

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECESS MEETING**

May 17, 2023  
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: June 21, 2023**

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

**10:02 a.m.**

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

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

**PRESENT**

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

**PRESENT**

Bob Ellis, Vice-Chairman (District 2)

**PRESENT**

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

**PRESENT**

Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)

**PRESENT**

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

**PRESENT**

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner (District 6)

**PRESENT**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA****23-0324 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 Recess Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0325 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Humanity First USA Duluth Food Pantry Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
May 6, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Apostle Colette Lewis Gunby Remembrance Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**  
May 6, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Valerie Wynter Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
May 6, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Student Leadership Johns Creek Secretary of State Ambassadors State Championship Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
May 9, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Cameron Nainoa Jooho Cha-Choe Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
May 13, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Nikhil Mahadevan Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
May 13, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "Eagle Scout Thejase Suhanthan Appreciation Day." **(Thorne)**  
May 13, 2023

Proclamation recognizing "R&B Soul Picnic Weekend." **(Barrett/Ellis/Thorne/Hall/Abdur-Rahman)**  
May 13-14, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Velma Mae Turner Rainey Appreciation Day.” **(Pitts)**  
May 14, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Eagle Scout Kaivalya Somayajula Appreciation Day.”  
**(Thorne)**  
April 22, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Eagle Scout Grant Spencer Hayes Appreciation Day.”  
**(Thorne)**  
April 22, 2023

Proclamation recognizing “Eagle Scout Ray Miyazaki Wade Appreciation Day.”  
**(Thorne)**  
April 22, 2023

### **Commissioners' District Board Appointments**

**23-0326**

#### **Board of Commissioners**

#### **COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Seven (7) appointees by the Board of Commissioners (one for each District); three (3) appointees from each of the non-profit umbrella agencies, which the County contracts with for aging services; and three (3) senior citizens elected by seniors in the three geographical areas of the County. The terms of such members appointed by the Board of Commissioners shall end at the end of the term of the appointing District Commissioner. Such members may continue to serve beyond his/her term until a successor is appointed.

Term = Shall end at the end of the term of the appointing District Commissioner

Terms below expired: 12/31/2022

Mary Blake **(Pitts)**

Rosalind R. Elliott **(Morris)**

**Commissioner Barrett nominated Gary Snyder for a District appointment to a term ending December 31, 2026.**

**23-0327 Board of Commissioners****DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD (APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

The seven (7) members of this board are appointed directly from the County governing authority, effective July 1, 1994, as a result of Senate Bill 469. If the County governing authority fails to make an appointment within 90 days after the vacancy occurs, the DHR Commissioner is authorized to make the appointment. Incumbents whose terms have expired continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

The Official Code of Georgia does not provide any guidance for determining which Commissioner should nominate an appointee in the event of a vacancy. However, the Board of Commissioners adopted a policy at the Recess Meeting, September 18, 1991, item #91-FM-150, assigning one position on the DFACS board to each Commission district.

Term = 5 Years staggered terms

Term below expires: 6/30/2023

Valerie Rogers (Ellis)

**Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated Monica Jones to replace Valerie Rogers for a District appointment to a term ending June 30, 2028 (effective 7/01/2023).**

**Open & Responsible Government****23-0328 Tax Commissioner**

Request approval of the Fulton Industrial Community Improvement District Expansion as certified by the Tax Commissioner. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0329 Finance**

Ratification of April 2023 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Health and Human Services****23-0330 Community Development**

Request approval of a commitment letter to provide \$2,100,000.00 to support the development of a 102-unit affordable apartment complex by the Roswell Housing Authority (RHA); and authorize the Chairman to execute the commitment letter. The financing commitment is expressly conditioned on RHA receiving the award of low-income housing tax credits from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The funding is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**Infrastructure and Economic Development****23-0331 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Resolution approving a Right of Access and Use License Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and the Center Helping Obesity in Children End Successfully Inc. ("C.H.O.I.C.E.S.") for the purpose of formalizing terms of access to prepare and distribute healthy meals for economically disadvantage families at 2805 Metropolitan Parkway, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia; to authorize the Chairman to execute the Right of Access and Use License Agreement; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the Right of Access and Use License Agreement as to form and to make modifications thereto in order to protect the interests of Fulton County prior to execution; and for other purposes. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**23-0332 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Temporary Right of Access Agreement between Fulton County, Georgia ("Grantee") and Thuy Thu Doan and Joseph Ford Hoke ("Grantor") for property located at 2900 West Road, South Fulton, Georgia, for the purpose of the County completing environmental testing and due diligence required to complete planned sewer system improvements. To authorize the Chairman to execute the Temporary Right of Access Agreement. To authorize the County Attorney to approve the Temporary Right of Access Agreement as to form and make modifications thereto prior to execution. Effective upon execution through 365 days, unless extended in writing. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**RECESS MEETING AGENDA****23-0333 Board of Commissioners**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to adopt the Recess Meeting Agenda as amended by revising items #23-0335 as requested by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman and #23-0356 as requested by Chairman Pitts. The motion passed by the following vote:

<b>Yea:</b>	Pitts, Barrett, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman
<b>Nay:</b>	Thorne
<b>Absent:</b>	Arrington
<b>Did Not Vote:</b>	Ellis

**23-0334 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

Recess Meeting Minutes, April 19, 2023

Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 3, 2023

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0335 Board of Commissioners**

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

Proclamation recognizing "Public Works Week." **(Ellis)**

Proclamation recognizing "Fulton County Certified Public Managers Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Deputy Clarence Houston Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Center for Excellence Capstone Student Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**

Proclamation recognizing "Public Safety Memorial Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**

Proclamation recognizing "Vendorship, Inc. Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**

\*Proclamation recognizing "Olga Shumate Appreciation Day." **(Abdur-Rahman)**

*\*added during the meeting*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****23-0336 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)**

**37 Speakers: State Representative Saira Draper (Yielded Time); Patty Nathan (Board of Registration/Elections); Tricia Gephardt (Board of Registration/Elections); Daniel Jackman (Board of Registration/Elections); Lauren Waits (Board of Registration/Elections); Lawrie Demorest (Board of Registration/Elections); Corwin Monson (Stalking); Cristy Lenz (Board of Registration/Elections); Ruth Wall (Board of Registration/Elections); Jane Zoellick (Board of Registration/Elections); Aileen Nakamura (Board of Registration/Elections); Saya Abney (Board of Registration/Elections); John Evans (Board of Registration/Elections); Kevin Muldowney (Board of Registration/Elections); Matt Rowenczak (Board of Registration/Elections); Melissa Fiorillo (Board of Registration/Elections); Mara Gaudio (Board of Registration/Elections); Sandra Gail Motley Grant (Student & Children Harassment); Jan Meadows (Board of Registration/Elections); Stephanie Ali (Board of Registration/Elections); Parker Short (Board of Registration/Elections); RaShaun Kemp (Board of Registration/Elections); Sabrina Jones (Fulton County Sheriff Office); Eric Richardson (Board of Registration/Elections); B. Rohr (Board of Registration/Elections); Demetris D. Taylor (Board of Registration/Elections); Maggie Goldman (Board of Registration/Elections); Mina Turabi (Board of Registration/Elections); Shenetra Gates (Roswell Housing Authority); Karen Parrish (Roswell Housing Authority); Deborah Scott (Board of Registration/Elections); Ron Shakir (Housing); James S. Davenport (MARTA); Prophet Curtis Hairston**

(Homelessness); Emma Jean Davis (Voting); Kristin Nabers (Board of Registration/Elections); and Margie McLeod (Foster Care)

**2 Zoom Speakers:** Ben Howard (Senior Services) and Nichola Hines (Board of Registration/Elections); **6 Emailed Comments:** Angela Payne (Board of Registration/Elections); Julie Allen (Board of Registration/Elections); Stephanie Miller (Board of Registration/Elections); Beverley Miller (Board of Registration/Elections); Chantel Mullen (Board of Registration/Elections) and Robbie Huff (Board of Registration/Elections)

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to extend the allotted time for Public Comment. The motion passed by the following voice vote:

**Yea:** Thorne, Barrett, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Arrington

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

## **PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

### **Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority**

**23-0337** Board of Commissioners  
MARTA Quarterly Update **(PRESENTED)**

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS**

### **Open & Responsible Government**

**23-0338** County Manager  
Presentation of the Fulton County Operational Report. **(PRESENTED)**

**23-0339** Finance  
Review and approval of May 17, 2023 Budget Soundings. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington



**23-0340 Finance**

Request approval to accept the bid for \$200,000,000.00 Tax Anticipation Notes for 2023 and approval of a Resolution which authorizes issuance and sale of the \$200,000,000.00 General Fund Tax Anticipation Notes of Fulton County, Georgia. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0341 Human Resources Management**

Request approval of updates to the Equal Employment Opportunity and Prejudicial Acts Policy (103-16) to ensure compliance with the Fulton County Crown Act, BOC Resolution 23-0166 and Georgia HB 1390. **(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, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0342 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval for the Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the Fulton County Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, to provide a letter of support for inclusion with the City of Atlanta's Federal Highway Administration Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant application. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0343 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to utilize a cooperative purchasing contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, OMNIA Partners Contract #3341, Turnkey Installation of HVAC Equipment for 4700 North Point Pkwy, in the amount not to exceed \$1,392,282.89 with Trane US, Inc. (Doraville, GA), to provide demolition and removal of eight (8) existing roof-top units (RTUs) and install eight (8) new commercial RTUs at the County-owned facility located at 4700 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022. Effective upon BOC approval for 10 months or completion of the replacement/installation project as determined by Fulton County. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0344 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, ITB#ITB22110K-DJ, Furniture and Installation Services for the Fulton County Central Warehouse in the total amount of \$351,522.81 with The Hon Company, LLC c/o Minton Jones Company, Inc. (Muscatine, IA) to cover the costs for Phase II furniture and related components (Emergency Management, Clerk of the Courts, IT, FGTV, DREAM, Police Department, Marshal, and Sheriff's Office) for the Fulton County Central Warehouse located at 5600 Campbellton-Fairburn Road, Atlanta, GA 30213. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**Arts and Libraries****23-0345 Arts and Culture**

Request for the rescission of the approval of a public art contract with David Moore and Adam Deck related to the Rogers Bridge Public Art Project in Johns Creek pursuant to Agenda Item 22-0964 on December 21, 2022. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0346 Arts and Culture**

Request approval of a public art contract to commission Allen Peterson to create three site-specific, original works of art at three locations determined by the County using materials reclaimed from the Rogers Bridge, Johns Creek in the amount of \$54,700.00, and authorization of the County Attorney to approve the public art contract as to form and to make necessary changes to the contract to protect the County prior to execution. The term is upon BOC approval through December 31, 2024. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**Health and Human Services****23-0347 Public Works**

