how the provision of this service would work. And so, we will reprise the presentation from June and we will add additional information to answer your questions from today."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman, I'll be brief. In your report that you're going to give us, please provide a comparative analysis if we were to be charged for the fuel because in my study that is much more expensive. And so, since this is timely, I want us to go on record what our alternative is. Because the alternative is that if we do not absorb the cost, the fuel cost, then it increases; it does not decrease. And so, I believe we need all of the information, but because this is timely and none of our senior population needs to be affected by this, we need what is the alternative should we not renew. Because I have looked at this, and I know for a fact that if we do not absorb the fuel cost, it will increase immensely. So, please put that in your report as well. Thank you."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "And Dr. Roshell and Commissioners, I do have the one year, four options with fuel cost right now."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Okay."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "If you'd like for me to sure that."



**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Sure."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Okay. Based on the provider for year one -- for contract renewal, a one contract year four options, excuse me -- with fuel would be 7.02 million. So that would've been the renewal rate for 2023; the renewal rate for 2024 if we included fuel would be 7.4 million as opposed to a 6.78 million for that same year without fuel. The following year with fuel would be 8 million in comparison to 7.18 million without fuel. The final year of the contract with fuel would be 8.5 million. Without fuel that last year would be 7.6 million."

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

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

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Thank you, Ladisa. We will include that information in the presentation on June 21st -- on December 21st."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Last question on these citizens who use these particular services: They're not generally because of their physical aspects able to use the Common Courtesy, you know, Uber ride share program, correct?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS:** "Some of them could use Uber/Lyft. Many of them do have more frailty especially when we talk about the behavioral health customer in the neighborhood senior customer. Many of the citizens that are using the bus adult day are definitely the more frail individuals compared to those that are using Uber/Lyft."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So we tried to -- I mean, I remember when we went through this before: Generally, have tried to steer folks --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- we did"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- sort of fit for the appropriate service, right? So --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So, it's not like there's of this number there's probably 50 percent of them could easily just fit into, you know, the ride share program."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "We did."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "I charged the department with a campaign to aggressively convert any of the consumers that could use Uber/Lyft to do so. We went through a period of time of noticing them and specifically helping them to register for Uber/Lyft. We did see an increase. It was very successful. And so, we are now really working with the most frail individuals that also have medical appointments and things of that nature that are using the bus transportation."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Yeah, thank you, Commissioner Ellis for that question cause that's why I was wondering how and what we did when these buses were down because everybody cannot utilize the ride share. We've already determined that, so I --"

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "-- I do have one follow-up when you asked about that. Our team did look at dialysis patients who could possibly use ride share. We know that dialysis appointments would exceed the usual ridership for the Common Courtesy contract; but we did do an analysis to see if we could increase their number of trips to support them and utilize a different transportation vendor while the buses were down."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "And I do recognize that there's a cost-benefit to utilizing our contract internally; I'm not disputing that. I'm just trying to get a handle on the number."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Understood."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "But as you're going forward and doing projections of gas, I don't know how we can look at in a crystal ball and really know. You know we had an anomaly last year where it spiked really high, it's come back down. We really don't know what's going to happen in the future. So, when you're making those estimates, I think we need to be careful that we're, again looking in our crystal ball as sharply as we can. Because we just really can't we certainly predict that in three years gas would, you know, go to that level. So thank you."

**LADISA ONYILIOGWU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES:** "Agreed. Understood."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Without objection we will hold -- excuse me. We will hold until our next meeting. We'll receive the documents and information that's been requested in the meantime. Let's take the next two items. It's 1 o'clock now. Next item, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On Page 11, **22-0930**, Public Works: Request approval to renew an existing contract in the amount of \$750,000 to provide large meter installation services."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0931**: Request approval to renew an existing contract in the amount of \$550,000 to provide small water meter installation services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please, vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch. Executive Session items of real estate, personnel, and litigation. It is approximately --well, 1:01. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Arrington."

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

**(Executive Session at 1:01 p.m.)**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation and the request for settlement authority in Item 1 of the Executive Session Agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Morris. Please vote."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And is there a motion to approve the request for representation set forth in Item 2 of the Executive Session Agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Cast your vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The vote is open. Motion passes, unanimously."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the request for a conflict waiver set forth in Item 3 of the Executive Session Agenda?"

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

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And finally, is there a motion to approve the settlement agreement in the matter of Roderick Franklin and Gary Harmon versus Fulton County Georgia in the amount of \$85,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Morris and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 11, County Manager's items. Under Open and Responsible Government, **22-0932**: Finance discussion of Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget."

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

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As previously indicated to the Board, we placed this item on the agenda today for the Board's discussion. We do not have a presentation or anything to that nature, it's simply a discussion item, should the Board have any additional comments or questions about the proposed budget. We'll have another item planned for the next meeting as well, discussion only."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any questions or thoughts today for the CFO and others? Nothing? I'm sorry, Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do have a question based on the fact that we had all these people attend today because they were told that there is PAD

defunding in the budget proposal. Can you verify publicly, whether or not you have removed the PAD funding from our budget?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Hall, the proposed budget currently, as presented, includes funding for PAD at \$400,000. So, it does include \$400,000 for PAD in the budget as we speak."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "And Commissioner Hall, it is placed in the Behavioral Health budget."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "In the Behavioral Health --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you very much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Other comments, Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And Madam CFO, can you also confirm whether we agreed to commit \$5 million towards the Diversion Center as well, along with the 5 million from the city of Atlanta?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Arrington, as I recall, we committed to -- it's like, 2.5 million --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "2.5."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- that's funded in part by a portion of the budget in the general fund and a portion out of ARPA."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And that 2.5 is in this year's budget or next year's budget?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We had funding available this year. And we have structured it so that we will have the funding available next year as well. They've not pulled against any of those funds this year. And I understand more than likely, it'll be late next year or early the following year before we would be asked to provide any of the actual funding for operations. But we did build it into the 2023 proposed budget."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, in the 2023 budget there is not only the 400,000 for PAD, but also 2.5 million?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So that's 2.9 million in the 2023 budget?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "For diversion, yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "And Commissioner Arrington, just to expand, the 2.5 million is designed to be operating cost. So the reason that it hadn't necessarily been -- the check hadn't been sent yet is because it hadn't been billed. So they're going to actually have their own spend on capital. And then our two and a half million will be the annual contribution to the operating costs."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "When you say annual, so, we made a multiyear commitment agreement?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I think it's two years initially, that's correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you. So that's where the 5 million is from. It's five -- two and a half per year?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "That's correct. And that kicks in once the center is up and running."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Other comments and questions? If not, thank you. Continue, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0933**: Purchasing and Contract Compliance request approval of an ordinance to amend and reauthorize the Fulton County Purchasing Code Division 10, Small Business Enterprise Program."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Strong-Whitaker."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. We do have a brief presentation for you. This is -- it's very brief. This is requesting your approval to reauthorize the County's Small Business Program. Next slide, please. The county currently has an SBE program that's set forth in the Purchasing Code. It, the SBE program will sunset on December 31st, 2022. The Purchasing Code states that there should be a periodic review of the small business program to determine if any adjustments need to be made. Prior to the sunset, the Board authorized and approved Keen Independent to assist the county in performing that evaluation. Next slide, please."

So for those of you that don't know, the Office of Contract Compliance is responsible for administering these seven different business assistance program. We have an MFBE program, which is our Minority Business Enterprise, Female Business Enterprise. We have a Small Business Enterprise Program, a Small Business Reserve Program, a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, a Disadvantaged Enterprise Program with a small business participation plan, and a Service-Disabled Veteran's Enterprise Program. Next slide, please. So with this, Keen conducted their program evaluation and determined that they reviewed contracts of the county, contracts and subcontracts for the study period of 2017 through June of 2022. Next slide, please. So the percentage of county total contract dollars that went to SBEs, of 50 percent of our contract totals went to Small Business Enterprise Firms; 42.9 percent of those went to Prime; 75.4 percent went to subcontractors. Next slide, please. So they do recommend that we reauthorize the SBE program. There were minor changes to our program that they were requesting that we make. Most of those where and who we could accept certification from and that we change from the Atlanta MSA to the Atlanta Region. There is a continued need to keep the program in place. It is a race and gender neutral remedy program. And we need to have this as a component in order to continue to receive federal funds. So with that, if you have any questions, I'll answer any questions that you may have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Are there questions, Commissioners, any questions? All right. No questions. Thank you very much. Continue, Madame Clerk. I'm sorry, the motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

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

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Thank you, Commissioners."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0934**: Registration and Election request approval of a statewide contract for additional spending authority for the rental of box trucks, passenger vehicles, and cargo vans."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Vice Chair Hausmann, followed by Commissioner Arrington."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "I see our Elections Director here in the audience. She's sitting down, she must be tired. I don't blame you. I just wanted to ask if you would come up and answer question that is Election related."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Good afternoon."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Good afternoon. Just a quick question. I don't know if you listened to any of the public comment this morning about the early voting wait times and various things. And there was some concern expressed about wait times being heavier in North Fulton than South Fulton. I just wanted to know if you had any comment on that."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Since a lot of the locations had wait times, north and south. A lot of locations, the voters tend to be line before the polls even open. So staff starts off at 100 people in line, it takes a whole day to start catching up. But for future elections, we'll ensure that we have more. We'll be coming before this Board to honestly ask for more polling sites for runoff elections for federal elections. We had 36 for the November election, I believe we should have kept 36 for the runoff. And it will have -- again, it will increase the budget, it will ask for more staffing. But we will do those things to make sure. That's only way to avoid wait times, is to have more locations to spread out voters."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "And then I know that you probably haven't had real time to analyze the early voting percentage versus Election Day percentage. But y'all are looking at all those types of things --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "-- as we go forward?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We're going to analyze all those things and make, you know, decide on what we're going to do with -- it was at least almost 50 percent turnout for the runoff, which is very high."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Yeah. And then I did notice on the runoff, I voted on Election Day, that the process to check in was automated. When I'd voted in the general, I had to handwrite my application form. What's the difference?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "So for advance voting, the process is different. You have to fill out an application, you have to get looked up in the system. It's different on Election Day because the poll pads are made for your actual precinct compared to it being everywhere. For advance voting, you can go to any location, so but --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "So, you can use the poll pads, is that what you're saying?"