Request approval of the dedication of a Permanent Construction Easement of 23,635.49 square feet and a Temporary Construction Easement of 24,975.35 square feet to Johns Creek, Georgia, from Fulton County, Georgia for the purpose of constructing the Old Alabama Road Trail in Johns Creek, Georgia; to authorize the Chairman to sign the easements and any related documents to complete the dedication; to authorize the County Attorney to approve the easements and any related documents as to form and make necessary modifications prior to execution to protect the County's interests. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0348 Public Works**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - Department of Public Works 22RFP058A-CJC, Laboratory Information Management Systems in an amount not to exceed \$117,105.00 with Ethosoft, Inc. (Norcross, GA) to provide a Laboratory Information Management System. The contract will commence as of the date indicated in the Notice to Proceed (NTP) and shall continue until the sooner of (a) a period of 24 months; (b) Final Acceptance; or (c) the Agreement is terminated as provided herein. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0349 Public Works**

Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder - Department of Public Works, 23ITB137397A-KM, Sewer System Cleaning and Manhole Camera Inspection Services in an amount not to exceed \$550,000.00 with Woolpert, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide sewer system cleaning and manhole camera inspection services. Effective upon BOC approval through December 31, 2023 with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0350 Community Development**

Request approval of the 2023 Community Services Program (CSP) Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$6,863,958.00 to the non-profits identified in Attachment "A". CSP funding will support the delivery of essential community services to Fulton County residents in the areas of: Children and Youth Services; Disabilities; Economic Stability/Poverty; Health and Wellness, Homelessness; and Senior Services. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0351 Community Development**

Request approval of the 2023 Veterans Services Program (VSP) Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to the non-profits identified in Attachment "A". VSP funding to these non-profits will support the delivery of essential community services to Fulton County Veterans in the areas of Health and Wellness, and Homeless and Housing. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0352 Community Development**

Request approval of the 2023 Summer Youth Job Training Program (SYJTP) Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$500,000.00 to the non-profits identified in Attachment "A". SYJTP funding to these non-profits will provide Fulton County teens with the opportunity to gain work experience, develop interpersonal skills, and learn and explore career interests while earning income during the summer. Effective Upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0353 Community Development**

Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and Wellspring Living in the amount of \$500,000.00 in American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds for construction purposes to support Wellspring Living's expansion and utilization of a multi-discipline service model covering the full spectrum of needs for victims of sexual exploitation; and to authorize the Chairman to disburse funds and execute and administer contracts, and other related documents consistent with any necessary agreement in support of this funding allotment. **(APPROVED)**

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

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

**Absent:** Arrington

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**Justice and Safety****23-0354 Solicitor General**

Request approval of a Resolution for the Office of the Solicitor General to retain any program fees collected in the administration of the Solicitor's Pretrial Intervention and Diversion Program and to establish that the Solicitor's budget is not reduced by any program fees collected pursuant to said program, and for related purposes. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve contingent upon the external auditors' GASB standards affirmation. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

b. A substitute motion was made by Chairman Pitts and seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, to hold. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** Thorne

**Absent:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis, Barrett, and Hall

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****23-0320 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners adopting desired aspirational ~~goals and~~ standards for criminal cases handled within the Fulton County Justice System; urging all elected and appointed officials serving in a Fulton justice capacity to focus their efforts towards meeting these standards; and for other purposes. **(Ellis) (HELD ON 5/3/23) (APPROVED)**

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

Commission Hall withdrew the motion

Commissioner Abdur-Rahman withdrew the second

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

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

**Nay:** Barrett, and Hall

**Absent:** Arrington

**Commissioners' Full Board Appointments****23-0355****Board of Commissioners**

HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF FULTON COUNTY (NORTHSIDE) (REF: #23-0254)  
**(APPROVED)**

Term = 4 years

Term below expires: 4/1/2024

Dr. Thomas W. Gable **(BOC Position #2) (Deceased)**

**Vice-Chairman Ellis nominated the following slate to be submitted for appointment of one individual to The Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County (Northside), to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Thomas Gable:**

**Kenneth Kupke, M.D.**

**Marc Soneshine, M.D.**

**Jennifer Amerson, M.D.**

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

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Nay:** Pitts

**Absent:** Arrington

**23-0356 Board of Commissioners****BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

The board shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be an elector and resident of Fulton County, who shall be appointed in the following manner:

(1) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the last preceding regular general election held for the election of all members of the General Assembly received the largest number of votes in this state for members of the General Assembly;

(2) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party whose candidates at the election described in paragraph (1) of this section received the second largest number of such votes; and,

~~(3) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the Fulton County legislative delegation in the General Assembly, which member shall be designated permanent chairperson of the board. The Fulton County legislative delegation shall be composed of all senators and representatives in the General Assembly whose districts are wholly or partially in Fulton County.~~

**(3) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County, which member shall be designated permanent chairperson of the board.**

Term = 2 Years

Terms below expire: 6/30/2023

Cathy Woolard (**Chair/BOC/Pitts**)

Dr. Kathleen Ruth (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

Mark Wingate (**Fulton County Republican Party/BOC**)

Aaron Johnson (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)

Teresa K. Smith Crawford (**Fulton County Democratic Party/BOC**)

**Chairman Pitts nominated ~~Lee Morris~~ Patrise Perkins Hooker to serve as Chair replacing Cathy Woolard for a Full Board appointment effective July 1, 2023, to a term ending June 30, 2025.**

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Barrett, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

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

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****23-0357 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Chief Tax Appraiser Update regarding 2023 Assessments (**Ellis**)  
**(PRESENTED)**



**EXECUTIVE SESSION****23-0358 Board of Commissioners**

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

**PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL:** Chairman Pitts, Vice-Chairman Ellis, Commissioners: Thorne, Barrett, Hall, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; Sheriff Pat Labat; Chief Counsel to the Sheriff Amelia Joiner; Deputy Chief Operating Officer Alton Adams; Chief Financial Officer Sharon Whitmore; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier.

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

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, and Hall

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

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

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Hall

**Absent:** Arrington

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

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the request for authorization for the Chairman to execute a termination of an IGA Lease Agreement with the Atlanta-Fulton County Recreation Authority after same is approved as to form by the County Attorney, with the notation that this IGA previously terminated by operation of law, but a formal termination is being provided at this time for the purpose of clearing the title record as discussed in item #3 during Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Hall, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Arrington

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
RECESS MEETING  
MAY 17, 2023  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, good morning, everyone and welcome to the May 17th meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Today is May 17th, 2023. It is exactly 10:02 a.m. Madam Clerk, please call the roll for purposes of a quorum."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

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

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

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner 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. 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:** "Thank you. All right. Continue, Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **23-0324**, 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 Recess Meeting Agenda for separate consideration."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any items on the Consent Agenda, Madam Clerk? Commissioners, anything on the Consent Agenda?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. All right. Just a minute. Just a minute. All right. All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Please vote; this is on the consent Agenda. Please vote."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5, Recess Meeting Agenda, **23-0333**: Adoption of the Recess Meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have revisions to today's Recess Meeting Agenda. First revision on page 5, 23-0035: Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. We have an item revised to include a proclamation recognizing 'Olga Shumate Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. On page 11, 23-0356, Board of Registration and Elections. This item is revised to amend the membership description on the printed agenda to reflect the legislative amendments made in 2019. The Fulton Delegation does not play a role in the nomination process. Also, Chairman Pitts has requested to substitute the nomination of Lee Morris to serve as Chair of the Board of Registration and Elections to Patrise Perkins-Hooker to replace Cathy Woolard for a Full Board appointment."

**(Chairman Pitts sounds the gavel).**

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended -- motion to approve by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett on the agenda. You want to be heard?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes. Mr. Chair. Okay, well, you didn't say anything. On this revised Recess Meeting Agenda, it says 23-0356 that it is being revised to delete this language. Can somebody explain because it's the first that I'm seeing it. 23-0356 is the

item where it says, Chairman Pitts has nominated Lee Morris to serve as Chair replacing Cathy Woolard for a Full Board appointment effective July 1st 2023 to a term ending June 30th 2025. And then on this last-minute revision it says that we are voting to delete the line that's No. 3 that says one member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County from nominations made by the Fulton County Legislative Delegation and the General Assembly which member shall be designated permanent chairperson of the Board. The Fulton County Legislative Delegation shall be composed of all Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly whose districts are wholly or partially in Fulton County. And it's showing that that is being deleted."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Commissioner Hall, if I may, I can speak to that."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "That language was pulled by our Clerk to the Commission from the place where it should; from our ordinance. And the language was correctly taken from our ordinance to include reference to the Legislative Delegation. However, unbeknownst to our Clerk, our General Assembly passed a revision to the code section that that is based on -- the law that that's based on and it deleted the reference to the Legislative Delegation such that it just reads that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners shall select that person in subsection three. So we alerted -- we alerted the Clerk to update the language so that it would match the law, and we will be working with her to update our Fulton County Code to match what the current state of the law is. We'll also be working with her office to review all of the Board appointment ordinances to make sure that they're up-to-date with the current laws."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioner Thorne, you want to heard?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, you know, I got a lot of e-mails, you know, this is a drastic change, I do know Patrise Hooker. But I think the public should have an opportunity to vet her for this important position. I got tons of e-mails saying give the public more time. Give the public more time. We have no time; this is the first we've heard about this switch in the appointment. I would think it would -- to be fair to the public that we postpone, so that the public has time to -- I can't agree with making this change in the agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I understand. Thank you for your comments. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. And to my colleague to the right of me, I do understand your concerns. They are valid concerns. However, given what we have and what we're against, Patrise Perkins-Hooker not only served in several capacities with the State Bar of Georgia. She also served Fulton County for

several years. And so, even though you may not have vetted her, the community has vetted her. And so, I would say to please -- I would say, please trust the community. Please trust our Chair. And please trust that the process is democratic all the way across the board and it does work."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioner, let's -- this item is on the agenda; we have plenty of time to talk about the pros and cons."