**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "You can use the poll pads, but the system is different how you look up a voter. It takes a little longer to look up a voter for advance voting, because you're looking at every location that the person could -- because advance voting, you can go to any location to vote. On Election Day, the poll pad is just programmed for that precinct, so it's faster. But just to be -- for that being said, there is a new system coming out in 2023 from the SOS that's going to be implemented, so it's going to increase that time. It'll take away the laptops that you see. It'll take away some of the printers. It'll take -- it's going to increase that -- it's going to speed up the process."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "For early voting check-in?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes, for both, Election Day and early voting actually."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "All right, all right. Thank you very much."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So I'm trying to understand this item. The election is over. Why we need additional spending now?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "This is to -- there were some invoices from Enterprise that had to be corrected from the vendor. And it's to cover those cost."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So this is, I guess, retroactive?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And then -- and maybe you can answer this now, or maybe we can -- you can answer it later. I would like to understand how the -- how you all make the decision as to the number of machines that will be at one library? So, I voted at the Wolf Creek Library, early voting, there were three machines. But I understand that in one of the North Fulton Libraries, there were five machines. So I need to understand the reasoning why there may be different number of machines at different facilities and what that is based on."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "For advanced -- oh, for advanced voting, it depends on logistics. If it fits, we can make it fit into the rooms. So not -- so we will, if some spaces are --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Oh, you could fit 100 at the Wolf Creek Library."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "There was not -- so you're saying, there was three machines in Wolf Creek Library?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes, ma'am."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Okay. I will double check those numbers."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, but my -- again, that -- my question is how do we determine how many will be at a location?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We determine it logistically. Some spaces are smaller than others. Like, Alpharetta Library is super small. I will -- I do not --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. That answer is woefully insufficient. It needs to be determined by the number of people voting at the location."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "No. On -- for advance voting, you can go to any location to vote. You -- any voter can go, if you live in Wolf Creek, you can go vote in Alpharetta Library if you choose to want -- for advance voting."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, so logistically, you could have had 100 machines at the Wolf Creek Library."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "If we had the equipment to sustain that, we would do that. But we do not have that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Well, making the decision to only put three there, can affect the outcome."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I don't believe there were a lot of long wait times at Wolf Creek Library."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I waited two hours."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I can honestly say that if --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And I'm not talking about what you believe, I'm talking about what I know."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Okay. Well, I can honestly say that there were wait times across the state. It was a high voter turnout."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I understand that, but you told me you don't think there was long wait times. And I'm telling you, I waited two hours."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I agree, you're right, there were long wait times. But again --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I know I'm right, I was there. I did the waiting."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We have a short window to get -- because of the new laws and the way that we have to -- we have short window for advance voting. For Election Day, we have equipment that has to be prepared for Election Day. If we give you everything that we have, we will not be able to be prepared for Election Day. There's no way --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Well, what I will suggest to you. I will make a recommendation that you come up with some guidelines and some standards for determining how many machines will be at a location. Because it sounds like it was done haphazardly and randomly based on the location and what could fit inside of a location. And that -- that is not sufficient."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "With all due respect, sir, when we come before this Board and ask for funding for additional equipment that will solve that problem."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, I can tell you now, I'm going to vote, no, until you answer my question regarding the guidelines and the procedures for establishing where they would be. I mean, you going to ask me for some money, and you can't answer my question."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I answered your question."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No, you did not."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I do not have --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Hold it, hold it."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "-- 100 machines to put at Wolf Creek Library."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "My question was, how is -- how do you determine where machines will be placed? Why are there five machines at a library in North Fulton compared to three machines at a Library in South Fulton?"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "I will count the machines at Wolf Creek and triple check that number."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. Give me a count of all of them. I want to know how many machines were at ever location on every day and every hour."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Will do."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, my question really, I guess, was addressed to this -- related to this particular item, so, do we not have this -- do we not have a request to increase spending authority that came for us before the election on -- related to this?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "What we had was an initial reward, Commissioner --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "-- for the \$324,000."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "Enterprise notified the County that when they provided us with a quote, they did not include the vehicle license fees, and that the -- therefore the monthly rates that they had charged us initially on the quote, was incorrect."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So, they missed it by 20 percent?"

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "In fact, withdraw my second."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "So, the state -- Enterprise notified us that they left out the vehicle licensing fees when they provided us with the initial quote for all of the trucks and vehicles that we requested."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So it was a statewide contract. So, we didn't go out and procure this contract?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So, it was wrong in this statewide contract?"

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "It's a statewide contract."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "So we provided them with the number of vehicles that we would need and for the length of time. They provided us with a quote."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**FELICIA STRONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PCC:** "They advised us that they left out the vehicle licensing fees that is included as part of the monthly fee. So we actually had to go back and fix it for all of the -- the year."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, all right. All right. Thank you. I -- since some remarks have made about the early voting stuff, I just -- while you're up here and I know you're tired, so I'm not -- I'm not going to belabor this point. But I think, you know, certainly, you know, the entirety of the state sort of learned, you know, some of the impacts of moving to a shorter runoff period, you know? In retrospect, probably, you know, some of this stuff should have been anticipated and we probably -- if we were known we were going to a few, you know, down to one week, we shouldn't have closed voting sites, you know, in the process. I mean, hindsight is 2020 on that, but I mean certainly, one of the things that -- and I'm -- as I'm making this statement, I make it as much to your Board, Ms. Richards, as opposed to you. As we, you know, take some time to reflect on, kind of, what just took place and think planning. And I know money plays a certain things in this, but I will tell you -- I mean I, and you know, I will say that, there's an element of sort of a broken record back to the Board when it comes to money. And that money has not necessarily solved all of these things. I know you shake your head, and you smirk at me and I know you're tired. And I don't mean that to -- that to -- you know, I don't mean to belabor this, right? But the reality of it is, we had prior election where we -- where you all woefully under ran what you said it was going to cost you to run the General, right? So, you know, there's a lot of -- when it comes to money and then when it comes to our Board, there's a degree of a little bit of a mismatch in terms of, oh, we need this. But in reality, we only needed this. And really, what do we need to funds for. So, that's part of the reason why when, you know, next year is not sort of a major election year. But one of the reasons why I said, you know, we really need a crisp budget and to understand all of the finer elements of that. So, you know, I -- there are a lot of people that are frustrated with the wait times in the early voting period. And we were not the only county where that, you know, that played out. Every county had that. But we really need when -- to reflect upon that, and I it's -- you're just here the day after. But the right answer is not, give me more money. That's not the exclusive answer. The right answer is, a plan, okay? And I do think all of the -- all sorts of things need to be on the table as we think about the way early voting may

look. We've done a great job, generally, of early voting in the past. If I had to give kudos to Fulton County Elections in general about something, it's been what we've done with early voting. Generally, a lot of our -- a lot of our problems have come outside or challenges come outside of early voting. But we weren't immune to the long wait times this time. But I think, sort of collectively, and these are some things, I think that every Election's Board needs to be thinking about. When you move to, like, a shortened, you know, EV period, do we need to be thinking about totally different sites. And more like, jumbo sites, where you've got a lot of equipment in there, where you can have a lot of staff, you know, in the building. So you're not necessarily running ragged, you know, individual -- individual employees. So, I do -- I would just say, I think you all did a very good job with election, you know, overall, right? And in some of this stuff that we had issues with and definitely Election Day was very flawless. And I applaud you all for that. Certainly, everybody had some challenges with their early voting. But I would just encourage, when we're on the heels of that, you know, particularly to the Board of Elections and to your staff, to think about, okay, think a little bit outside the box and what might some of this stuff look like differently, you know, if we had the opportunity to do it again. Would we consider some jumbo sites? What could some of those jumbo sites be, what could it look like, you know? Would there be a way to potentially, sort of, deploy additional equipment if we were concerned about not having as much, you know, as much equipment on Election Day. Or there are some sites where we could look at consolidation of precincts and not have as many of these sites based upon some of the patterns we've seen with, you know, kind of, Election Day voting. So, my point being on all of this is just, you know, I hope we all don't sort of pause too long on post-the early voting period to really think about, hey, what could our playbook be differently for early voting in another runoff scenario? And that's really the only point I wanted to make, so. But I would -- again, I do want to, you know, say especially, kudos for, you know, a very seamless Election Day, you know, and the counting and the reporting. I thought -- I thought that was excellent on the part of -- part of the county."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I may have been out the room. And someone may have already said this. But let reiterate, Ms. Williams, you all did a great job considering nobody could have known what type of early voting numbers we were going to have. Nobody could have known that. So, I will commend Fulton County for stepping to the plate, considering how many times I had to reach out to you because people called my office from both sides of town. It affected the north just like it did the south. There were people waiting hours on the north just like there were people waiting hours on the south. Now, I will say this, that locator was a Godsend. Because when people called me, I gave them the actual address. I said go to the wait-time

locator and please look at the ones that have 20, 80 minutes wait times versus the ones that have two hours wait time. So that was a Godsend, for one. Secondly, setting expectations accordingly, and I say, we, because we are all Fulton County. So if we point the finger at one person, we have to point the finger at everybody. We did not know, and it was not communicated to the listening audience, what would happen or what would need to take place to add extra precincts. That is something that would had to have been approved at the Secretary of State and with us. We can't -- pre-COVID, pre-SB-202, we could have did things differently. Now, with SB-202, we have to stay in compliance and do things the right way. And what I said to a lot of my constituents on the North and South, because I am beholden to all Fulton County taxpayers, even though I do have a district, that we cannot go and open up this one here, that one there, this -- we can't go and open up ten or 15 precincts, because of the short window time, without a certain process taking place. And that process would not have taken place in a timely fashion to make those decisions and get those approvals by the time that Election Day. Now, once I said that to the constituents, they didn't like it, but they understood it. They didn't take it, at first, as we were not trying to do anything. Because they were taking it like that. But when I explained what has to happen in order for that to happen, nobody, nobody here on this Body could have foreseen the kind of early voting that was going to be brought out with this election. And so, we can take what we now know and apply it going ahead, but I really think we do ourself a disservice if we try to beat up our Elections Department, and we don't beat up the Secretary of State. Because I don't think the Secretary of State knew that as well. And so I think we have to be fair across the board. Nobody knew that those amount of people were going to vote. I tried to vote four different times. I am an advocate early voter, and every fourth time, I only got to the fourth time, because I used the locator. And so, what I would want us to do moving forward, what's the best practices? What did we learn from this? People on North Fulton, in the North Fulton side, they suffered, just like people in the South Fulton side. No side suffered more than the other. Because anybody that had to wait 80 or 90 minutes or two hours in the North Fulton, was voter suppression. If it happened in the South, it was voter suppression. And so what I was say to you is, I would hope all the information that we bring today -- because it really is not our fault, it is not. And I'm here to tell you that it's not our fault. Because nobody could have predicted this. But moving forward, whatever the practice is, and even with our Election Board, our Board of Elections, they are going to have to move differently. The Secretary of State's office is going to have to move differently. And we're going to have better communication. And we're going to have to let our voting constituents know we have no control over people that are trying to vote for early advance voting, the same amount of people or more, being condensed to one week. And that's unfair to lay that at the feet of Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections and Fulton County

Government. But what we can do, we can learn and move better. So, I thank you for everything that Fulton County did. I thank the County Manager. I know I went to one location and we had people that were coming, trying to vote at CT Martin. So, whereas before, I wasn't a big fan of having these big voting centers and comprising it. But the thing my colleague, Commissioner Ellis, just spoke to, I'm a fan of that now. Because I saw people when I was out, coming to vote at a location that they thought was early voting and they were sent back to their precinct. And so maybe some way to alleviate that would be to get rid of some of the smaller, underperforming ones and have a bigger picture of maybe four. So, I became a winner for that concept because I saw it myself. So here again, not to belabor the point, and I probably already have, but at the end of the day, nobody could've predicted what happened yesterday. So, thank you, Fulton County Elections. Thank you, County Manager. And thank you for all that you all do. Because some things you just have to learn and move differently for. Thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Yes, I agree that the wait time locator is very, very helpful. And I ended up this time, voting on Election Day and it took two minutes. And about, you know, I talked to 20 or 25 people yesterday that had a similar experience. So, obviously, early voting, which initially started for convenience, has gotten so popular that really, if you don't want to wait, you need to wait for Election Day and you can just pop in and out and be done with it. So, I do think we need to learn from that. And I do think perhaps that statute or that clause in the 202 that says you have to one machine for every 250 voters in a precinct on Election Day, we need to advocate for change there. Because we could redeploy some of the Election Day equipment to early voting, because it's so popular and expand, you know, those facilities. Because we know we don't need it at that level on Election Day. Or we could consolidate precincts and redeploy equipment. I mean, there's different ways to do it. But even if you consolidate precincts, you're basing your allocation of equipment on the total number of voters, not taking into consideration how many vote early voting. So, I think our data is very, very useful to the Legislature. It looks like they are going to reopen it this time and make some adjustments. So, I hope we're going to be ready to offer up what our experience is to help them craft something that does work better for us as we go forward."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Other comments?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Mr. Chairman, can I make a comment about --"

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



**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "We have already started the analytics and the work. And I think, Commissioner Ellis used the term, plan, I think that is what the net result of this is. So, it may be shifting resources from day of too early. I do think we'll need some legislative help. But we'll definitely have the data to support what we're proposing. But I do think it's difficult to determine -- this is consumer behavior 101, determining what the consumer will do. But we can see these trends. And it's clear as day that people are shifting to early voting. So, but we are already in motion working with Nadine on a plan."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I just recommend we have a better answer than logistically, because that is, again, woefully insufficient."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, I understand. And I think that's the -- that's really going to be, I hope, the insights that we gain from this plan is, we'll see where these clear clusters of voters are, particularly for early voting, and then deploy appropriately. And some of it -- I think what she's meaning to say, there are some spaces that we put ourselves in, in fact, I went to one during early voting, that really, probably isn't optimal unless we close that library. I'm not talking about Wolf Creek; I'm talking about another one. But I think we need to take a fresh look at all of those, where we're not overly constraining ourselves about what the physical location is. Because there's other alternative locations that might be more appropriate."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Right, yeah, I mean -- yeah, I mean, it sounds like the standard is, what's in SB-202. You got to have 250 per -- so there are guidelines."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "We'll that's what -- that's on day of."

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

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Now, so, but see, that's the beauty of, again, truly --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "But it's at least a guideline or standards or something to use."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, on day of there is, and it's probably overly conservative. But during early voting, we got much more freedom to design it to optimally serve the citizens. And that's where this data analysis, I think, will provide everyone pretty good insight on where best and how many. And of course, we'll have to factor in, now that we understand what a week looks like versus three weeks. Because that was a non sequitur to all of our experience."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "May I comment?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "So, when I say logistically for advance voting, again, advance voting voters can go to any location no matter where you live in Fulton County. So we logistically attempt to evenly distribute it, so that voters can access any location that they want to. We want to make sure it's even on the north, south, east, and west. So logistically, our most popular sites are, like, Ponce De Leon. It is the smallest location, but it has the highest count. So we're trying to -- we're going to work in 20 -- for the upcoming elections, to get an additional site in that area. Same thing with Alpharetta Library, we're going to try to find a bigger venue to house more equipment. So when I say, logistically, I mean that we make sure it's evenly distributed, so no matter where you live, you can get to an advance voting location. You can choose any one you want. But if we get a better location for some places, and again, we have taken into consideration that during that week time that people are voting, we also have to program equipment for Election Day. There's an overlap there. So if we do not have the equipment, we can't put it in the facility. So, again, if we cannot -- we have to literally get prepared for Election Day at the same time advance voting is taking place."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. Well, the problem that I'm trying to -- the question that I was asking was, you know -- okay, that's fine; the size may not make sense. But when I asked the question and you say, logistically, depends on how many we can fit in there. You can fit all -- you can literally fit about 200 machines at the Wolf Creek Library. So that answer doesn't answer the question, it is a non-answer, okay? It just is a non-answer. The other thing is, you don't want to have ten machines in early voting at the Alpharetta Library and three at the Wolf Creek Library. That is inherently unfair. And so, as a result, there need to be guidelines and procedures established, so to make sure that there is no -- so that it is not inherently unfair. It sounds like there are guidelines for Election Day. If I were there, I would probably use the Election Day guidelines at least as a starting point. At least as a starting point to say, hey, look, we have these guidelines for Election Day, for early voting, maybe we might make it more, maybe it's 500 per machine, maybe it's 750. I don't know. But to say, logistically, is a non-answer. You can fit a thousand machines in this room. That doesn't matter. The size of the room is irrelevant. What is the formula? What are the guidelines and the procedures for how we decide how many machines we will have at each location?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, let me -- let me add one more thing to that thought process. And correct me, Jessica, if I'm wrong and -- or Nadine. I think during early voting, it has to be a county-owned facility; is that right? Or one that we fund --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Or an Election Day precinct."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "A government -- exactly."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "On -- during early voting, it needs to be a county-owned, county-funded facility; is that correct?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "It can be a -- it can be a county-owned facility or an Election Day voting precinct. So those are --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "For Election Day --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "-- the only two options right now."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "But generally speaking, we have used exclusive -- almost exclusively county-owned facilities."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "We have. We added, like, Cedar Grove -- "

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "And the -- and the one trade-off that we have really struggled with, and then I made a decision at, you know, during the course of the week, with Nadine's urging, to close the libraries. It was kind of to that point, you know, in other words, we could see that the crowds had built during the early voting. But the libraries were open. Because, think about, you know, closing them for extended periods of time, if we were talking about three weeks. So that's another aspect of this is, do we -- if we go to three weeks and it stays three weeks, I don't know that libraries are the optimal location in all instances. Because Alpharetta is really a good example during COVID, because the library wasn't open, we cleared out all of the computer equipment. So there -- literally, there was space for ten or 12. Now, it is a very small room in the back of that library. And I don't think there's but -- you could correct -- but I don't think there's but three machines there at Alpharetta. But all of those things, I think, go to the necessity to not only have the data, but then have detailed plan. And I don't think we had a detailed plan that we can all reflect on and say, oh, wait a minute, maybe that's not optimal, let's do this. We had -- it got worked, but not in detail in advance, at least that we all were able to look at."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I just wanted to mention, because legislative issues were discussed a couple of times, that we have been in discussion -- having some preliminary discussions with the Secretary of State's office. As Commissioner Hausmann mentioned, there is somewhat of an intent on their part

and the State Election Board's part to look at some issues related to SB-202. There are several areas where clarification could be useful for us and for other counties. And so in particular, the equipment allocation ratio for Election Day does not account for the fact that more than half of voters in many jurisdictions including ours, prefer to vote early instead of on Election Day, for what, any number of reasons. And so, I think looking at that, basing -- in other words, if we were allowed to adjust our formula to reduce that equipment allocation on Election Day possibly, in recognition of voting patterns over time, where most people choose to vote early, we could make some adjustments. So, those are some of the things, Commissioners, that we -- you approved as part of the legislative package. We've had some conversations with some of the State Election Board Members, with their General Council and others. So we'll continue to collaborate with them as well as the other Election Officials. This is not just a Fulton County issue, but certainly, is a real big deal here. Thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Yeah, so I had heard Alpharetta might not be used again for early voting. And I hate to see that, because it's in the best location that there is in that area. So I think the law actually says any government-owned facility. I don't know that it says county government. So --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "No. We will reach back out to the city of Alpharetta to see if we can use their Chambers that has a larger space --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Well, they have a big community room there --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "Right."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "-- in City Hall, but --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "They denied usage of that years ago --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Too bad we didn't know we were going to need this when we designed these libraries. We might have made those community rooms a little bigger. But I do really want to encourage you to do everything you can to keep a location in downtown Alpharetta because that's where the people are."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "No. When I said -- when I said, the library, I meant -- just meant that, physically. We will find something in the area, maybe the Crabapple Government Center or the Chambers in the building next door. We will reach out again to city of Alpharetta in regards to that. And we'll add a -- we'll add something bigger in the same area if possible."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "And then it reminded me that someone mentioned that they saw the drop box in Alpharetta not inside the voting area. And I don't know if you'd moved it out, just to stay -- space reasons or what --"

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "More than likely. But if it's in the line of site of the poll manager, than it's allowed."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Well, I just think we need to be very cognizant of that as well as you go forward."

**NADINE WILLIAMS, INTERIM ELECTIONS DIRECTOR:** "And there is an attendant next to the box, as required."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Okay. Well, just bringing it to your attention."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I'll make it quick. Adams Park Library was closed for early voting. I got a lot of calls about that and I imagine that Commissioner Hall did too. And I understand the reason behind it, but also understand a lot bus riders go to that one, a lot of seniors go to that one. And regardless of what you close or have to close, nobody is going to like it. Whether ten people regularly use it or 10,000. And that's the reality that we have to understand. I think -- and I think about us as Commissioners and what we do. We got to do a better job to our constituency base in letting them know, what's going to be open, what's going to be closed. But I have to say, no matter what we close, there's going to be an issue. And so we've got to always keep in mind, not only the proximity of where it is or the usage of it, but who uses it. Because if a lot of walking distance, a lot of seniors that's going to -- used to being close to it or a lot of bus riders, then it can be possibly looked at as being a voter-suppression tool, even if it was not intended, let me say that, even if it was not intended. And so, I think this is a work in progress. But I am a firm believer between what you all are doing and what the County Manager is doing that we're going to find a way to get through this. I think that we learned a lot of best practices. And I had an individual that came from Philadelphia that had an opportunity to talk to the County Manager. And boy oh boy, did it make me just have a newfound respect and love for our Elections Department when I talked to them, as to what they do. So I think sometimes, when we're too close to the fire, we don't realize the good things that we do. We just kind of magnify the bad things. But I'm -- I have full faith in the Elections Department as well as the County Manager. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Other comments? If not, we have a motion to approve by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Arrington had removed his second. Is there a second? All right. Yeah, that's a machine, you should --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'll second it, Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We have a second by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; four yeas, one nay. Five? Five yeas with Commissioner Ellis."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 11, **22-0935**: Real Estate and Asset Management request approval to use -- for use of the Beltline TAD funds to provide continued program management and construction services for an additional 12-month period for Phase 2, Library renovation and expansion projects."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Cast your vote, please."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion passes, unanimously."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 12, **22-0936**: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide on-site tree removal services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a motion to approve? Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0937**: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder to provide on-site testing and repair for approximately 183 backflow preventive devices."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Ellis, seconded Commissioner Hall. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "22-0938: Request approval to utilize corporative purchasing to provide a comprehensive pest control services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "In the amount of 225,000."

**CLERK GRIER:** "In the amount of 225,000."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "22-0939: Request approval of statewide contract in the amount not to exceed 595,000 to provide repairs and maintenance for specialized heavy equipment and other fleet vehicles."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Morris. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "22-0940: Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed 130,000 to provide fuel-card management services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Hall. The vote is open."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 13, 22-0941: Request approval to extend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$882,588.07 to provide continued program management services for additional 12-month period to complete project construction and project additions for Phase 2 Library renovations and expansions projects."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion on the floor by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Cast your vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **22-0942**: Public Works request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$13,350,000 to provide construction services associated with the Graham Drive Pump Station upgrade."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, second by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0943**: Senior Services request approval of a statewide contract in the amount of \$127,378.59 to provide staffing services to support the operation of the Department of Senior Services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0944**: Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities request approval of a memorandum of understanding to provide medication assisted outpatient treatment of substance abuse for Fulton County residents."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to improve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0945**: Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$48,769 to provide food-service management services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, there's a second by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 14, **22-0946**: Public Works request approval of a recommended proposal in the amount of \$125,000 to provide planning services for updating, modifying, and implementing the Capital Improvement Program."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's favorable motion by Vice Chair Hausmann, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Let's vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0947**: Request approval of a recommended proposal in the amount of \$715,000 for the -- to provide design engineering and modifying the Capital Improvement Plan at Fulton County Executive Airport."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Favorable motion by Vice Chair Hausmann, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Let's vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0948**: Senior Services request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$78,000 to provide temporary staffing services to support the daily operations in the four Senior Multipurpose facilities."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Justice and Safety, **22-0949**: Emergency Management request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$175,000 to provide facility maintenance services for the Fulton County Animal Control Services Facility."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion by Vice -- strike that -- Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Ellis."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "22-0950: Request approval to extend an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,900 to provide animal control services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commission to deny by Commissioner Hall, seconded by -- y'all were acting like y'all sleep. I'm just checking. I'm just checking. I'm just checking. No, I don't either. Motion to approval by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Is there a presentation?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, there is."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Do we need it?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, yeah, definitely."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Yes. We'll try to make it fast, Chairman Pitts. Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Hausmann, Commissioners, it's been a lot of interest in the animal shelter, our current one as well as the one that's proposed for -- that will built less than a year from now. But what we wanted to do in light of the request to approve the extension for next year, is do three things, give you a quick update on kind of the state of the current shelter, give you a quick update -- and I know you wanted to hear from LifeLine, so we'll let you hear from Rebecca Guinn, who's the CEO of LifeLine. She'll give you a little bit of update on what they provide in the way of services. And then finally, we going to have Bill Mason give you a quick two-minute presentation on the new shelter, where it is, what the plans are, a few pictures, just to give you a sense of what the future looks like. But before we start, I just want to set a little context. Two years ago when COVID started, the animal shelter was overcrowded, and we were having challenges, quite frankly, in terms of keeping the animals in what we call a decent -- having a decent experience. When COVID hit, we had an increase in adoptions, we had an increase in fostering. And actually we had a reduction in terms of the number of dogs we had to take care of. It's actually really good for us, right? Since that time, however, since the declaration of COVID is over, we've gone back to that. The center is overcrowded again. Individuals, who were at home, have gone back to work, and they've surrendered their dogs. And so, we're back to having a situation where we have overcrowding. We've had a visit from the Department of Agriculture because they're not particularly happy about that. And so we're working through some things with them. So Matt's going to give you a quick update on that. The second thing that's happened is because of supply chain and cost issues, the contract that LifeLine has had with us, it's actually upside down. What I mean by that is, it costs them more to provide the services to us than we pay them. And so historically, they've been able