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

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

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This is on adopting the agenda."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0334**, Ratification of Minutes, Recess Meeting Minutes, April 19th. Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, May 3rd 2023."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0335**: Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. The first proclamation is recognizing 'Public Works Week' sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, it is 10:12; we have 30 minutes for proclamations. Actually, 10:13. And for those who are receiving proclamations, in your acceptance remarks -- given the number that we have -- if you would keep your acceptance speeches to one minute, it would be greatly appreciated."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. I know our public works folks are definitely efficient, so we're going to be efficient and get through their proclamation as well. But as they're walking down here, I do want to say a big thank you to all of them who stepped up at all times, all hours, 24/7 availability; and for the work -- for the dirty work that you do for all of our citizens. So with that, while you all get situated, I'll start the

proclamation. WHEREAS, National Public Works Week is a weeklong reminder of the many ways that Fulton County Department of Public Works provides the basic foundation of our day-to-day comfort including roadways, traffic control, sidewalks, airport, water, sanitary sewer, and storm water management; and WHEREAS, this year's theme 'Connecting the World Through Public Works' recognizes that there would be no community without the quality of life public works provide; and spotlights the responsiveness and key roles all employee play in the planning, building, and maintenance of infrastructure projects and services collectively known as public works; and WHEREAS, Fulton County's Department of Public Works maintain sanitary sewer and water distribution systems; provide stormwater management services; provides water pollution/prevention education to residents, businesses, schools and communities; maintains roads and traffic signals, and performs the maintenance of all access roads, runways, ramps, hangers and parking lots at the Fulton County Airport Brownfield facility; and WHEREAS, public works provides critical response capabilities experience and support for a 24-hour day/365 days a year and is committed to delivering great services to our community; and WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works is considered one of the most premiere agencies in the State of Georgia and have dedicated staff and facilities that are consistently award-winning. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Full Board of Commissioners of Fulton County recognizes and commends the Department of Public Works for their continued dedication and public service to the Fulton County citizens; and does hereby proclaim the week of May 21st through 27th 2023 as 'Public Works Week' in Fulton County, Georgia."

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you, Commissioners. My name is David Clark; I'm the director of public works for Fulton County here. And I'm certainly very, very honored to be working alongside so many dedicated individuals that we have in public works who always say that if we do our job properly, you don't even know that we exist; and we certainly try to do that on a day-in and day-out basis with the infrastructure that we are charged in maintaining and ensuring that it delivers what it's supposed to, to the public. So on behalf of public works, appreciate the proclamation and the recognition for Public Works Week next week, but we always know that every day is public works day and week for what we do. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Fulton County Certified Public Managers Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Come on down CPM. Oh, gosh, CPM times two. Yes. Hello how you doing. Hello? All, good morning. Hello. Hello. All right. Is that everyone? All right. Well, you know, this is a certification program that is near and dear my heart because our Chief Human Resources Officer, Kenneth Hermon, and our County Manager, Dick Anderson, got together and figured out a way to provide the certified public managers certification in Fulton County. And I was actually one of the employees coming out of the late Fulton County Commissioner, Joan P. Garner's office; I was her Chief of Staff at the time, and we discussed it, and she said you must do this,

being my Chief of Staff, you know, and being a part of this program will speak volumes. Well, I had no idea at the time, what it would actually do because while I was in the CPM class, my late boss passed away from cancer; and Kenneth worked with me and he said, you're still going to graduate. We're still going to have you in this program and on the other side of that, I became Commissioner. I ran for my late boss' seat and won in the Special Election in 2017 and became the first Fulton County Commissioner with the certified public manager's certification, so I love this program. I will always support this program, and I see we have a little CPM on the way. And so, it is an honor to present you with this proclamation, and the proclamation reads: WHEREAS, Fulton County government entered into a memorandum of agreement with the University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute of Government to offer the certified public manager program to managers and supervisors within Fulton County; and WHEREAS, the University of Georgia is the only organization within the State of Georgia authorized by the National CPM Consortium to offer the CPM program; and Fulton County CPM class of 2023 is the seventh class in Fulton County to receive the CPM certification; and WHEREAS, the CPM Class Cohort-M with an unwavering commitment to the well-being of most vulnerable children among us in partnership with Jambo's, a 501C3 organization based in Atlanta, Georgia, embarked on a mission to provide pajamas to foster children and donated approximately 400 pairs of pajamas recognizing that something so simple as pajamas would make a world of difference to the children; and WHEREAS, the CPM class Cohort-N conducted a donation drive for the baby pantry of Atlanta Georgia in support of their mission of ending poverty; and contributing to the health and success of the children in our communities donated over 100 various sized boxes and bags of items from their wish list to serve families with newborn babies marking this as the largest donation drive ever seen for the baby pantry; and WHEREAS, the CPM class has completed 300 hours of coursework in nine months dedicating three full consecutive days per month to attending classes, completing out-of-class homework and academic studies; and giving back to the community of their time, talents, and intellectual capital. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners congratulates the CPM Class of 2023 for successfully completing the requirements to receive their professional certifications as certified public managers; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday May 17th 2023 as 'Fulton County Certified Public Managers Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations. Congratulations."

**KENNETH HERMON, FC CHIEF HR OFFICER:** "Good morning, everyone. My name is Kenneth L. Hermon, Jr., and could you imagine if I didn't help -- well, Commissioner Hall graduate from the CPM program where we would have been today? How much trouble would I have been in? That's why you always do good favors as even though you don't know what the future may hold. But I just want to say, you know, congratulations to the graduates of this cohort. This is the seventh graduating class and we're up to about 340 graduates of right now that have gone through the program. And I wanted to go the statistics that we have from this program. It's outside of what we've been able to do in the community is that this graduating class and of the 340 individuals that have gone through the program, we still have a 90-percent retention rate to keeping



those individuals as employees. So that's a great accomplishment. But again, while we've accomplished that, it couldn't be done without the participation of the Board of Commissioners for making sure that we have the resources to continue the program; the department heads for allowing the employees to be gone for three days a week, of course, the leadership within Fulton County to buy into the idea of, you know, developing our employees for the next phase of their potential careers; and, more importantly, our partnership with UGA. I mean, we pushed the UGA team, Walt and Marcy as far as they potentially could be pushed, but I think they've done a great job in meeting our expectations. And then, of course for me specifically, the HR team and employee development and coordinating this program; and we'll hear a few words from the two presidents, and I'd like to invite the one who is a president of my day-to-day of in HR, Telka [Phonetic.] Christian who is my executive assistant."

**TELKA CHRISTIAN, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning, everyone. I am very pleased to represent 23 of the most amazing professionals in Cohort-M of the CPM program. It is with great honor and immense gratitude that I stand before you today to represent these amazing folks and to express our deepest appreciation for the great recognition bestowed upon the entire newest class. Thank you to the Board of Commissioners. Your thoughtful presentation of this proclamation highlights the tireless efforts and unwavering commitment we have to -- we have dedicated to public service. The coursework was tiresome being, you know -- being made to balance your work at Fulton County, and the coursework was something that I never thought that I could get through honestly. But we want to thank, of course, my boss, Kenneth Hermon, County Manager Dick Anderson, and the Board of Commissioners for believing in us, pushing us, approving this program and investing in the employees of Fulton County. Thank you."

**AMISA FOSTER LANCEY, RECIPIENT:** "Good morning. Thank you, Commissioners. I'm Amisa Foster Laney, I'm the Chief Deputy Clerk of Records Management for Fulton County Clerk of Superior Magistrate Courts, and I have the honor of representing Cohort-N. We started as strangers and all work for Fulton County. As we began working service projects in identifying a leadership style, we became friends. Now that almost a year has passed by, we discovered that we have a network that resembles a family. The instructors were knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects and their enthusiasm was contagious. CPM has provided opportunities for personal growth and development. We discovered that there are different types of leadership skills that we were not aware of and, in that discovery, we learned about ourselves and ways to become a better leader. We want to thank Fulton County Government, Commissioners, our elected officials, and our department heads for allowing us to have this amazing opportunity. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. All right, Commissioners, Commissioners, we've got five more proclamations; you've got 17 minutes left."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Deputy Clarence Houston Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**(Chairman Pitts sounds gavel.)**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next proclamation."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Spread out. All right, Clarence. Do they need to scoot in? We might have to do two rows. Okay, guys, get close like you know each other. No, we need you on both sides, though. Yes, come on in a little closer, closer. If you watch them, they'll tell you who needs to move in more. Look up the middle of the stairs, they'll tell you who needs to move in a little bit more. Okay, ladies, come to the front. All right. Do we have it? Great. All right. Well, Clarence Houston, you showed tremendous courage and determination in the face of danger and that is truly a testimony to the type of employees that are in the Sheriff's Department. And we wanted to honor you today with this proclamation. So it's my honor to present this to you and it reads: WHEREAS, on September 5th, 2022, Fulton County Sheriff's Deputy Clarence Houston was violently attacked by an inmate at the Fulton County Jail, and sustained a serious neck injury while carrying out his duties; and WHEREAS, Deputy Houston showed incredible courage and determination in the face of danger and despite being seriously injured, continued to provide assistance to his fellow officers; and WHEREAS, Deputy Houston's dedication to his duties and colleagues serves as a model for all members of law enforcement and for the community at large; and WHEREAS, Deputy Houston selflessness and commitment to service are a testament to the values of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office and the law enforcement profession; and WHEREAS, all citizens of Fulton County are called upon to join us in honoring and thanking Deputy Houston for his service; and in supporting the men and women of the Fulton County Sheriff's office who put themselves in harm's way everyday to keep our communities safe and secure. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Deputy Clarence Houston for his outstanding service, bravery, and heroism; and extend our sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for his selfless sacrifice and unwavering commitment to duty; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 17th 2023, as 'Deputy Clarence Houston Appreciation Day in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations and thank you so much."

**DEPUTY CLARENCE HOUSTON, RECIPIENT:** "I won't be before you long, but I just want to take this time out to thank the Sheriff and all of my Fulton County family for all your thoughts, your prayers, your text, your phone calls. It's been a long road, but here we are. I really appreciate the recognition. Thank you so much."

**PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "So I know how humble Houston is. I want you all to understand the magnitude. First let me start in good and proper order and thank Commissioner Hall and all of our Commissioners, and our graduate order to move toward Commissioner Khadijah because on yesterday, we celebrated those that have fallen in the line of duty. So we had eight individuals, and we were right in the atrium where we had one or two family members join us. But this is the difficult portion of what we do when we put on a uniform and put on a badge and go towards danger. And in

this circumstance and Clarence Houston is being extremely humble, his carotid artery was missed by inches, or he'd been on that board yesterday, but for the grace of God. So with that, I want to tell all of our Commissioners thank you. Thank you for your continued support and thank you for your bravery. Thank you for being a part of this team, because that's what makes Fulton County Sheriff's Office as special as it is. Thank you all."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Center for Excellence Capstone Student Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right, Fulton County IT. Do it, Capstone come on down. Good to see you. Good morning. You have anyone else from Capstone here; from IT? Chad, Emaceo, anybody? Chad's working. IT? Oh, they're working, okay. Well, this is an outstanding program that helps us to feed into our graduates and undergraduate students. And it has been a great success so it is -- and I've always supported it and attended the ceremony where you kind of graduate them out of the program. And so, it is an honor to present this proclamation. WHEREAS, Fulton County Information Technology Department has prioritize the availability of talent to sustain delivery of IT services; and WHEREAS, the Fulton County IT Department has made recruitment of local talent a component of fulfilling the mission of providing excellence in IT delivery; and WHEREAS, in 2018, FCIT established the center of excellence internship and Capstone program to support Fulton County and give graduate and undergraduate students at Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Atlanta Technical College, and Georgia Institute of Technology an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with Fulton County's IT Department and various Fulton County departments acquire new skills, earn a semester grade, and receive job offers prior to graduation; and WHEREAS, since the inception of the center of excellent Capstone program, it has grown and has approximately 300 Capstone students completing over 150 county-wide projects for a savings of an estimated \$1 million to date. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County congratulates the interns from the Center of Excellence Capstone Student Program for successfully completing the requirements of the Fulton County Information Technology Enterprise Project management office, Center of Excellence Capstone Program; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 17th, 2023 as 'Center of Excellence Capstone Student Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Congratulations to you and your team and the students who have graduated through this program. Thank you."

**KEVIN KERRIGAN, CIO, FC IT:** "Good morning. My name is Kevin Kerrigan, the CIO here in Fulton County. It's an honor to receive this proclamation for our team. We would like to thank Pamela Threets who has driven the program this semester, a very large cohort that graduated over 300 students from this program, and I'm just happy to carry the battalion forward and keep it going, expand it. It really is a pipeline to feed young talent into government, to expose them to the opportunities that exist to serve ours citizens, and give back to the community, and I'm humbled to be a part of this program. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Public Safety Memorial Day' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Can I get all of law enforcement to the stage -- well, to the front, please. I guess in some ideals it would be stages. But can I get all law-enforcement, please; all law enforcement. And Sheriff, Chief -- I see you coming. And if we have any operational law enforcement, I don't mean just the ones in the badge, but if we have any operational in the room, I want you up here as well. I know the meter is running. This proclamation states: WHEREAS, public safety personnel dedicate their careers and their very lives to maintaining the safety of the communities they serve with some paying the ultimate sacrifice, and we all know that true freedom is never truly free. WHEREAS, Fulton County citizens are protected by hundreds of dedicated men and women including those serving the Fulton County Sheriff's office, Marshall's office, Police Department, and Fire Rescue departments; and WHEREAS, Fulton County public safety personnel who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to citizens includes Sheriffs Deputies Thomas W. Camp, J.E. Jenkins, Ricky Leon Kitchen, Henry Eugene Privette, Hort Keith Teasley, Robert Willard Watson, Etta J. Webb, Verna J. Yarbrough, Deputy Marshal David Larry Folz, Police Officers Aaron Javon Blunt, David Leslie Hagan, James Marion Carroll, Christopher Biker May, Terrence Avery Green, Deputy Marshal -- excuse me -- and Fire Fighters Harold Gregory "Hoot" Gibson, Michael Gurley, Felix Roberts, and Jimmy C. Walker; and WHEREAS, Fulton County pays tribute to its fallen public safety personnel and their families every day through a permanent memorial at Wolf Creek, and a virtual tribute through the Fulton County Fallen Heroes Facebook page; and WHEREAS, May 15th is observed nationally as National Peace Officers Memorial Day, a day to pay tribute to public safety personnel and their families for the service to the communities they serve. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County pledges to never forget the sacrifices of public safety personnel who have paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of Fulton County citizens and will continue to say their names in remembrance of their ultimate sacrifice; and does hereby proclaim Monday May 15th 2023 as Public Safety Memorial Day in Fulton County, Georgia. Would you please put your hands together for those that served. I turn it over to you, Sheriff. Chief, you better do what I say; you better come on over here. I know you taller than me."

**CHIEF YATES, FULTON COUNTY POLICE:** "Well, I didn't realize that I was speaking this morning; but this is a very important thing to realize that these officers that are beside me come into work every day and have no idea what's going to happen. Have no idea that if they're going to make it home, and we've all worked the streets before and remember feeling that; and being on calls where you weren't sure that you were going home to see your wife or to see your children, or your husband or whatever, and that's a huge sacrifice, and it's a huge toll on these folks every single day. So, please put your hands together and thank them that they (audience applause.) -- thank you. Thank them for the courage that they have every day to come to work. Thank you very much."

**PATRICK LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Well, I didn't know I was going to speak either. But listen, I think, Chief encapsulated the meaning and the heart behind what happens when you put this uniform on. And a lot of times we forget about the families. We forget that there are loved ones at home, kids at home, that are waiting on that garage door to go up; waiting on that front door to open; waiting on that Ring chime to go off to see if mommy and daddy come in. So these heroes and sheroes that work every day tirelessly to make sure that they provide the services, again running towards danger when most of us are running in the opposite direction. So again, thank you, Commissioner Khadijah, for always having our spine, not just our back; and Commissioner Hall and the rest of the Commissioners who understand the value of what this looks like. So again thank you to them, right? Chief and I have the easy job at this point, right? Not after 30 years, but we have the easy job because they don the badges, they don the uniforms, and they go towards trouble. So thank you all. Thank you for your serving."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next proclamation is recognizing 'Vendorship Inc. Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Dr. Nazeera Dawood? Is she here? This proclamation is not only to recognize Dr. Nazeera Dawood, but also to let the community know that we support inclusivity and diversity in Fulton County. This proclamation: WHEREAS, after a rewarding career as a medical doctor, Dr. Nazeera Dawood has founded and manages along with a team of passionate minority women the company, Vendorship, Incorporated; and WHEREAS, Vendorship, Incorporated is in its six year of operation and is headquartered in Fulton County with a mission to help level the playing field in the government contracting process, and provide more equitable access to help identify and secure contracts for marginalized businesses; and WHEREAS, the Vendorship philosophy has little to do with business and individual contractor profit as much as it does with service and advancing the capacity of communities and constituencies. The team is motivated to help governments solve problems and innovate quality-of-life enhancements in the delivery of public services; and WHEREAS, Vendorship, Inc. is a full-service government contracting partner, and they all work with companies larger and small, new and well established, to build and condense capacity to get the attention of governments, and build contractual relationships with governments over time to solve problems and even raise more interest in specific lanes of social and structural innovation; and WHEREAS, Vendorship's cores values are diligence, dependability, and determination. And with a strong vision and confidence in their clients, they all believe that anyone can reach imagine to heights. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Vendorship, Inc. for their innovative and groundbreaking work; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 17th 2023 as 'Vendorship, Incorporated Appreciation Day' in Fulton County, Georgia. Can you please put your hands together, thank you."



**DR. NAZEERA DAWOOD, RECIPIENT:** "Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the Commissioners of Fulton County and their management team for their invaluable support. I want to thank and extend a special note of gratitude to Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman for her outstanding leadership and in creating small businesses including ours. My tenure at the Fulton County Health Department and the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners' office was nothing short of excellence. During my time here, I had the honor of collaborating with many brilliant individuals who shared a deep passion for positivity impacting the lives of those we serve. Undoubtedly, every job presents its obstacles. However, I have confidently attest that the county administration furnish me with the necessary resources to triumph over (unintelligible.) these challenges. As we saw today, I also graduated a few years ago from the Fulton County Supervising Manager Development Program, which proved to be instrumental in defining my professional aptitude and expertise. Through this program, I gained invaluable insights and hands-on experience that honed my skills enabling me to become a more effective and a proficient member of the workforce. As I parted my ways with Fulton County employment in August of 2017, I was uncertain about my future. I began my journey from the comfort of my couch, unsure about my next steps and without a steady income. Yet despite the doubts and uncertainties that loomed over me, my father's words of encouragement always resonated. Any work that we take with commitment and careful possibility, new ways of thinking and seeing for others, thus create history. Success awaits those who are not afraid to fail -- who are not afraid to try and possibly fail. Yet of those who share determination (unintelligible.) was established in January of 2018. Vendorship's Mission is to facilitate high-quality private partnerships between county, state, city and federal government. Fast forward five years. We are pleased to report that Vendorship has a global presence and has extended -- expanded to a 5 million-dollar revenue since our new business. We have assisted small to mid-size businesses; procure more than 30 million-dollar government contracts, and helped them with their revenue stream. Our team is a diverse group of individuals and professionals who are very committed and have an unwavering commitment to exceptional service. Quickly, thank you, Commissioner, thank you, Monique, Thank you, Mother Charity, Thank (unintelligible.). Thank you, Darrell, for being a part of our team and thank you Mother Perry, and those who could not be here as well with us. Across the nation, procurement officials are repeatedly voicing their desire for more diverse and qualified small businesses and innovators to submit quality contracts and vendor proposals. At Vendorship, Inc. we understand the importance of this sentiment. And we take great care in assisting businesses with the qualification to support governments in developing the highest possible quality of life for their constituents. As we express our gratitude for this recognition, we urge officials who are within the sound of our voice to reach out to us and learn more about how our team can support them in achieving their goals. Thank you again, Commissioner, and thank you, Commissioners."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The last proclamation is recognizing 'Olga Shumate Appreciation Day' sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Come on, Olga. Now, is everybody who's a part of Fulton Fresh and Extension Office down here? Okay, we want to make sure everybody's here. Thank you. Now, how does one firecracker celebrate another firecracker? This proclamation: WHEREAS, although Olga Shumate is an expanded food and nutrition education program assistant with the University of Georgia and Fulton County Expansion; and WHEREAS, Olga has dedicated 15 years of service to the University of Georgia, and 13 years of service to Fulton County Extension; and WHEREAS, Olga has enhanced the lives of Fulton County citizens by providing nutrition, education, and participating in numerous outreach events like the Fulton Fresh Mobile Market and formal educational programs; and WHEREAS, Olga has been recognized for her outstanding work with many certifications and commendations including the preservice award certificate of achievement, ServSafe Food Handler training certificate for the most graduates for the expanded food and nutrition sessions in 2020; and she has been recognized annually for having the highest number of graduates in Georgia for the EFNEP program; and WHEREAS, Olga was instrumental in the first Fulton Fresh Kids Camp at Camp Truitt in 2022, and has introduced her famous harvest muffins to different activities around the county alongside her favorite Commissioner Khadijah -- I'm going to get in trouble with that one. But seriously though, Olga has served Fulton County. She has served the citizens. Many a nights, Olga will put up a batch of two to 300 muffins that she makes to give out to the community. And so, it is with great pride that NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and all those associated with the Fulton County Extension, congratulates Olga Shumate on her retirement -- not! Well, we'll talk about that later -- and recognizes her impact on the communities of Fulton County and for her dedicated years of service; and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 17th 2023 as 'Olga Shumate Appreciation Day' in Fulton County. Can you please put your hands together for this wonderful wonderful woman."