subsidize that with philanthropic dollars, those have dried up. And as a result the contractor is, like I said, upside down. We're trying to rectify that in what would be a transition year in 2023. And then finally, I guess what I'd say is, we're trying to hold on until fall of 2023 when we have our new facility on board instead of having a facility that, quite frankly, was designed as a kill shelter, right? When LifeLine took over, six of every ten animals brought to our shelter was euthanized. They have changed that. And now our -- you're going to hear from Rebecca, how that has in fact changed. But that facility was never designed, quite frankly, to hold dogs for a long term or cats or chickens or the other things that we have. So we're really excited about being able to bring the shelter online. But we're going to do everything we can to make sure that we hold on until we're able to cut the ribbon on that. So with that, let me turn it over to Matt Kallmyer."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Thank you, Mr. Adams. Matthew Kallmyer, Director of Emergency Management, also Contract Administrator for Animal Services. So in the spirit of the holidays, just wanted to go ahead and say quickly, thank you. Thank you to each of you, who have been really staunch supporters of animal welfare. I want to thank our volunteers that actually helps us to be successful, the Animal Services staff, and finally, the people that our are fostering partners. Those are the ones that help us make it successful. And I just can't go ahead and start this presentation without giving them moment of notice to say thank you. Next slide, please. Some of these things Alton has already covered in his opening comments. But just to go ahead and just put the fine dot on some of these things. We know our facility is not sufficient. You all voted to go ahead and support us to get a new facility. You're going to hear about it in the current process. We cannot wait to the fourth quarter of 2023 to finally be able to open up something that can humanely fix -- humanely treat these animal. We're living in a shelter that has over 300 animals on a given day and was built to go ahead and house less than 100 animals. It's crowded, it's cramped, and it puts a lot of stress on the staff, the volunteers, and the animals. It makes it very difficult to go ahead and be as successful as LifeLine is a facility that way. They constantly are pulling magic out of their hats to go ahead and help us be successful. Alton talked about our challenges. We have seen significant reductions in adoption rates. We've seen increased amount of surrenders. Our animal welfare partners are actually turning more to social workers. Rebecca can go ahead and tell you more about that. We are seeing people that are coming to our shelter in a U-Haul truck with their apartment or house packed, surrendering an animal because they don't know what else to do. We're trying to go ahead and stop that before it gets to that point, seeing if we can help them with food, with shelter, things along those lines. And that's what Rebecca's team is constantly doing. How can we go ahead and stop this revolving door before it gets to the point of those individuals showing up in a U-Haul truck as they're moving out of the

Metro Atlanta areas because they can no longer afford to. If anyone does a quick Google search and goes ahead and looks for shelter overcrowding, you will find it across the country. One of our sister jurisdictions, just this weekend, was in the news, Charlotte Mecklenburg, that they are absolutely overcapacity, they are begging for the public support. We constantly find ourselves in a similar situation. We do not know why the trends are going this way. But we're trying to do everything we can to come up with ingenious ways of increasing fosters, of increasing adoptions. And that's what Rebecca is going to talk to you about. LifeLine has been an incredible partner for ten years. I have actually had the opportunity to be an Administrator for the last five with them. I have grown to go ahead and respect Rebecca and her team, what they have been able to accomplish. Alton talked about some of the statistics. You'll see some of the financial things that she will go ahead and showcase today. The amount of philanthropic dollars that they poured into our program to go ahead and keep it alive is absolutely incredible. I could assure you that they are giving us more than we're giving them, and most of the time to go ahead and make this work. They constantly have a philosophy that we're going to make it work, but they are getting to the point right now, like Alton said, we had a five-year fixed contract. The last two years with COVID has put significant impacts on them, between labor costs, supply chain issues, and other additional costs with managing a shelter. So it's become increasingly difficult for them to go ahead and survive. Next slide, please. We went ahead and send out a letter to all the individual municipalities to talk about the 2023 extension. It is really what we call an inflection point, it's a transition year. We can't stress that enough. It's a major point because we're finally going to be able to go ahead and have a humane way to care for animals. And we can't state that enough with how grateful we are for that new facility. The positive impact in the community is something else that we're looking forward to. We're finally going to have a community outreach room. We're going to be able to go ahead and hold CPR/First Aid classes for animals. We're going to be able to go ahead and bring students inside and teach them how to properly care for animals or how to approach an animal that they find. We cannot wait to go ahead and do these types of things that we have not been able to do at the facility that we have that was built in 1978. There also, see some impacts to our cost model in page -- one of your back additional supplemental pages in your document, you'll see what our cost model is going into 2023. It's not what we went ahead and had for the previous years. And what the ones that will look like in 2024 going forward, will be much higher. We're going into a facility that will be 50,000 square feet. It's four times the size of where we currently are now. It's what we need, but it's a significant increase. And there will be some costs increases associated with that as well. When it actually came to sending out the IGAs, I'm proud to say that the city of Atlanta was the first to go ahead and pass their IGA extension going into next year. The Mayor and his staff made it a priority, December

1st. They're the first ones, they're the major consumers of our program, about 50 percent of the program is actually city of Atlanta. And they went ahead and already signed their IG going into 2023. The majority of our other municipalities all have it on -- either first or second reads have occurred and their going into final voting for next week. So, a lot more great things to come with that. And finally, we're going to be looking to have that new five-year IGA, based upon numbers that we're going to see of what it would cost to go ahead and operate a shelter this size, the additional cost that would cost operationally. And that's what we'll bringing forth to yourself, to the Mayors and other elected officials, so we can go ahead and socialize that for the next five years. Just to do a highlight, on the far right-hand side of your screen, page 20. We'll go ahead and go into further detail. What you will see there is that Fulton County spends 30 percent less on animal services than our other partners. And the other thing that you'll see is that compared to other national partners that we have talked about, Charlotte Mecklenburg, and so forth, we are actually 40 percent less than what those partners are actually paying for animal services. So there is some room for us to go ahead and improve when it comes to how much money we put towards animal welfare. With that being said, I know that we're short on time. I'm going to ask Rebecca Guinn to come up to the podium to go ahead and introduce herself and LifeLine and just do a quick financial update. Rebecca. Page 6, please."

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE FOUNDER:** "Thank you, Matt. Get the slides in place. Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman Hausmann, and Commissioners, thank you so much for having me come in today. We're -- I just want to thank you for the new shelter, right? We are privileged and honored to be partner with Fulton County. And this new shelter, I think, really evidences your commitment to the pets and the people of Fulton County. And I can't, as a pet lover, but also as a -- the contractor, I can't thank you enough. So, just for some of you are familiar with LifeLine, some of you may not be. We founded -- I'm actually the founder of LifeLine. We started in 2002, so it's been about 20 years now. We manage Fulton County Animal Services. We also -- our Fulton County Officers are also LifeLine employees. We also manage the DeKalb County Animal Shelter and the Officers there are county employees. We have what's a save rate that is function of the number of animals that leave alive compared intake. Our save rate across our organization is 93 percent. For those of you who are familiar with certain aspects of animal welfare, there's a term called, no kill. And that is considered to be at about a 90-percent save rate. So, we're above that, that save rate. And what that means is that the only animals that are euthanized in your shelter are animals that are either too aggressive, so that they pose a risk to public safety or animals that are really too sick that their prognosis is so poor they're not going to survive. We care about -- for about 40,000 animals a year in county shelters, our own shelter, our community and our clinics. We operate the largest low-cost spay-neuter

resource in the state. We do about 13,000 surgeries a year. We opened our LifeLine Community Animal Center in 2019. And from there, we take overflow from our Fulton Shelter. And the last year, we've taken 913 pets from the Fulton Shelter, about 13 percent of the intake. And then our full-service clinic provides affordable vet care and approximately 20 percent at no cost to pet owners. Part of that no-cost service is our Pets for Life Program. That's a program -- and I think there's a -- there's a page in your appendix. It's a program that services, I believe, seven different ZIP Codes within Fulton County. Anyone that lives in those ZIP Codes is entitled to free veterinary care, free food, leashes, collars, information support. And it's 4,000 to about 6,000 pets annually that we provide those free services to. So, all of these, but for the contracts, all of these are supported by philanthropic dollars. Next slide, please. This gives you just a snapshot of what the work at Fulton County is like. We have about a little over 17,000 calls for service. That's about 50 a day. We take in roughly, 6,700 to 7,000; we've gotten up to 8,000 pets coming in. And then our adoption numbers -- and it's all there for you to see. I think the important thing about our adoption numbers is that they are down about 20 percent. And this is not like we -- they were getting better and better and better, as Mr. Adams told you. We had a great time in the early days of the pandemic that people really came to the rescue of the animals. And now that has really dropped off, not only here in Atlanta, but across the country. We transfer to about 50, it's more like about 70 different outside organizations, we transfer about 2,000 animals, 1,200 of those went to outside organizations. And as I mentioned before, 900 of those were transferred into LifeLine. Our save rate is at 92 percent. We actually reached 93 percent in 2021. It, as Matt explained, the save rate, the number of animals that leave - that left the shelter alive was only at 39 percent when we took over this contract. So it's at 93 percent now. And there are a lot of animals that are grateful for that. Our average number of employees is around 69. And the number of volunteer hours worked is in the 6,000 range in just this last year. So, these are the actual numbers from fourth quarter of last year through the third quarter of this year. Next slide, please. And this just gives you an idea of how the service is funded. So, these are your total operating expenses for 2022. And we projected the last month or so of expenses. LifeLine is providing 18 percent of the operating expense. And this year it was \$928,000. And as Mr. Adams mentioned, we're at a point where that is not really feasible. But that's where we are today. Are overflow to our LifeLine facility is another \$400,000 investment. And then Pets for Life Program is another \$450,000 investment. So our total support to Fulton County and the Fulton County residents in 2022 is about 1.8 million, 1.799. Next slide, please. And Matt has talked about this, we're just seeing increases everywhere in our expenses. Our -- the operations expenses, it covers vehicles and fuel, our veterinary costs are skyrocketing. I don't know if you have a pet and you tried to get an appointment with your veterinarian, you know what I'm talking

about. It's almost impossible to get an appointment. And the costs are really going up, and we experience those as well. Where I mean, to raise our salaries to be even marginally competitive with other employers out there for entry-level positions. When we got this contract, it was at \$12 an hour. We're up to 15 and need to go up to 16 next year. Our occupancy expenses, those are trailers and sanitation. Waste management has gone up substantially. Insurance expenses has skyrocketed. And this year the amount fees that we've collected are down by 19 percent. So that's licensing, impound fees, and then also, adoption fees, it's about a \$100,000-year deficit. Next slide, please. And this just gives you an overview. These are our financial numbers over the course of this current contract. We're -- that net ordinary income, that loss is subsidized by philanthropic donations. So there are donations that are made directly to Fulton County Animal Services and that's including up in the income line. And those are used to offset operating expenses. But anything that's left, LifeLine has subsidized through philanthropic donations and some grants, although almost all of this through philanthropic donations. So our investment in Fulton County Animal Services and in operating Fulton County Animal Services by the end of this contract will be right at about \$1.7 million. Next slide, please."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Thank you, Rebecca."