**OLGA SHUMATE, RECIPIENT:** "Oh, be nice? Like she said, from one firecracker to another firecracker, I do have to respect the other Commissioners. I do appreciate it, and I didn't know I was getting it until a couple months ago, she did surprise me. And, yes, I will be making muffins for next month. I already heard about it. So, but it's been a pleasure even as another county, I am a Rockdale County's -- Rockdale County citizen and I serve more pride to be serving Fulton County, and especially as my last day of Extension is tomorrow, I will miss them and everything, but I appreciate everything from the Commissioners and Commissioner for this appreciation day. Thank you."

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioners, it's right at 11:00. All right, Madam Clerk. So we have two items that we need to -- one is the annual TAN- Tax Anticipation Note that's time sensitive, so without objection, I'd like to take that now. Madam CFO, you ready? This is the TAN- Tax Anticipation Note."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This morning, the finance department received the bids for our annual Tax Anticipation Note. The lowest bid received was from J.P. Morgan Securities, LLC at an interest rate of 3.195244. Hakeem is passing out the Resolution with all of the blanks filled in. So at this time --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sound it."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, **23-0340**, Finance: Request approval to accept a bid of \$200 million Tax Anticipation Notes for the 2023 approval of a Resolution which authorizes issuance and sale of the 200 million general fund Tax Anticipation Note for Fulton County, Georgia."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Ellis, you have the floor -- Vice Chair Ellis."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Just a point of reference so we have it. What's the -- what do we -- what was the rate last year?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "1.040."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "1.040?"

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "Yes, Commissioner."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So this is -- it's a rate of five, but the net is -- you said three-point -- what's the number now?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Three point -- it rounds to 3.195."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "3.195."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion on the floor is to approve. Cast your vote, please."

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

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next item -- well, before we get to the next item, on page 11, item number 23-0356, this is the Board of Registration and Elections issue. I'm told that there are a number of people who may want to address this. It's at the end of the agenda, so if there's no objections, we'll move that up and take that -- that next. And before we get any objections to moving that up?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Before we get to that issue, I'm going to read this into the public record. This is an e-mail that I received right before the meeting today. Robb -- this is dated May 16, 2023. Robb, I have been reflecting on the controversy surrounding your nomination of me for the soon-to-be vacant chair of the Board of Registration and Elections, BRE. You know that I have always tried to avoid the hyper partisanship that has been so destructive in our country and state. I thought that the kind of nonpartisanship I would bring to the BRE would be productive; however, I understand the belief of so many of my Democratic friends that a democratic county ought to have a Democratic majority on this BRE. (Applause) (Chairman Pitts sounds gavel.). Otherwise, the optics, as they say, aren't good. It is clear that my nomination has become divisive and that my service would continue to be divisive, which is the last thing I want for our county. Thus, I am requesting that you withdraw my nomination. Your support and belief in me means the world to me personally and professionally. I will continue to be honored by your confidence and that of my former colleagues who believed I would serve in that role fairly and in a nonpartisan way. May God continue to bless your work in Fulton County, Lee." (Applause.)

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Are you saying you want to move this in before public comment? Is that what you're suggesting from the agenda perspective?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We can move up; it's last. We can do it after public comment."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I think the public should be given the opportunity to speak --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- that's what I said."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- so that's fine. I just wanted to confirm."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 6, Public Hearings: **23-0336**, 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 by submitting their comments in writing online by registering on the County website

www.fultoncountyga.gov. Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 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 speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received 66 speaker cards. First five speakers, please come down; Representative Saira Draper, Councilmember Antonio Lewis, Patty Nathan, Tricia Gephardt, and Daniel Jackman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, now speakers, as always, when you have 15 seconds remaining in your two minutes, I'll simply say 15 seconds; that's your clue to conclude your remarks. Also, if someone has made the point that you want to make, don't feel that it's necessary to keep repeating the same thing. So we'd appreciate it -- we have 30 minutes for public comment. If you do the math 60 times two, that's two hours. We have 30 minutes. I would really appreciate your understanding. Thank you, ma'am."

**REPRESENTATIVE SAIRA DRAPER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you to the Commissioners. I'm Representative Saira Draper from House District 90 in DeKalb County; but I'm going to be waiving my time."

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

**PATTY NATHAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I'm Patty Nathan. I'm a Fulton County resident and have lived in Sandy Springs for almost 40 years. I attended monthly BRE meetings in person for two years before the pandemic then virtually since March 2020. During that time, I observed firsthand each Chair of the Board advocate for fair and free elections. They consistently work to make voting equally accessible from the northern part of the county to the southern part of the county. I've also witnessed challenges to voter roles that we're particularly frivolous, mostly coming from Republicans. We have seen voter suppression at the federal level and state level, all coming from Republicans. We need a chair who will buck the trend established by the Republicans. We need a person who will embrace free -- fair and free elections. Thank you, Chairman Pitts, for taking the safe and secure route and appointing Patrise Hooker-Perkins to lead the Board of Registrations and Elections. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Come on, let's go. Next Speaker."

**TRICIA GEPHARDT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, my name is Tricia Gephardt, and I live in District 3. I voted against Lee Morris, and so I appreciate the fact that he has withdrawn his appointment nomination to this board. I do wonder why Chairman Pitts, you did even bring his name forward, so I'm curious about that. As he said, we should be represented by a Democratic representative in our county. And so, I'm just wondering if,

you know, why we -- a lot of people are here today because we believed in that. And so, I'm curious as to why we've even got to this point. I do support Patrise Perkins-Hooker for this role and I'm glad that she's stepping up. I appreciate her commitment to diversity over her career. I appreciate that she was president of the State Bar in 2015 for Georgia, and that she has done wonderful service for our state. I am grateful that Lee Morris has withdrawn. I'm in support of Patrise Hooker, but I really think that we need to make sure that democracy doesn't die in the darkness. All these people are here today to make sure that doesn't happen, and we need to keep monitoring this board. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Ian Hanson, Lauren Waits, Lawrie Demorest, Corwin Monson, and David Thrash."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just because you signed up, if what you were going to say has already been stated, in the interest of time, we appreciate -- yes, sir, you have the floor."

**DANIEL JACKMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Daniel Jackman, and I'm a resident of Fulton County Commission District 4. Hello, Commissioner Hall. Thank you for your good work. I want to thank the Board of Commissioners and Chairman Pitts especially for your previous and ongoing support of elections in Fulton County. And I ask that the Commission vote to appoint Patrise Perkins-Hooker as Chair of the Board of Elections. The Board of Elections, the BRE, is the body responsible for ensuring continued success of elections in the county. They make crucial decisions regarding election administration. For example, the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections approved early voting scheduled that makes voting available for seven days a week with hours on most days from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. This was and is necessary for my family and my neighbors to cast their vote. The 2024 election year will be a significant year in Georgia and especially here in Fulton County. So we need a Board Chair that is someone who is an inclusive forward thinking leader like Ms. Perkins-Hooker; a chair who is supportive of our election workers, someone willing to take a stand to maintain and expand access for voting. So again, I just want to ask the Commission to vote to appoint Patrise Perkins-Hooker as Chairman. Thank you so much."

**LAUREN WAITS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Lauren Waits. I'm a resident of Morningside proud District 3. I appreciate and I'm here to endorse the nomination of Patrise Perkins-Hooker; however, I really want to express my concern about the disarray among the majority party on the Board of Commissioners. I don't understand why it took all of these people coming out to have to convey to you the values that we hold dear for inclusiveness for asserting that voters should have access to the polls, access to ballot boxes, and a candidate who twice voted in support of limiting access to the vote was never acceptable in the first place. We will continue -- we have given -- I've given over 500 hours watching Board of Registration and Elections meetings, recruiting Democrats to serve on the panel; but I really want to underscore that this is actually not about party. I would not be for an ardent partisan candidate. I

believe in Patrise Perkins-Hooker because she has the demonstrated experience. But the fact that this ever was a question and the fact that the previous candidates' comments had to waste time this morning calls attention to the wrong things. We need to be talking about how to make sure that every voter Republican, Democrat, Independent has full and equal access to the ballot. So I thank you for your attention to that matter and hope we can continue to underscore those values going forward. Thank you so much."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers: Cristy Lenz, Sally Dorn, Ruth Wall, Jane Zoellick, and Aileen Nakamura."

**LAWRIE DEMOREST, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Morning, I'm Lawrie Demorest. I'm a Fulton County resident. I volunteer on a voter protection hotline. I have for the last couple of years. I've also been attending the Board of Elections meetings, so I've seen both from the calls to the hotline. And from the numerous voter challenges at the Board of Elections what the state legislature has done to voters in Georgia and has been restricting voter access. I'm appreciative of the fact, Commissioner -- Chair Pitts, that you have listened obviously to the voices of the people that have come in over the last several days expressing their concern and that you have withdrawn the nomination and nominated Patrise Perkins-Hooker who I fully support; I think she's terrific, and I'm very happy with that. But I am concerned, as other people are, that given the -- what feels like attacks on the Fulton County Board of Elections and Fulton County voter access that we've had to be defending against that have come from outside that it feels like an attack was coming from within here. So that's just how it feels as a voter and a resident of Fulton County, and I just wanted you to appreciate that. Thank you for changing your mind and listening to the people."

**CORWIN MONSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello my name is Corwin Monson. I live at 930 Hollow Mill Road, I guess it's the upper west side they call it these days. Me, being a Grady babe I still call it a (unintelligible.). Westside, okay? Now, ladies and gentlemen, today I stand before you -- I was coming to talk to you guys about this Republican takeover, but I see you came to your senses. But we have something else to talk about today. We're going to talk about the elephant in the room, okay? Today I stand before you to share something that has deeply affected me over the last five years. As some of you are aware, I have been a vocal critic of certain politicians and their policies. And because of this, I have been targeted, harassed by these individuals through frivolous stalking charges. Let me tell you, it's not a pleasant feeling to be accused of something you did not do. Being stalked is a serious issue that can cause immense mental and emotional trauma to the victim. Well, what's even worse is the accusation is when the accusation is baseless, just to play -- just to play, to silence someone who dares to speak out against the powers to be. I am deeply saddened by the fact that some politicians have stooped to such levels just to silence their critics. Such abuse of power is a violation of our rights as citizens, and it is an attack on our freedom of speech --"

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

**CORWIN MONSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I want to make it clear that I have never stalked anyone, let alone those in positions of power. But what I have did is sent to the Department of Justice evidence of collusion, conspiracy, bank fraud, RICO."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, thank you, sir."

**CORWIN MONSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Money laundering --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- thank you. Next speaker. Thank you, sir. Sir, sir, sir, thank you. Next speaker. Next speaker"

**CHRISTY LENZ, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I'll keep it quick. I support Patrice as I adamantly oppose Mr. Morris in the way this whole thing went down, but thank you, and thank you to Natalie Hall, we would have voted against it."