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE FOUNDER:** "Thank you."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "We're going to invite Mr. Bill Mason up to go ahead and do a quick overview of Animal Services facility. Mr. Mason."

**BILL MASON, FACILITY PROGRAM MANAGER:** "Thank you, Commissioners. Bill Mason, I'm Facility Program Manager and I direct our procure urban redevelopment bonds, capital improvement programs. Next slide, please."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I just wanted to give -- what you're seeing here is the actual physical plant that Bill is going to talk about. But part of the new shelter, and Matt alluded to this, is the ability to expand our services, the ability to have educational programs for kids, the ability to have rehabilitation programs for dogs that would otherwise be euthanized, the ability to have community vents. And so it's more than just a building. It really is going to be changing the way we were able to provide services like this to the citizens of Fulton County. And it's probably going to be the best one, certainly, in the Southeast, if not one of the best in the country in terms of being able to provide those services to a community that I believe really does deserve to have a different level of services from us. So, just wanted to provide a little bit of context before Bill jumped into discussion about the physical plan itself."

**BILL MASON, FACILITY PROGRAM MANAGER:** "Great. Thank you very much. Next slide, please. This is an aerial photograph taken the week before Thanksgiving. It shows the status of the construction site at that time. Just for background, I'm sure you remember the site is located on Fulton Industrial Boulevard. It's in the northeast corner, if you will, of the Fulton County Executive Airport, directly across from Fulton Industrial Boulevard from the UPS Distribution Facility. We're looking, generally, southward here. The site is approximately 13 acres. And this would be a photograph of approximately four months of construction. The initial three months were primarily site development, grading work, and as you can see, we have begun some foundation work, and actually pouring slabs for the facility itself. Next, please. This is really a progress photograph, on the left you see the condition where we were in mid-October, which for the most part was a graded site with just a little bit of foundation work begun. Thirty days later, you see, you know, really the same condition as the photograph or the prior photograph here, and a dramatic amount of site and utility work has been done and the actual pouring of the concrete slab itself. We expect this kind of progress to continue from month to month and I'll report it if you find it beneficial. Next, please. Just a detail of kind of some of the work that we've been doing. If you see on the top left, there are more than 500 drains in this project, everything from sanitary drain lines to French drains, storm water drains and so forth. So a lot of the work that we're doing is actually in the ground, if you will. From the top it goes down to the bottom, where we actually cover the drain lines to make sure that we don't have any construction materials or so forth enter into them and create a problem down the road. Then you see where we've installed the vapor barrier, the reinforcing steel. And then finally, over on the right, we've actually poured a first sector of the building itself. So that's the type of detail work that has been going on and will continue here into the next month. Next, please. Activities and next steps, the activities, the first three, I think, I've, you know, I've alluded to in my previous slides. The most important one here is at the bottom that the construction is 26 percent complete, that's on track with our project schedule. We're actually a couple weeks ahead at that point in time. Of course, the, you know, four or 5 inches of rain that we've had this week hasn't helped. But in a project like this, it's very weather dependent. So I wouldn't be surprised that we're up two weeks this time, and next week, we may be down a week. The next steps, a continuation of current activities, for sure. We'll begin work on the retaining wall. And that will really add some definition to the project. We're in the process of procuring the veterinary equipment and FFE that is unique to this type of facility. Perhaps most importantly is, we have begun development of a Communication Strategies Plan, which includes adding the Animal Service's Facility to our website. We have begun the programming on-site events, such as topping-out ceremonies, adoption ceremonies, this type events, this type of thing, and well as an ongoing public-awareness campaign of new letters and other items. So



we look forward to pulling that together here over the next couple of weeks and have a formal program. And then certainly not lost -- last, but not least is, we're on track for completion in the fall of 2023. So, we're 11 months away from completion of the project. Next, please. This is -- I don't know if it's -- it's actually moved, but it's a drone video that shows a photograph of -- that's a video of our earlier photograph that you saw."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "If you can just click on the photo, it'll be running in the background. And want to thank, once again, Mr. Mason for his comments, as well as Ms. Guinn. Well, like Mr. Mason said, our External Affairs Director came up with a great idea. We actually are taking aerial footage such as that and there's on the website every week when we get updates from our contractors. And such, we are updating the website so the community can go ahead and see what the status is of the program. So with that being said, I'll turn it back to you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you. So, this amount, the 4.9, you're saying that's an increase on the existing amount?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "1.3 million increase, sir. So last five years, 3.6 million is what LifeLine has received for the contract amount. There has never been an increase in that particular time, like Mr. Adams said. And within the last couple years with all the impacts from COVID, they still have been trying to be able to survive with that. You saw on the slides that they've been taking philanthropic dollars from not only what comes to Fulton County, but also what goes to LifeLine itself and pouring into our system to try to go ahead and balance off the budget. We have reached the point where those dollars are just not there anymore. That's why we're looking to go ahead and have that increase to cover what the current cost is. \$16 an hour is not a lot to go ahead and offer someone to care for animals in the type of condition that they're working in. It's definitely not on par with some of the other locations like, Target and things along those lines. So it's difficult to be competitive with the price point at \$12 an hour where they started the contract to where they are today."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Well, I mean I understand COVID and understand increase in expenses. But I mean, I know they were using our website to get money not only for Fulton County, but for their other operations. So, but I guess, COVID makes sense and \$16 an hour makes sense. Are they still using our website to raise money outside of Fulton County?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "They're not using our website. Actually, the -- per the contract, they are supposed to manage the website on our behalf. So, you actually click it, it's redirected to the website, that's per the contract that they manage for us. You can see right here that it's a pretty significant amount of dollars that come back into our system. So, I will probably -- should let Rebecca continue to speak here. But no one's getting rich off of this program."

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE FOUNDER:** "I just wanted to clarify, Commissioner. The -- any donations that are made through the website for Fulton County Animal Services go directly into Fulton County Animal Services. That's that FCAS donations piece right there. We do not raise money for LifeLine on Fulton County Animal Services websites or anything like that. So any -- any -- even the Facebook page, which we maintain, if the donations come through the Fulton County Animal Services Facebook page, they go directly into Fulton County Animal Services."

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

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE FOUNDER:** "We do not use your site or name to raise money."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. And then what can we do about all these complaints about animal abuse that keep coming? How can LifeLine -- no, no, thank you, Alton --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I would like to hear from the CEO. I want to -- what can you do to address those issues? Because I know you've seen them, just like I've seen them, just like we've all seen them."

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE FOUNDER:** "Yes, sir. I believe there's a single individual that we actually inherited this person along with the shelter back in 2013. She was involved with the previous vendor. And she continues to -- to talk about a lot of the same issues. So, some of the claims are ten years old. Admittedly, to everyone, if you've ever been there that shelter is not good. It's very hard to work in. It's very hard for the animals. It was built in 1978. The housing configuration is group housing. That means, as animals come in, they have to be housed together in cages. So, there are very few individual cages. The ones that are there, we added or recently, Emergency Management came in and was able to purchase some additional cages as well. But there's no room for those cages to go. So, it's -- just to put it in perspective, that shelter is around 12,000 square feet. You're building a 50,000 square-foot shelter to accommodate the service. And we do everything we can, but I cannot stand here and

tell you that shelter is humane everyday all the time, it's not possible. So what we do is, try to get them out as quickly as we can. We have an extensive foster program. We're actually nationally recognized for our foster program. We're doing a transport this weekend up to Delaware. We've got a mega adoption that we're doing in Delaware that we'll be taking, hopefully, up to a hundred dogs up to that transport. We've used our own clinic, with the county's help to do overflow. We're trans -- do animals overflow to our own facility. And, you know, we just have to keep after it. It's constant, it's every day, and it is a fight. And we're as transparent about that as everyone up here is."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Well, I certainly understand the facility. I mean, you know, it is what it is, right? It just seems like there -- the complaints come from more than -- or involved more than just the physical building and its inadequacies. But thank you for your answers. I think, you know, it sounds like you're doing what you can with what you have. And certainly, I know it's hard to get people to work at \$16 an hour. So, I'm sensitive to that. And I saw your email to the person, so I -- that's why I didn't want to hear from you --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I understand, yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I wanted to hear from -- from the CEO, herself. I guess, I would just, you know, and you're already doing it, I would just, you know, again, try to do whatever you can to address those issues. I had to block the young lady from my page because she started commenting on other things and other topics, and so that was completely inappropriate. But I am sensitive to the issues that she brings up. And it sounds like you are as well, and I, you know, whatever we can do to try to address those issues, obviously, bringing on a new shelter will probably go a long way in addressing that. Thank you."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. I'll try to be brief. I'm a dog lover, okay. And I'm a dog lover to the point that I adopted one. And two of my staff members adopted a dog this year. The dog that I adopted, everybody passed over. He was despondent, was in his cage with his tail, you know, in between his legs. And something drew me to him. Had a talk with the staff, the staff said he had been brought back five times? He had been fostered and brought back five times. Now, having a collection of ate-up shoes, ate-up remotes, I mean, he has eaten everything within his reach. His name is Fergie. And I kept it as Fergie, and I'm going to try not to get emotional about this. Because I am really am a dog lover. But the amount of time

that I have spent with that dog, he has changed like night and day. And I don't know if anybody had the amount of patience that I had to work with him on some things. But it will bring you to tears at that shelter. I've been to that shelter, since I've gotten a dog, four or five times. I've stood outside and saw people, could count them an hour's time, bringing dogs back. And I would ask them, you know, trying not to be nosy, trying to be respectful. Why you bringing this dog back? And four out of five times, they would tell me, I can't afford to keep him. And that breaks my heart that we're in a society that people want to love a dog, but they can't feed him. And I appreciate the program that you all have with getting -- giving out the free dog food. I have incorporated into my Senior Summit, and it works. Because the seniors don't have money for dog food. And, yes, there are issues, I'll be the first one -- and thank you, like Commissioner Arrington said, for responding to that, thank you. Because we can all find something wrong with something. We have to find a solution. We don't want to put any pet down unnecessarily. But that -- that was just not built for what it's servicing. But what is the alternative? The alternative is death. And for some other people, that may mean nothing to them, but to me, it breaks my heart. Because a lot of these pets were brought there, they gave love, they gave everything they could. But they brought there because the person could not afford to keep them. And so whatever I can do, I will be in support. I've seen the conditions over there. I've been over there several times. And, yes, to an untrained eye or somebody who doesn't know what's going on and haven't been over there repeatedly as much as I have, yeah, they may say, wow, this is rough. But I think you all are making the best with what you all have. People are not beating down the doors to be employees over there, they're not. The employees over there love those dogs. And they not making a whole bunch of money. They are passionate about what they're doing. I know we've got a great facility that's coming up. But I just want the public to know, sometimes you have to in certain cases, take the good with the bad. And if taking the good with the bad means that's one less animal we got to kill, then I'm going to be on the side of taking the good with the bad and anything that I can support. I just feel like you all are doing the best you can. I've been over there and sat three and four hours, when I've had the time to sit there and just watch people pick up dogs. And the dogs are so happy. I mean, they are so happy when they're going off. But I've also seen the dogs being brought there and the pet owners are in tears bringing the dog, they're saying, I can't afford it. And so I would suggest those that are just really big critics and don't know, go sit over there one hour. I promise you, you all are doing the best -- ma'am, I salute you. Not saying you're perfect, but given what I've seen up close, and what you all are trying to do and that staff over there, I appreciate what you're doing. And I'll be so glad when the new facility opens. Thank you."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL: "Thank you, ma'am."**

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

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "If I could challenge you though, every time you come to the shelter, would you think about getting Fergie another friend?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Listen, I have no more remotes, no more shoes. I have nothing else. To see a dog eat a pair of size 11 and 12 shoes, I mean, that's just not a good sight. So, yes --"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Thank you, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- when things get a little better."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "No. It's incredible, the Atlanta Food Bank and as well as Meals on Wheels is a partnership that Rebecca has started with LifeLine to try to get those extra food out there. So, there's a lot going towards that end. And thank you for saying those things."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. Just, no stories on my end. But I appreciate -- I got one, but I'm not going to tell it. That was a good one, I can't top Fergie. My only question is, maybe you said it while I was -- I stepped out for a second. Why are we absorbing the increase?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "So in 2023 through the transitional year, and it was through the other negotiations that you all had going on with city, we didn't think it was the right time. The cities, to go ahead and try to introduce this in a mid-budget year cycle. Because it was a transition year we looked at, could we go ahead and cover this for one-year period of time, and then relook at how the IGA should be truly organized going forward and present that to each municipality, so they can go ahead and put that into their budget for the next five-year period. It's going to be a pretty significant lift for us, because we're going to have to make some assumptions in the, pretty much, February-March timeframe to be able to get in front of these cities so they can go ahead and budget. And we're going to do what we can with our Procurement Team to be able to get a number for these cities to go ahead and put into their budget year, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Well, like I say, well, maybe I missed that. I guess, did we miss a window to where we were supposed to bring it to them?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I'm sorry, sir?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Did we miss a window where we were supposed to bring this forward so they could --"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I don't believe we missed the window, sir. It was just when we sat down to start looking at the finances with LifeLine and start to see that pretty significant drop in the philanthropic dollars and such and what the costs were going. And we asked them to consider doing a one-year extension with us while we built this, that's when we came back with what this increase would look like, sir, for a one-year period of time."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Well, speaking of philanthropic, I guess, that's what I wanted to emphasize here is, like, you know, we -- this -- we're providing this service, you know, a needed service, right? You know, and a very important one on behalf of other people, right? We, you know, half of these cities. They have to pay their fair share."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "And, you know, I'm -- I don't like the fact that we're absorbing the cost. I mean, everybody's dealing with increased costs. They have funds coming in; they're obligated to pay for these services. You know, they're getting, you know, significant funds through LOST and other mechanisms and all that sort of stuff. I think they should -- they should be bearing these cost here. If we've missed some sort of window, you know, per the way that our IGA structure works to give them notice of the increase, then shame on us. But, I mean, whether it's this or whether it's Elections, the stuff that we do, we have to have the real cost. And they need to be passed back to the entities that we're providing the services to. We're -- we can't be subsidizing this and, you know, and be philanthropic to them when they have the funds that they should be paying."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So, I -- so, I guess the, you know, the opportunity for that is closed this year? Is that basically --"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "For the 2023 year, sir. But for 2024 through 2029, we would go ahead and make sure that the cost model that you'll see on page 19 --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So, this is closed this year. So, we already gave the extension to the cities to ratify?"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, sir. City of Atlanta already came back. You may have stepped out of the room when I stated that, sir. They were the first one; they were about 50 percent of the system that they leveraged. They already ratified on December 1st --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I'm not -- and maybe, I'm just -- I don't mean to be critical of you all. But why is this just now coming to us, but it was sent to them to extend at no additional cost? But I mean, did we talk about this? I mean --"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I do not know if it was socialized with the seven elected officials, sir, we did discuss it internally. I'm sorry, yes, sir."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "No worries. Commissioner, a couple of things. We did miss a bit of a window."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "And the reason partly, is because we were focused on -- and it was in the midst of LOST discussions."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "And so, to be able to come forth and say, by the way -- and it may not be the right answer, but that's one of the reasons why it wasn't brought forward, because that was the focus for the last four or five months. And in terms of when it would -- the reason that we missed a window is because these IGAs become effective on January 1st --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "-- of 2023. And so to be able to say to the cities, we're going to give you an increase, approximately -- and that's one, that's one issue. Second issue is we're not quite sure, in large part, what the 2023 number should be because we're going to have the new center online in the fourth quarter."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "So that's the -- I know, it's not a good answer but --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Do they know that we're subsidizing them? Have you communicated that to them?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Two things --"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, sir."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "-- they know that we're subsidizing them, and they know that this is a transition year."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "And know we're going to be coming back to them to in fact have a price that reflects the cost of the new facility."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, thanks."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to thank, first of all, I have to thank Rebecca because I have seen the many emails that my Chief of Staff and I and other team members have sent to you. And you are very responsive, and it has been a lot. And have to go back to the fact that I learned about the Animal Services issues and the facility back when I was Chief of Staff to Commissioner Garner. And I know about the person who you mentioned, as well as Commissioner Arrington mentioned, because that person also sent the emails to us. And they have never stopped. It has now been 11 years of me seeing those emails from that particular person. And they're very -- I think they're purposely made to be alarming. But it's okay, because you have responded every single time to anything that needed a response. You know, first of all, I need to say that the employees, the pets, the visitors, everyone at the facility have endured from maggots falling out of the ceiling, smells from defecation, and things just sitting around, cramped space, and so much more. And I saw this with my own eyes 11 years ago. And it continued for quite some time before we could really address it as much as we could. Being that, like you said, it's a very cramped space, and we've outgrown it. But one thing that I do have to say is, people showed up when it was time for us to vote on that money for a new facility. They filled this Assembly Hall in support of building is facility, and they did not waiver. We received so many emails, it was just amazing. So there are so many people who have a heart for pets. And I too have a heart for pets, but my team and my family told me that I am in the streets too much helping the people and that they would call something like, pet authorities or, you know how we have Family and Children Services. They said they would call the people that do the pets on me because it would not be appropriate for me to have a pet. I just could not spend the time with them that would be sufficient from them. And they told me that, yeah, they will definitely eat up your clothes and your shoes when you're not giving the attention and especially if you get a pet from the shelter, because they need more attention. And that's kind of their way of acting out to say, look, I need you. And so I have not yet been able to get a pet, but believe me, and he already has a name, I have a travel bed for him, a food tray, clothes and everything. He has coats, I just bought



myself a cape and my dog a little cape too when I was out of town. So, I am preparing because I know one day it will happen. And I just want to say that I want you guys to continue to do the best that you're doing. You're doing a great job. This presentation was very well needed with everything that's happening online. There's a lot of posts that we're being tagged on. I do see Commissioner Arrington tagged as well. But there are a lot of posts with a lot of negative things. And this brings light to the fact that we are trying to address all of this. And it's going to get better, and that's what matters. So, thank you so much for all you do."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right, Alton, now you got to come back up. Y'all neglected to tell us about this during LOST negotiations? That's exactly what it was about. That's exactly what we needed to know that we're going to have to pay more money and provide more services while we're at the table with those cities. I mean, that's -- that just broke my heart when I heard that."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "When we said that we didn't want to bring it to the cities during LOST negotiations --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "When you said you didn't want to bring it to us?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "No, no, that's not --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "You didn't tell us."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "No, no, no, well, my point was --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "The people that were at the table doing the negotiating."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I mean, that would have been very relevant information for us to have as part of those negotiations and discussions."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Understand."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess, there's nothing we can do about it now. I mean, so what -- what happens if this doesn't get approved, then what?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Then we'll have to look at reducing services. We may not be able to pick up animals if called and so on because LifeLine just doesn't have the -- they won't be able to -- you won't have --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "But you already -- wait a minute, you said you've already -- you said it's too late because you've already done the deal with cities."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Well, we have a one city that recent. I mean, obviously we could go back to them and say we don't have the approval to spend the money and restart the whole thing. One of the reasons why I said there's a window is because they have to put it in their budgets for 2023."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So when do they do their budgets for 2023?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Same time that we start ours, which is probably August or September, I would think."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "I'm sorry, sir, they actually -- if could just go ahead and clarify --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No, we just started."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "They're on a July -- June to July -- July to June cycle. So what they're asking for us, which is going to make it very difficult, is by the month of March, to be able to tell them what they should include in their budget to be able to cover a 2024 and forward type of a contract with us or IGA, sir. So they're not on the same budget cycles as us, which makes it difficult for them."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah, I don't like it. I don't like it. I don't like that we, you know, that this was left out from discussion with us while we were at the table negotiating how much we would get for LOST. And then now we're stuck with the bill."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "It is a one year, sir. It's just a transition period, if I may, so it's not a long-term commitment for us. What we will be doing is taking this program, and on page 19, you'll see the formula that we have. It will be properly distributed to every jurisdiction for a five-year period. So it's just a one-year bridge that we're looking at here. It's not going to be a long-term commitment that --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I thought you just said it was going to be difficult because they want it by March or something."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "We're going to be looking at what the averages that you'll see on page 20 as well. If we can't go ahead and get a true number, what we're going to be looking at is what national averages are based upon our sister jurisdictions as well as what you'll see for county averages, and coming up with the best number that we can to provide them. At that time we'll know better

what our operating expenses would look like as we continue to go ahead and build the shelter. And once again, we'll be working with our Procurement Office to get a contract out as to what it would take to manage a facility that's 50,000 square feet that could actually go ahead and house the 379 dogs, 99 cats, so on and so forth that we would actually have at this facility, sir. So what is our job is to do our due diligence to make sure that we can give the absolute best number to the municipalities so they can go ahead and do that. If that turns out that we have to do a one-year IGA, and then follow up with something else thereafter, we can do so. If we work with our legal department to figure out what the proper clauses are to put inside there to allow us to have that opportunity after we get in the facility if we see some increases in charge -- in cost to operate it that we can then, pass that on. We'll be leaning on our legal partners as well as our Procurement Team to make sure those proper -- that language is included in those agreements, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. We got -- we need to talk about this because, I mean, there are cities like Palmetto that doesn't really have use for this. Like, if you're trying to go up on them, like, I mean --"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Well, I --"

COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.: "I assume that this mirrors, you know, unfortunately, our jail population and at 50 percent or most of the people are coming from the city of Atlanta. And so that's, you know, to some extent, where we got to start. You know, Palmetto and Chattahoochee Hills, I don't think there are a lot of animal calls coming in out there."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "If you look on page 19 of your packet, sir, we took one calendar year of what the program is. And you'll see what actually -- how many calls for service those two jurisdictions have as well as what percent of the program that they cover. They do leverage the system, work with the Mayor of Palmetto often. He tries to reduce the amount of calls that he has in his community by leveraging his police officers. We work very closely with our field officers to ensure that we can do that to control the costs, best we can. And we do that with every municipality that we serve. We work with them every quarter to go over their billing to make sure that is actually matches what they feel is appropriate. We have changed this program drastically. In years past, what they did is they would bill based upon a last year's consumption for the next year. We have moved to real-time billing. Every quarter we're looking at these numbers, we're sharing it with our municipal partners to make sure that they agreed to it. And then we're getting those actual reimbursements every quarter, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Yes. I'm looking at these numbers. I -- this wasn't what I was planning to talk about. But I do remember last time we negotiated this and how we did get a lot of push back. And I'm sure you remember that too."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "So, I mean, they're hearing about it now. Whether they knew about it during LOST negotiations or not, they're hearing about now. So I would suggest that we get on having a direct outreach to everybody, so that there's not a, you know, negative impact before we even have the conversation with them."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, ma'am. We've reached out to every City Manager via letter. I've actually had an opportunity to meet with some of them in one-off meetings as well to answer questions and to be able to go ahead and talk to what the future is. That's where I heard pretty loud and clear from them that they needed something as soon as they possibly in the beginning of the calendar year so they could properly budget. But, yes, great suggestions, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Well, I'm going to echo the comments that for us to be hearing about it after the fact, doesn't make a lot sense. I don't really think that's the way we should be doing business either. We used to call it the public's rule to not find out something, you know, from a constituent or on the street that we should be told directly."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "And that's kind of the way I feel about this right now. What I wanted to talk about was the ten years of good service that we've gotten from LifeLine. And I was here when we made that transition. And the previous vendor was just horrific. And the situation was -- it was -- it may be crowded and it may be stressful now, but it was -- it was terrible, terrible back then. So I wanted to thank you for all you're doing. I think we ought to be helping them raise money if it's not enough. I know you're doing it separately. But there ought to be some conversation about how we could support your efforts to raise more money. I don't know, you know, really if this possible, but in the new shelter, maybe there's a way to have some sort of retail component when people come in, you know, they can buy the supplies that they're in need to get started with their new pet and help us raise some money there or something like that. But there's got to be some creative ways, you know, an event or something