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

**RUTH WALL, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi. I'm Ruth Wall of Inman Park, and I've been knowing Robb Pitts for over 40 years. He's always done the right thing for us, and we are so glad you are doing the right thing today. Thank you very much."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers; Saya Abney, Rom Hairston, John Evans, Kevin Muldowney, and Matt Rowenzcak."

**JANE ZOELICK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi Jane Zoelick. I'm a resident of Fulton County, and I want to thank you for putting forth the nomination for Patrice Perkins-Hooker, and I support that nomination and thank all who helped influence the change in this matter. As you know, Republicans across the country, in Georgia and in Fulton County, have been consistently strategizing and working to reduce voter access. Now, they're apparently taking aim at the functionality of our election departments. Despite numerous court cases failing to prove appreciable malfeasance in Georgia or in Fulton County, well-coordinated election deniers have been frequent public commenters at our Board of Elections and Board of Commissioners meetings repeating the same tired false narrative. Some of them have added significant work for election staff by submitting numerous challenges to registered voters. Many of those challenges show a notable lack of understanding of the federal election law and of the state-mandated election process and its checks and balances, but they do fulfill the goal of taking up staff time and adding expense to elections. I deeply appreciate the nomination of a woman with deep legal experience and a proven track record of unbiased work on behalf of the citizens of Fulton County and the county itself. Thank you for supporting and enhancing voting rights and access."

**ALIEEN NAKAMURA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Aileen Nakamura, and I'm from Sandy Springs. While I am thrilled that Chairman Pitts has replaced Lee Morris' nomination with Patrise Hooker's, I am greatly opposed to the secretive and rush fashion in which this nomination processes is occurring. The reason that I'm speaking up against the nomination of a Republican to the Chair of the BRE in Fulton is that with 2024 looming, it is more urgent than ever to maintain Fulton BRE's Democratic majority, because it is clear that Democrats must act collectively to ensure the security of Georgia's elections in 2024. I'd like to remind this Board that in January of 2021, all of Georgia's elections software was stolen from Coffee County while our Republican Secretary of State, our majority Republican State Election Board and the Republican-controlled General Assembly has looked the other way. Voting system experts have called this the single worst elections system breach in our country's history. Worse still, Georgia election software for all 159 counties has now been out in the wild for over two years and has been copied by known election deniers and countless others making future Georgia elections easy to hack without detection. This breach only came to light due to litigation by the coalition for good governments against the Secretary of State's office. In a hearing earlier this month, the secretary's office admitted to the court that despite being aware of the statewide breach and despite knowing the Department of Homeland Security has verified and warned that Georgia's voting system have dangerous vulnerabilities which must be mitigated. The Secretary of State's office --"

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

**ALIEEN NAKAMURA, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- has no plans to make any mitigation's even partially until 2025. We cannot trust the Republican SOS, the Republican State Election Board, or the Republican General Assembly to ensure secure election in --"

**SAYA ABNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Saya Abney and I'm a Fulton voter from Sandy Springs. I was here to oppose the nomination of Lee Morris as the Chair of Fulton's BRE, but even so I still have some things to say. Fulton's BRE is a critical board. Fulton County has over 860,000 registered voters, which is more than 11 states. Fulton's elections will always be complex and expensive. Our Republican Secretary of State and State's Election Board have no plans to make any mitigation's to our compromise election system until 2025, despite the fact that they know of those compromises. Before last year's midterms, 13 cybersecurity and election experts warned both the State Election Board and the Secretary of State that Georgia's election software breach pose serious threats to our elections. But they stated this can easily be mitigated by switching to Georgia's establish emergency hand-marked paper ballot voting procedures, which is something a Board of Election can choose to do. The BRE chair is a position with unprecedented importance particularly at this time. So while I recognize and appreciate Ms. Hooker's service to the county, I would like to state my displeasure with the surprise nature of and rush vote on this nomination. Particularly, in times when controversies are so high like now, particularly as a transgender individual, this sneaking around and quick rush



processes are something that we should be above as a Democratic county and that we should working to preserve transparency and due process --"

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

**SAYA ABNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- for all of our constituents. Thank you."

**JOHN EVANS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "John Evans, Roswell Georgia. I came to commend the Chairman for supporting Lee Morris for the position as head of the BRE, but it appears it's been changed now, and I want to thank you for that brave move to change the tenor of the BRE. It's sad that citizens are having to do the work of the BRE to clean up the voter roles which is a federal law, and there's a number of them that have been -- have said it's not important, but it is important and the thousands have been removed from the roles, and I know I've worked on the number of people that have died and they're still on roles. I found over 400, that we're not cleaning up the roles, and I was hoping for a change in the way that system is working now, but it appears that there seems to be just a move in the county that we have to have Democrats in charge."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers: Michael Barren, David Cantrell, Melissa Fiorillo, Carla Barrett, and Mara Gaudio."

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, Kevin Muldowney, Fulton County. You know one thing about the voter roles, the BRE just removed 48,000 on their own volition 48,000 that were on the voter roles that shouldn't have been there. So it's not a partisan effort, it's we're not trying to screw you guys, so. The chairman's position of the Fulton BRE is by its very nature of nonpartisan position. The primarily role of Board of Elections is to uphold the election code as prescribed by the legislature. It's the job of the chairperson to make sure that code is enforced and not merely interpreted by the board. Our current chair was not a real stickler for state election code. There were a number of occasions where the ten-day rule for voter challenges was conveniently ignored. Ms. Woolard was also responsible for silencing public comment at special called meetings, the same type of meeting where Richard Barron's lack of ability was brought to light, eventually leading to his dismissal. There is no room for the suppression of dissenting voices in a free society. The BRE under Ms. Woolard still has no standard operating procedure; I guess process, which was just not a priority for her. Ms. Barrett, your recent claim that Chairman Morris' appointment would literally put democracy at stake made no sense. Chairman Morris was known for very fair and held very moderate position. Ms. Woolard, on the other hand, was employed by Stacey Abrams, a Fair Fight, as a partisan lobbyist right up to the day she was appointed as Chair. One other -- Chairman Morris' support of SB 202 was cited as an impediment to his appointment. The same SB 202 that was claimed to be Jim Crow 2.0. But when it was enacted, Georgia had the highest minority voter participation in its history."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You have 15 seconds."

**KEVIN MULDOWNEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "We need a Chairman -- we need a BRE Chairman that puts adherence of Georgia Election Code as a top priority. We'll listen to all sides of the debate and make sure the election part --"

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioner. Matt Rowenczak, Fulton County resident. When it comes to this appointment for the Chair of the Board of Elections, I find it incredibly ironic to me that this position is supposed to be nonpartisan; yet so many arguments being made are entirely partisan. Just as you've heard, Fulton County is a democratic county; therefore, we must have a Democratic Chair that is not the purpose of this role. It is supposed to be free and fair and follow the law. It's not a legislative role that is partisan; it makes law. This position is to enforce the law, the election code, and ensure that we have free, fair, and transparent elections. That shouldn't be controversial. On top of so many partisan arguments, we also have dramatic comments to rile people up. Commissioner Barrett, you were quoted in the AJC saying quote, 'it literally is putting democracy at stake'. Anyone's that rational sees this hyperbole and unprofessional nature of those comments. I suppose we had to remind folks again what this position actually does. And in the last -- Ms. Woolard, her term, the law has been violated numerous times. Whether you acknowledge it or not, it has. And I would request, Chairman Pitts, that we do have extra time because, with all due respect, to Patrise Perkins-Hooker --"

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

**MATT ROWENCZAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- she was the attorney assigned to the Board of Elections during this time where the law was violated numerous times. And it's being mentioned before, there were last week 48,000 illegitimate registrations."

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

**MELISSA FIORILLO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Melissa Fiorillo, and I'm also a Fulton County resident. The Board of Elections Chair is supposed to be a nonpartisan position, as stated. This position is not making law, changing law. This is supposed to be enforcing the law. Did Cathy Woolard follow the law during her tenure? This is part of her oath. Here are a few examples of how Cathy Woolard did not do her job or did not know how to do her job during her time on the BRE: Cathy had many voter challenges from the citizens spending their own time to help clean up the voter roles. Despite Georgia law requiring her to schedule a hearing within ten days on numerous occasions, this did not happen. She also encouraged -- she also discouraged people from helping with the voter roles because she claimed it marred her staff with excessive work, never mind the law. She was also part of a three-board member that squashed public comment on special meetings. She changed and amended the bylaws. This is not being transparent. It's voter suppression and it's voter intimidation. Also, the big internal audit that was conducted highlighting areas needing change and improvement, it has been two years and there is still many glaring issues. For instance, we still have no standard operating procedures. Partisan politics has no



place in our elections, but putting a highly partisan Democrat in office and knowing she has violated the law, you are violating your oaths by allowing her to continue. Cathy Woolard worked, as they had said, for Fair Fight up until the day before she took the position on the BRE. You've received a letter from some of the Democratic House of Representatives making this position --"

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

**MELISSA FIORILLO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- very partisan. As stated in the letter, we will continue on this issue and support the efforts to nominate and appoint another reliable expert who is a Fulton County resident. You're not a reliable candidate unless you're a democrat? You have not withdrawn -- you have now withdrawn a candidate that you know --"

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers: Sandra Gail Motley Grant, Henrietta Antonia, Jan Meadows, Michelle Tropray, Tshawalla Turner."

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Maria Gaudio, a Fulton County resident. I had testified to you several months ago that two years ago when I was following the chain of custody, I was a witness to two cycles of eight vans for a total of 16 vans that made a unsolicited pitstop. It was unscheduled on the way to the World Congress Center, and those vans were filled to brim with ballots. Yeah, well I have film -- yeah, it's funny, isn't it?"

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

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "So the other person who saw what I did had her house shot up and she moved out of state. So, you know, we've been wondering how did that come about? How did that come about? And with all these voter challenges, most recently 48,000 voter challenges in the last couple of months? And from the ones that Jason Frazier had found were over 30,000? That's accounted -- you know, the dots are starting to get connected, and Cathy Woolard was in charge that entire time. Cathy Woolard had, from the time of a voter challenge, had ten days. She ignored her job for two years and just let it go. Now there are Democrats who are getting screwed by the cheating too. Look at DeKalb County, too. Not just Fulton County. So it's not just Republicans. This is Democrats too, her getting screwed. They can't fairly run an election either because of this machine going on. It is important that somebody be bipartisan and do the job correctly and be honest and fair. I applaud you -"

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

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- Chairman Pitts for allowing a Republican to come in and take a look, but even if it's a Democrat, it needs to be somebody who is not involved in these elicited proceedings the last two years, and if Ms. Patrise, might do a good job in some things."

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

**SANDRA GAIL MOTLEY GRANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Sandra Gail Motley, formally Grant. I am the founder of Percolate International. It is a tech company. It's registered in the state of Virginia. In 2017, Robert Scoble, a Silicon Valley multimillionaire contacted me through a mediator in North Carolina. He was interested in our vision for solar energy. Proof of our concept is in the US Bankruptcy Court in Atlanta filed in 2017. I discovered who Robert Scoble was after he was accused of sexual harassment. At that time, I realized it was a pattern. My children and I became targeted for our business using students and children to harass and stalk us. This has gone on for 4,000 consecutive days. Instead of receiving the support that we need, using women to torment my breast surgery because I will not give up my business; it is a family-owned business. Douglas Jordan Grant of Decatur, Harrison Frank Grant in route to Atlanta, Olivia Monet Grant in McDonough, Georgia, Michelle Garland -- I'm sorry, in Peachtree City. We are doing incredible things. We are going to make people proud --"

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

**SANDRA GAIL MOTLEY GRANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- of what we have as far as our assets, but I will not relinquish them to anyone. I ask you to ask every student in the country to contact me and meet me in court. I will not give up our business. Thank you."

**JAN MEADOWS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Jan Meadows, a longtime resident of Fulton County, 50 years. I even ran for Commissioner for this Body; got in a runoff back in 1975. I just want to commend Commissioner Pitts for taking the step to make his -- change his recommendation. The eyes of the nation are on Fulton County. And we all know it. And as Lee Morris said, the optics -- I don't think we need to be partisan or say one a Democrat or Republican. Right now, this country has been seriously harmed and damaged by the polarization. And Fulton County does not need to play into it; we need to be above it. We are still in the midst of it. Fanni Willis' is going through it. The decision hasn't even been made. So I want you to implore this Body to look at the big picture. Look at the national picture when you make your decisions. And that's all I want to say, and thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. How many more? We've got 30 more speakers? The 30 minutes has expired, so what's your pleasure, Commissioners?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I would like for us to allow the people to speak because they are here."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I agree."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Motion to extend the public comment so that the remaining people can speak who are here; who have already signed up."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. There's a motion to extend it, let's go. It's 11:30 now, let's go to 12 o'clock, and we got to everybody in by 12 o'clock. Is there a second?"

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "It was seconded. I seconded it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, motion to extend the public comment time till 12 o'clock. Madam Clerk? Those in favor say aye, oppose no. The ayes have it. Continue."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The next five speakers --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- if what you're going to say someone's already said, in the interest of time -- we haven't even got to the business yet; but I would appreciate it. Next five speakers, please."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Parker Short, RaShaun Kemp, Richard Rose, Stephanie Ali, and Niles Francis."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Call them again, Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Parker Short, RaShaun Kemp, Richard Rose, Stephanie Ali, and Niles Francis."

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

**STEPHANIE ALI, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Okay, thank you, Commissioners. My name is Stephanie Ali. I'm the policy director at New Georgia Project Action Fund. Thank you for your time. Today, I -- like many people want to speak in opposition to Mr. Morris, but we'll take a moment instead to point out a couple of the fallacies that have been pointed out today; one being that Boards of Elections are being redrawn on partisan lines across this state, and to see Fulton County go in that direction would have been a huge mistake. We see -- we see election deniers up and down this state, both at the Lieutenant Governor's office, even here on this Commission, we see people who have denied the success of a 2020 election. So to put that in place on our Fulton Board of Elections as we go into the 2024 presidential election would again have been a mistake. Especially knowing that the GOP is nominating too far-right election denying candidates for their upcoming two-year term. We know that we will need thoughtful leadership up and down the Board on the Commission and the Board of Elections itself leading into this two-year term. So on that issue that's why we implore the Commission to continue being thoughtful on the issue of the Board of Elections. There are people here today

themselves who have been talked about seeming to be oppressed for their views, although they mention someone who is well-known for being a voter suppressor for working to challenge many voters over and over and over again for the same people. That person is going to be nominated for the board itself. So we implore you to continue making these decisions publicly, open, and instead of doing so behind closed doors. Talk to your constituents, answer the phone when they call you --"

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

**STEPHANIE ALI, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and we thank you for changing that nomination. Thank you, everyone."

**PARKER SHORT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, y'all. My name is Parker Short. I'm the Vice President of the Georgia Young Democrats. I'm here to speak about the next generation of Georgia and Fulton voters. First, I'd like to recognize Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Hall. You all have tirelessly fought to oppose this attack on our elections and our democracy. I would like to address you directly, Commissioner Pitts. I mean, to be very frank, I was shocked that a person representing the whole of Fulton County would put an extreme partisan in this role. I urge you to remember you won your first selection by 1,700 votes. You are now looking to oppose - or support a nominee who does not believe Joe Biden won the state of Georgia. If you do not believe that, we have a Commissioner that does not believe in elections. Y'all should not be sitting in these seats. If you do not believe in your own elections, you should not be serving as people, because your election will not be right either. You are putting forward a candidate that opposed the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Truly, as you sit in these chairs, as you sit in the City of Atlanta, how can you feel confident putting an election denier in this position; doing this to the voters of this community? Not only that, I feel like Mr. Morris is just an embodiment of SB 202. Is that the future of what you want our elections to look like? Sir, I know you are not going to be running for reelection again. I know you do not have to worry about the political consequences. If you do, I will be there making sure that voters remember what you tried to do to our election systems. Once again, I must be very, very clear. It is lunacy that he was even considered for this position, and I think it is very clear by the amount of people that showed up this morning that that is not, okay. People were mobilized; people were upset because they know what a threat to our democracy looks like. We have faced too many of them in the last four years."

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

**PARKER SHORT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- I know. We have faced too many of them in the last several years, and genuinely to see you use your position of power to elevate the voter suppression, that is harming our state and our nation is abhorrent. Joe Biden won the 2020 election. If you don't believe that, you shouldn't be sitting there."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers: Sabrina Jones, Eric Richardson, Mina Turabi, Demetris Taylor, and B. Rohr."

**RASHAUN KEMP, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Rashaun Kemp, and I am a Fulton County resident. I've also appeared on our very ballot and also served as a poll worker. First, I just want to commend our youth. I'm a former educator, so I'm just excited to see our next generation come out and speak out. I also want to personally thank Commissioner Barrett for responding to my e-mail and for her comments in the AJC defending our democracy. I think it's really important to echo the sentiments that were heard today, and I was honestly not going to get up and speak because everyone has spoken to this topic, but I think it's really important to express the fact that Lee Morris supported Senate Bill 202. And despite that, voters came out and voted. And that is the history of our country. That despite all of the roadblocks that are put in front of us, we still get out and vote, and we will continue to do that. And so, I'm glad to have Patrise Perkins-Hooker replace his nomination, somebody that's been an advocate for sexually exploited teens, and somebody's that has been on the Board of Hosea Feeds the Hungry. I think it's important also to point out that Fulton County is the epicenter of all that is going in this country and, yes, we don't want things to be hyper partisan, but it is. And in the age of Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis, another call will come to Georgia at some point because they're going to lose, and I'm glad to know that somebody that is going to be on that end of that call is not somebody that's going to answer, but somebody that would ignore that phone call. So thank you so much for this change in nomination."

**SABRINA JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I know we've got 15 minutes in the Fulton County Government. But first I came here with change of heart. Thank y'all so much. I didn't see this coming because I know my time is winding. This is in my house (holds up picture.). And when y'all brought them up and brought out his name, my heart just dropped because he worked for our church and our pastor, Tony Mosley who we just lost this year. Don't no officer, not even my son, Tyrell. Neither one of them deserved to lose they life. He didn't see this coming; my son didn't see this coming. And, Chairman, Robb Pitts, thank you for not being like Andrew Young. I voted for you. And when I came up in April this year, I sat in that lobby and you turned around and looked at me with a smile and you said, hey, how you doing? I can be -- worked for Morehouse College and I ran into Andrew Young; never spoke to me. Never spoke to me. I'm a voter. In middle school, our teacher taught us to vote. I thought voting was not important, but he said to vote. And when y'all sit here and say we going to extend y'all time, it mean a lot to me because y'all let me know I needed to vote. But Congressman Lewis told us you get in trouble, you get in good trouble. I'm still here about DeMarco West for what he did to my son and not turning in my son medical records to Fulton County Jail. And Ms. Hall, I spoke to your assistant, which I know he gave all the documents to microscope and did not turn it in. But --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds, ma'am."

**SABRINA JONES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- thank you."

**ERIC RICHARDSON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello and thank you. My name is Eric Richardson. I'm a Fulton County resident. I live in the City of South Fulton. I'm also the Executive Director of Atlanta North Georgia Labor Counsel. The Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council is composed of 60 affiliate unions and tens of thousands of members in Fulton County. We believe that protecting the rights of voters and increasing voter access benefits everyone in our community. We want a Fulton County Board of Election Chair that is representative of Fulton County and its voters. We support the nomination of Patrise Parker-Hooker as BOE Chairman, and we're glad that you all have rescinded the nomination and have changed your mind, but we will be watching. Thank you."

**B. ROHR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hello and good day. I'm B. Rohr, and I live in Fulton County. And the question has come up why was Mr. Morris nominated? Perhaps it was his professional experience as a certified public accountant which would enable him to effectively provide financial oversight of public resources; or perhaps it was his experience as a lawyer that would ensure that he would work with the board members to adhere to election law. These are things -- these are duties of the Chairman of the Board of Registration and Elections. Or perhaps it was his 30 -- over 32 years of experience as General Counsel and Chief Financial Officer for the Atlanta-based architectural engineering firm which would bring practical and proven experience in matters of financial accountability and knowledge of and adherence to the law, which is also pertinent to serve as Chairman of the BRE. So, or perhaps it was his demonstration to effectively support a bipartisan approach to Fulton County election processes which I believe is what Chairman Pitts was trying to demonstrate as well. For example, he supported the seating -- this is Lee Morris -- the seating of Cathy Woolard as the current chairperson of the BRE knowing that she had connections to Stacey Abrams, and that Cathy had served as a lobbyist for Fair Fight Action, right before for her assuming the role the chairperson of the BRE. However, in a bipartisan fashion, Mr. Morris took Cathy's public service into account as well as the needs Fulton County and he actually supported her to become the current chairperson. Passions are very high. I'm really surprised at some of the name-calling and label throwing that has been exhibited here. That's fine --"

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

**B. ROHR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- passions are high. I would like very much for us to have more time to consider Patrise Perkins-Hooker as the Chairman for the Board for the Registration and Elections. There was plenty of time for people to voice their opinions about Lee Morris' appointment. We would like the same."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers, please come down: Adrian Robertson, Maggie Goldman, Susan Venencia, Brent Corley, and George Bates."