that we could raise monies though. I think the community would support that. But again, I think we need to get on this and present it in way that, you know, is going to be better received than the last time."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "So, but, you know, I'm leaving, I'm not going to be around to, you know, complain about hearing stuff, you know, in the wrong order. But I caution you to, you know, not pay a lot of attention when you're hearing it from multiple people up here that, you know, we're partners so you shouldn't leave us out if you really want us to be partners."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "Yes, ma'am."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I thought there was a discussion at some point about having some type of retail store when we first starting talking about the shelter. Is that still -- is that not on the table or was it removed or --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "I don't think we got to that level of detail on the programming, but we can. The Humane Society has a retail room as well."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Right."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Where you buy food, and you can buy collars and that type of the stuff --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Right, okay."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "-- so there's no reason why we couldn't have our -- our own, you know, FCAS brand and people can buy hat and they can buy food and they can buy whatever else. So I think that's a great idea."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah, thank you."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Exactly."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Vice Chair."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC PSS:** "Absolutely."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Guess we can have a Friends' Group too. Friends of the Animal Shelter, let them raise money, right? And maybe -- because who's going to operate that store? Who's going to operate the retail? Who's going to sell that stuff? I mean, like, it -- I mean, doesn't Life -- is LifeLine not selling their own stuff, or not already have any retail component?"

**REBECCA GUINN, LIFELINE FOUNDER:** "We don't sell merchandise through the Fulton County Shelter. We do have merchandise. I'll be happy to send you a hat that says, woof. But we -- there's no room there to do anything like that. So, we're -- it is not a big money maker for us, to be honest with you, the retail part of what we do. But this new shelter is going to be destination. I mean, we've got ideas -- if we're, you know, privileged enough to run the new shelter, because it'll be a new contract then. But we've got ideas about how to provide clinic services and expand our clinic operations, so that we're being able to help some of the people you talked about, be able to help those people care for their pets. And other community members would be able to pay and get really affordable care. There's so much potential with this new shelter. I think y'all are going to be amazed."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "How much in the new facility will there be like, you know, outdoor facilities for animals to run and what --"

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "If you look at your packet, sir, it's probably not the best image that could see on page 12. I don't have the amount of square feet. We can definitely provide that to your office. But we are increasing the amount of space where someone would be able to -- the dogs would be able roam freely. What you see towards the bottom of the architectural drawing, you'll see the little white boxes with the little black dots in it. Those are actually the single dog cages. But you'll see little green patches. Those are actually really innovative spaces that we've see. That PGAL as well as Adam Marks has recommended across the country. Those spaces are actually going to increasing the amount of capacity we have where someone can meet a dog internally. All the other green boxes that you see along the bottom are actually outdoor spaces for the dogs to be able to go ahead and have some outdoor time. It's also, once again, for individuals to go ahead meet those dogs. There's a couple of other spaces inside the building where we have internal courtyards where dogs can be able to go out, smaller dogs as well as dogs that are pregnant, things along those lines. And we'll finally have a dedicated space for any dog that is being quarantined due to a medical issue, where they'll have their own play space where we haven't had that luxury in the past. And then in the top left-hand corner, you'll see a picture where you see a circle. That is actually in the very top of the picture. We finally will have a place where we can actually take the farm animals that we receive and have

a pasture for them to be able to go around. You would not believe the amount of livestock that we actually have in Fulton County, horses, cows, sheep, goats, chicken, guinea fowls. I mean, the list goes on and on, pigs."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Y'all got some fish? I'll adopt some fish."

**MATTHEW KALLMYER, DIR, AFCEMA/ANIMAL CTRL:** "We do have fish, sir. We do have some fish that are in -- that is one our offices that we would love to go ahead and pass along. And Fergie can have some too, ma'am."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Other questions or comments? All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Now, you know, a lot has been said about LOST. LOST discussions is not over with. December 30th is the deadline. We still got a couple more hoops to go through before that's a -- that's finalized. Motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "The bottom of page 14, **22-0951**: Police, alcoholic beverage license. Request approval for a license application submitted by Citgo Happy Store for the retail sale of wine and malt beverages at 4060 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Is there a motion? Is there a motion? Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Arrington. Please vote. Let's vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 15, Commissioners' Action Items, **22-0882**: Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 2 Article III Division 2 of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to require the County Manager to present the budget request for next fiscal year to the Board of Commissioners no later than 60 days before the millage rate is set and for other purposes, sponsored by Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I was going to ask the Manager if -- does he think that he can do this, and I guess, Madam CFO, will -- do they think that this will be helpful?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Sharon, do you want to try to answer it? Technically, I -- the way -- let me answer it, I guess, philosophically first. And then -- and then, Sharon, if you'll help us understand the technical details. But I think, philosophically, you, as a practical matter, can do it even without this change. In other words, it's taken me several years to understand the nuances of this. But if you instruct us, as we sat here today, to assume a different millage rate than the current one just enacted, we can do that as part of the budget process. And then what will happen is, we will generate a revenue view consistent with that millage rate, which will be different than today's, and then an expense plan that will comport with that. And when you get to July or August of 2023, you will then take a vote on an appropriate millage rate to meet the revenue requirements for '23. So, it allows you to set, if you will, a millage and a budget at the same time. You just don't act on the millage rate officially until you get into the sixth or seventh month of the year. We looked at it several -- maybe two to three years ago, trying to actually square it up where it was officially done. And I cannot explain the difficulties, and maybe Sharon can do that. But that's not a simple matter. So, I'll leave it like that, and then, Sharon, you fill in the gaps."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, I mean, I think Mr. Anderson did as good a job as explaining it as I possibly could. The action that he's talking about that we looked at a few years back, really was changing the county's fiscal year from 12/31 to June 30th or something else to align it more closely with when the millage was set. That presented some issues from a, really from a cash-flow perspective, in being able to have sufficient resources to support the stub period that we would have to go through to be able to make that change. The problem that we have here is that we don't get the information that we need to set the millage rate until we are, you know, already probably, five, if not six months into our fiscal year. So, we build a plan based entirely on projections. From a practical perspective, interpreting this resolution, you would be asking us to bring you the 2024 proposed budget 60 days before we set the millage rate for 2023, which is actually the millage rate to support the 2023 budget. Probably the best way to start to look at marrying up the budget and the millage rate is to consider looking at a multiyear budget, which I know at one point in time, Cobb County was doing. They would set a budget that was a multiyear budget. And then each year they would go in and just make modifications to that second year of the budget. So, it's not quite as clean as it sounds to just bring you the proposed budget for the next fiscal year 60 days out from setting the millage rate because the millage rate that we're setting is really for the current fiscal year. But maybe, looking at - - looking at a two-year budget might be the better way to go or continuing to consider the multiyear view and understand what the millage rate decision -- the impact of the millage rate decision has, not only on the current year, but on our ability to plan for the ensuing fiscal year as well."



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. I think the challenge is -- I hear what you're saying. I think for example, I think we're doing that now, right? The budget is anticipating -- because of the millage rate that was set, we theoretically, lost \$80 million from next year's budget. But because next year's millage rate hasn't been set, we can still budget for next year at a different millage rate. But what happens if that millage rate -- I mean, I guess -- I guess that puts it -- it may be that kind of solves it. Because then at that point, we have to adopt a millage rate in order to be able to sustain the money that's been spent. I just know we haven't really done that in the past. But maybe that is -- is the answer as from the budgeting standpoint, assuming the different millage rate. The problem is we get to next year; everybody always wants to roll it back. I've voted against that several times, maybe every time. But I guess, maybe people have a harder time voting against the rollback if, you know, there won't be any money or there's going to be \$80 million dollars less at that time. I mean, I was doing this, I guess, one, to make our job easier. But at the same time I, you know, want to make your -- you all's job easier. If it doesn't help make your job easier, you know, I don't know that we necessarily need it. I mean, I, you know, it was an attempt to try to make your and our job easier. But if that doesn't help, and since we have -- are now adopting a budget for 2023 and assuming a different millage rate than the millage rate that we just passed, there may -- may not be a need for this."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, I'll withdraw it unless anybody else has discussion or --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just withdraw it? Thank you, sir. No objections, it's withdrawn. Continue, Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman, the next item is Commissioner Morris'. Do you want to --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Morris had to -- he had to leave. All right. We'll hold. Hold 0884, continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0952**: Request approval of a resolution to establish supplement --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We're holding that one until the next meeting."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Some additional information has been requested."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**22-0953**: Audit Committee, Commissioner Ellis has nominated Robert Koncerak and Jay Small to Full-Board reappointments to terms ending December 31st, 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Vice Chair Hausmann. Let's vote, please."

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Question."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Question? Yes. Question, Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I have a question because this is a little odd. Because it's reminding me of when Commissioner Hausmann brought forth an appointee that would go beyond next year, and was told that she couldn't do that or something. And so how is this different, because we have a new Commissioner coming on board, who is going to make all of her own appointments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This is Commissioner Ellis' appointment."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, this is Commissioner Ellis?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, okay."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Full Board."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "They're full -- okay. I'm sorry; I thought this was Commissioner Morris. Thank you."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "We have an item that was removed from consent for separate consideration on page 3. **22-0894**: Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman has nominated Thomas W. Dortch, III for a district reappointment to an expired term ending December 31st, 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I had a -- I think, I and Commissioner Hausmann asked that this one be pulled from the consent agenda for some discussion. And the discussion is really to clarify -- and I -- we need to codify -- this has caused a lot of confusion based upon the -- the letter of recommendation that was sent incorrectly. So that's what we need to codify. And I've asked the County Attorney to begin to address that. And if you recall, in this particular case, the person in question was nominated by the Commissioner, but approved by the Board. The letter of resignation should have come to the Board of Commissioners, but instead, it went to the authority on which this person sits. And at that point, the -- that Board asked their attorney, because from the date that the letter of resignation was submitted to the authority incorrectly, about a month had transpired. So, their attorney recommended that -- and confirmed that the person had in fact, resigned. So, to clarify and to follow -- to clarify this and to clear it up. So I met with Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and said, let's just start over on this. And that's where we are today. But what will be -- what I'm asking for us to codify though is, the process -- it's a rare occasion when someone resigns from a board or a commission or an authority. But when that does happen, we need to have a very clear way to do it. And that's what we'll be coming forward with at some point in the future. So that's what I wanted to say today. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner Arrington, and Commissioner Hausmann. And Madam County Attorney, you can chime in at some point of what the process will be."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** ""Thank you, Chairman. And I appreciate your desire to do it. I think that's very important because in this particular case, there was a rescinding of the -- there was a rescinding of the resignation to me, and it was my District Appointment. But I think where it got convoluted was there may not been the -- have been any communication as to what was going on the Board's end versus me accepting the rescinding. And so, the part that I'm particularly concerned about this is, if the Board of Commissioners does not have knowledge, as a Board, and if the sitting Commissioner, who District Appointment does not have knowledge that the person has been removed, then you get into, well, whose authority is it? Is it the Commissioner's authority to accept the resignation or is it the appointee or the person that's over the Board authority to accept it. So I do think we need to have a policy so we won't run into this again. I'm not saying that there was anything amiss about this or wrong. What I'm saying, it's something that happened. Unfortunately, it happened with my appointee. But out of fairness, I think the reappointment should take place because there was a rescinding to me in a timely manner. However, in our discussions, I do see that there's a quandary when you have a Commissioner missing -- excuse me -- an appointee missing from very important information. And it went longer than it should. So, I understand the position of us needing to, not only codify this, but to get on one page as to how it should be done, how it should be accepted. And I would hope that my

appointee would have full support of this Board, you supported him before. I had an opportunity to talk to six of the other members, because I wanted to get a objective view. And six of the members of the Authority said they did not have a problem. They were under the impression that he resigned. And they didn't even know about the recession -- rescinding of it. So, I think he needs to be put back on there from a legal perspective. And I think we really do need a policy in place so this will not happen again. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "This is the first I'm hearing of any of this. I don't -- I don't know who -- who -- I don't know who resigned, when they resigned, how the resigned. I don't know any of it. I don't understand. So, I need more time to understand this. I don't understand what happened. I don't understand what's going on."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Hausmann, Vice Chair Hausmann."

**VICE CHAIRMAN HAUSMANN:** "Yeah, I was confused by this too. So, I did make, also, some inquires on what happened because it is kind of unusual. I was told he resigned months ago. In fact, resigned with a note to the Authority Members or the Chair, basically said, don't contact me about this, you know, I'm resigning. And then now, he wants back on. And I mean, this is such an important Board, especially with what we're facing with lack of hospital service and various things that are out there about the potential needs and solutions for those needs. I'm just concerned about, you know, how serious he is about serving on this Board after all this. And so I'd like to understand more about it also."

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

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "He submitted a -- it's Thomas Dortch, III. He submitted a resignation to the members; I think the Chair, and also the Executive Director. And he also submitted it to me. When I had a conversation with him that was less than 30 days later, he rescinded it. And I was under the impression and he was under the impression that he was still under the Board. And so as him being my District Appointee, I can assure you, Vice Chair, that's he's very involved and very serious about serving on this Board until I no longer want him to serve again. I think the issue that came about was there were decisions that were made that historically, have not been made before. Usually, when a District Appointee serve and they resign, they resign just to the District Commissioner that appoints them. They don't necessarily resign to everyone. So I think there was a lack of communication, maybe on all parts."

But I will assure you that he was under the impression and I was under the impression, because I was sent information that he had been removed and I -- once I got that information, I immediately went to the Chairman. Because the Chairman was not aware that he had been removed. And so there was definitely, maybe some convoluted information, or maybe some individuals that maybe wanted to handle my appointee differently than someone else, I don't know. What I do know is that, he was appointed, he was on there, he resigned, and then he rescinded. Now, if we have a policy in place, and the County Attorney has not told me that we have a policy in place that he has to let everyone know, he doesn't have to let everyone know that he resigned. He took it upon his self, but counterintuitive to that he let two people know. And from what the conversation I had with at least one of them, they were under the impression that he rescinded it. But they were told that it was expected. And so that's why I'm saying, another Commissioner cannot accept a resignation on my behalf for my District Appointee. No other Commissioner can do that. I can only do that. And so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, no, correction on that now. You nominated the person to the Board. The Board approves. So the Board of Commissioners is the -- is the approval. Not --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Well, let me -- let me restate that. And County Attorney, you can -- you can clarify this if I'm incorrect. I stand in-corrected. A sitting Commissioner, any Commissioner can accept a resignation from another Commissioner for a resignation on a Board appointment that was approved by all? That's why I'm asking, can that be done, yes or no?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "So, the appointing authority would be the one to accept -- if there is a requirement for acceptance of a resignation, the appointing authority would be the one to accept. So, in that sense, because the Board as a whole, is the appointing authority, no one Commissioner would be able to accept on behalf of the Board as a whole."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, that's -- thank you, Chairman. That's what I was trying to clear up. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any other questions? Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "He resigned to somebody, maybe it wasn't a legitimate resignation. With all that stuff aside, I guess my -- but it sounds like he wanted off the Board for some reason. And was potentially off the Board for some reason for some period of time. Just -- which creates somewhat of a red flag. It -- now, he has a desire to go back on. I guess, it's your appointment, so I just want to understand kind of, since

he did want to leave and did apparently leave, why in your estimation, is it a right reason to bring him back or reinstate him or whatever -- whatever the term you want to use? I guess, I'm just looking to understand, understand that --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And Commissioner Ellis, that is a valid question. One, I don't believe it was done correctly because of, it should have been done for the Board, as opposed to -- well, let me back -- let me change. Because this may be unique in how, not only it was done, but how it was handled after it was done. So, I think out of fairness, because technically, from my perception based on what was done, he wasn't off the Board because he rescinded it. I have had other appointees to come to me and what to resign for whatever reason, whether it's a health issue, whether it's something they feel, maybe their time changes. And so, not that I have to give you a reason. But I'm willing to be candid and tell you why. When I had a conversation with him, I asked him, because January 1st the districts will change. And so, upon him having a conversation with me, he said, you know, I've done good work here. I've worked good with all these people. I would like to stay until the new appointee because the new appointee will be from a new district. So, it wasn't like he didn't want to be on there. I understand from his colleagues that I had a conversation with that he came to meetings, he had conversations, he took it very seriously. And so, what I asked and what he offered was that he would still on the Board. But I think for someone to resign and have a change of heart for whatever reason, he's not the first, neither will he be the last. I think the way it was handled with the possibility of being a miscommunication and who accepted or didn't accept it, I don't know. All I know that it was not handled in a way that it should have been appropriately handled. And so there is no red flag in anything that he's done. It was my appointee, who I had a conversation with, who had a change of heart and rescinded. And so it's not that he can't do it, it's that he has work that he has not finished. I felt like, at the end of the day, he should be given an opportunity to serve the time that him and I discussed as him being my appointee and the districts changing. And so, I would behoove this Body that what happened to me, could have happened to anyone. It could have happened to anyone on the Body, not just me. And so, I think out of sense of fairness, he should be reappointed. Out of sense of fairness, if it was not done correctly and it wasn't, we can say that he gave the rescinding to me, and maybe I should have had a conversation with someone else. But like, when I talked to the Chairman, there's nobody else that I would have had a conversation with, because there's no history showing that this has happened. Now, the other part of the puzzle is, what if somebody wants to stay on, and you asked of somebody to resign, how would we handle that in light of what has happened with this? So, I think it's only fair to reset the clock, let him be put back on the Board since it was not done correctly, whoever fault it was. And I'm not -- fault may not be the best word to use. But you get on a slippery slope when you decide that something that has already

been done incorrectly and let -- and you let it stay done incorrectly. I think it's in the best interest and full fairness to this Body that he be reappointed; we put the rules in place or codify how it should be done when someone is asked to step down and when someone has submitted a resignation since we do not have -- the County Attorney told me we don't have anything in place. Where he resigned to everyone including me and had the conversation with me, had we had something in place that I would have said, okay, you must rescind to the Chair, you must resend to so and so, I would have followed that policy. We had nothing in place. And so out of fairness, I would say, to please put my appointee, support my appointee being put back on there. And let us move forward with a policy in place so this will not happen again."

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. That helped a little bit for me, Commissioner. But I'm still -- and I don't want to belabor this and maybe we should have this -- an offline conversation and maybe bring it back up the next meeting. But are we -- I'm confused, are we -- are we voting to reinstate him on the Board?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No. She is nominating him again, subject to the approval of this Body."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And I was -- if I can speak to that. In having a conversation with the County Attorney, it was stated to me, this would be the best way to handle it because it is -- it's kind of up in the air. Is he off the Board? Is he on the Board? And it's too much of a convoluted issue. And so the best remedy to this situation would be for him to be nominated again. Keep in mind, I thought he was on the Board, he thought he was on the Board. The Chair and the CEO thought he was off the Board based on them accepting a resignation. And so, to clear the air and make sure that a sense of fairness, not only a sense of fairness, but is he truly off the Board? Is he truly on the Board? So this was presented to me as really, the only answer to this."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Commissioner Ellis, if I may. My understanding is that the individual resigned initially based upon a family matter. And then subsequently when that resolved, sought to rescind his resignation. Because the establishing resolution for the authority does not designate or specify a method of resignation, the legal question presented now is, was his resignation effective? Because there is no specific procedure or guidance on how the resignation should be tendered, or if you needs to be accepted or by whom. We suggested to Commissioner Abdur-Rahman that this method would be the best way to clarify the current situation. And then going forward, perhaps, consider codifying a specific procedure so that these questions would be more clearly resolved in the future."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, I'm -- okay. And then I know it -- maybe it's getting late. But the -- but then you also referenced another thing that I -- maybe confused me a little bit. The reason I asked about the reinstatement, is you made some statement about the district lines changing or something. Like, more like at the end of 2022, he was preparing to leave anyway or something?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "No, I'm sorry. Let me clarify that statement. I -- my office decided that Board Appointments that are already in place will stay in place even if they are expired. And Board Appointments, I'm not making any new Board Appointments until after January 1st. That was a --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- a decision my office made. And so they are Board Appointments that I need to make, possibly now. But it's so close to the end of the year that I will not make them until the New Year comes in. Conversely, there are Board Appointments that have expired that have not removed people. But I'm not -- I'm not doing that until 2023. And so, this is not something that I would have done or that I would have thought would have been a good idea based on my personal experience dealing with my Board Appointees. And so, it wasn't that I asked him, you had an issue to stay on to 2023. What I had decided from my office that it would be best for me not to ask anybody to step down and not to appoint anybody until after January 1st."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Can -- you can dismiss this if you don't like this approach. But maybe, just offer a friendly resolution to this, only because I had this -- it's similar, it's not exact. But I had a person resign. I'm not sure they resigned to me; I'm not sure who they resigned to. I didn't even discuss this with anybody, right? I just assumed that they were resigning and there was an open -- I think they resigned to you. I think they sent it to the Clerk or sent it to -- Art -- it was an Arts Council person. So it was unexpired term. So I was told the way I had to handle it was, I had to appoint a person for an unexpired term and it had to be voted on or whatever, you know, put on the agenda. And then at a later date, I had to come back and do a reappointment. Perhaps, could we just reinstate or appoint him for, you know, to the unexpired term. And then you could have a two-step process and bring it back for the full appointment."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I accept that. I have no problem with that."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Is that fair?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No."



**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. It's basically, it's just you're just putting -- you're just reinstating him for the end of this term. And then she brings him back as a District Appointment for the full term."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We're complicated something here that's real simple to solve. And I think what's on -- what's before us now is a way to solve this and allow the County Attorney to codify how resignations will be handled going forward."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I'm not -- I only offered up the other because we just - I mean, I just went through it and that was where the process they told me. I mean, so maybe it's not exactly the same scenario, but --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. And I don't think that solves it because this is for a term ending December 31, 2026, so this --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I know that's what modification --"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "That's incorrect, Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "This is not for the unexpired term. This is for --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "No, that was my --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Then this is for the new term."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right, no."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Full four-year term."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Right. So it would not put him back on now."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "That was my offer as compromise --"

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

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- to reinstate him and then comes back for a Full-Board -- I mean, for another -- for another -- for a reappointment for a full term."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, let me know when it's my turn --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. I'm --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- because I'm going to do a motion hold."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, I'm done."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. I'm doing a substitute motion to hold. This my first-time hearing about any of this. I don't know what's going on. I don't understand it. I need to review it myself."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Commissioner Arrington, I don't have a problem with you holding it, so you can get the information."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Substitute motion to hold. Is there a second? Seconded Commissioner Hall. You ready? Yes? All right. The motion on the -- substitute motion to hold. Let's vote. And you're okay with that?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "That's fine, they can hold it."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The vote is open on the motion to hold. And the he motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Any other matters to come before us? All right. No further matters to come before us today. But as a friendly reminder, at 5:30 we're hosting our Legislative Delegation at 5:30 on the tenth floor. So -- no, tenth floor. Mr. Manager, Dr. Roshell, Ms. Whitmore, Adams, et cetera. All right. No further matters to come before us today are adjourned. And everybody's invited. It's our Legislative Delegation."

**(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.)**