**MINA TURABI, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name Mina Turabi. I serve as the chair of the Young Dems of Fulton County, specifically YDATL. Thank you, Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Barrett for keeping us at the forefront of this. Young Dems stretches from anywhere from middle school, high school all the way up to the age of 40. Everyone quotes John Lewis in the city; he is one of our greatest sons, and he said voting is not a privilege, it is a right. And we must stand together, fight together, and work together to protect and expand the right of every American citizen. Thank you for rescinding Lee Morris' nomination. Thank you for putting up Patrise Hooker. We are fully behind y'all. If you all need anything from us, please let us know. But every day we must protect our rights. Fulton County is not only the biggest county in the state, but it is also the road to the White House. It is the road to Congress. It is the road to Senate. We saw it in 2020, and if we get another call like we did in January of 2020, we have to make sure that the person who is sitting over our board, and who is sitting there over our elections will make sure that they uphold integrity. Not just Democratic voters, not just Republican voters, but all voters in this county. So thank you. We appreciate you; we're looking forward to work with you more. Thank you."

**DEMETRIS D. TAYLOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, everyone. My name is Demetris Taylor. I am from College Park, Georgia. And I want to make this quick because my parking is about to run out, okay? In a perfect world, I wish that we were not so partisan. I wished we would go to moderates, liberals, and conservatives, that we have three different branches of all this to make decisions. We've heard everything here, and my statement is this. Moving forward, if we want to vet people, have more than one candidate there so that everybody is represented, we've only got two parties that we're working with. A lot of what you're hearing is because there's only one particular person that you wanted to vet or not vet, and got everybody all in a ruckus. If we had one Democrat and Republican as a thought, then the people would be able to have a choice to say who's the best candidate to move forward. I also want to say this; as the people out here, this is ridiculous that we are timed to 30 minutes to let the people come down here. I see where our College Park Mayor got this ridiculous idea when it comes to public comments. If the people put you here, the people need to be heard regardless of how much time it takes. If takes 40 hours, the people want to be heard. And yes, it is tedious; yes, yes, yes, we go over and you hearing the same things over and over and over again, but the people paid their time, they put their votes out here, and they came down here on the buses, on the trains; spending gas to come down here to be heard, so allow that. Y'all knew this was a hot-button topic, so you should have a special meeting specifically for this topic so everybody can be heard. So moving forward, let's try doing that. Thank you."

**MAGGIE GOLDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "My name is Maggie Goldman and I live in District 1. I came here today to oppose the nomination of Lee Morris to the Fulton Board of Registration and Elections, and it's my understanding that Lee has withdrawn his name and Patrise Perkins-Hooker has been nominated and I am pleased with that. I did want to note -- we seemed to have forgotten 2021. My biggest complaint for Lee Morris being nominated is that three times he had an opportunity to fund-- fully fund our

elections and he refused to do so. On May 19th, I sat in this chamber for all three votes. I saw him abstain when we needed four votes and there were only three votes available. Twice this happened, also on June 2nd. He could've been the fourth vote to fully fund our elections, he chose not to. And then the final vote, which was on July 14th when Bob Ellis, if you remember, you quite elaborately mentioned that Richard Barron was holding a gun to your head in order to force you to fund the elections and, at that point, there were four Democrats and Morris still voted, no. So either he doesn't believe in fully-funded elections or he was persuaded by the Republican Party in order to vote that way. If he was persuaded by the party, then if he had been chair, there's no saying that the two election deniers that the GOP is putting on at the end of the month would not persuade him to do further. So if we cannot trust him to vote for elections funding as a Commissioner, I cannot imagine he's actually going to vote for a budget for the Fulton Board of Elections that's also going to fund our elections. I will say, Robb Pitts, the most common question I got --"

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

**MAGGIE GOLDMAN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- as I've advocated for this today, everyone wanted to know why Robb Pitts nominated a Republican instead of a Democrat? That was the most common question, and I told them to direct their questions to you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers: Rory Robichaux, Wanda Mosley, James Woodall, Russell Carlisle, and Myrna Clayton."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Repeat the names, please, Madam Clerk. Madam Clerk?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Rory Robichaux, Wanda Mosley, James Woodall, Russell Carlisle, and Myrna Clayton."

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

**CLERK GRIER:** "Earl Ferguson, Molly Reed Vaughn, Shenetra Gates, Karen Parrish, and Wendell Muhammad. Derrick Jackson --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold on. Hold on."

**SHENETRA GATES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Shenetra Gates, and I am with the Roswell Housing Authority. I just wanted to come out and tell you guys thank you for your contribution to our redevelopment of our housing -- housing. So I wanted to thank you guys for that. I came out to thank you guys. I just wanted to thank you for the contributions that you're making for our housing authority. This will allow us to be able to redevelop the housing for the senior -- for our seniors who were relocated this year due to structural issues, and it will also allow us to be able -- so that will allow us to be able to provide -- bring back our seniors who



consider Roswell as their home. And it will allow us to be able to create affordable housing for future residents. So I just wanted to thank you because that means so much to us. I am a resident and my mom was a senior who was displaced. And we miss our seniors. Our seniors are the wisdom of our community; they provide us with wisdom and guidance, and we miss our seniors, and we look forward to having them come back home to the place they consider home. So I just wanted to thank you for that."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next five speakers: Derrick Jackson, Deborah Scott, Ron Shakir, James Davenport, Prophet Curtis Hairston."

**KAREN PARRISH, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, I'm Karen Parrish. I'm the board chair of the Roswell Housing Authority. We have, for the last five years, and I got to give a shout out to Shanetra who just spoke to you. She's a warrior fighting for the conditions of housing that the Housing Authority in Roswell provides. She is our tenet Commissioner right now. Her mother was drastically affected by the structural issues of the building that we are now in process of trying -- attempting to replace. And your grants, funding that you voted today in your Consent Agenda of \$2.1 million is going to be instrumental and very necessary for the redevelopment process moving forward. We have an application that we will be submitting this week to the DCA of Georgia to redevelop the 40-unit senior disabled building that we currently have on our property that has some serious structural issues and, unfortunately, we had to displace 33 of our legacy residents, some who'd been there for over 40 years on property. And so, we're very excited about moving forward and rebuilding the property with a hundred and two units, hopefully, if we are awarded the tax credits that we need. And your gift of 2.1 million, thank you so much again, for providing that. We had a six -- over \$6 million-dollar gap in financial support for this project, but 2.1 million has come along way. The City of Roswell in an unprecedented move that's never happened before is also supporting us with \$2 million. And Senator Warnock's office right now has put forth an appropriations, 2.5 million to support that project. So without all of the grant funding that we are being considered for an award if we wouldn't be able to make this happen, so thank you again."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Ms. Scott."

**DEBORAH SCOTT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good afternoon. My name is Deborah Scott. I'm the CEO of Georgia Stand Up. How are you? So you certainly got our attention and got us down here today, thank you so much for that, because sometimes when we register people to vote and get them educated, we also have to hold our elected officials accountable. And so, part of why we're here today is to commend you for doing the right thing, right? It's the right thing. Sometimes history will look at us and not look at us individually, but look at us collectively. And so, it's always a good time to do the right time -- to do the right thing, so I thank you. In addition to that, I wanted to correct a couple of things in -- we know that SB 202 was damaging, but the folks came out anyway because we worked hard. Georgia Stand Up worked hard. Black Voters

Matter worked hard, the People's Agenda worked hard. And that's why in Pro Georgia in the groups that are part of these coalitions worked hard. But you all are making it harder for us to help democracy when we have to spend time to deal with this. But we thank you for today. We thank you for the shift today, because you're going to represent the people that helped to put you in office. On behalf of Georgia Stand Up, we will continue to keep watching. We are also part of labor, and so we will continue to watch and hold you accountable, but we thank you for the move that you made today. In addition, because we look at transit equity issues, we do want to talk about what is happening with MARTA, so we will be back. Thank you so much."

**RON SHAKIR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Ron Shakir from Southwest, Atlanta. I'd like to appreciate the council person who understands and appreciates the value of public engagement. And the continuation of that is so important. We are in a housing crisis, and I believe that the Fulton County Commissioners ought to consider, not just one meeting of the public -- Fulton County Public Housing, but two meetings monthly. We're in a crisis, and as the cities in Fulton County expand and grow for sure Fulton County's responsibilities and work will take on a greater need. When I look at the jail situation and the housing situation in Atlanta, in Fulton County, and the metropolitan areas tied to housing -- and it's tied to stable housing, and I think it's so important that we give our attention to that. And I want to thank the strong seat that Commissioner Khadijah is holding right now. It was a seat that was -- that was occupied by a real strong leader and that was Emma Darnell, and her strength and her continuation and her voice and her wisdom that she shared with other councilpersons as such is needed today. But for sure, I would just say that let's pay attention to our housing, the citizens who have come forth, the last lady who talked about -- a couple people have talked about how important stable housing is, and I would like to just say again that I would hope that Fulton County would consider and councilpersons would consider having two monthly meetings dealing with housing --"

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

**RON SHAKIR, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- and I would just say, too that I want thank this opportunity to be able to engage, but we went from three minutes to two minutes, and I would hope that we do not continue in that direction. People's voices do matter. Thank you, sir, very much for the work you do."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Last six speakers, please, come down: Margie McLeod, Emma Davis, David Garcia, Bob Herndon, Kristin Nabers, Malone Horne."

**JAMES DAVENPORT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, everybody. Thank you for allowing me to be in your presence. Before you are three pictures. I know it's mental health month, but those pictures, we might be talking about public health. After I finish what I'm saying, you'll understand better. First, giving honor to God who often times I call my conductor. I don't have a Ph.D., but I do have a GOD. I'll get straight to the point. MARTA is deceiving you, okay? Collie Greenwood is here today to show you a

pie chart that is full of nothing, but one of those pictures that you have. For several years, we have frequented bathrooms at MARTA stations. I've been to them all. The white neighborhoods are immaculate. The black neighborhoods are filthy. He is going to show you a pie chart. I was here the last time he spoke. I was at DeKalb County Commissioners yesterday, that pie chart is full of it. What you have in front of you is a picture from the bathroom from the West End station, the West End station, Kensington station. Kensington station. This stuff has been in there for days. Mother's Day I took these pictures; Mother's Day. As I told the Atlanta City Council, when they eliminated those bus routes during the pandemic, it was a voter suppression issue. These people imported Collie Greenwood from Canada --"

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

**JAMES DAVENPORT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to talk about a bus driver who's now the CEO of MARTA. It does not make sense. Y'all need to do y'all job. Strip MARTA of their ability to actually keep deceiving you. You all have power to tell MARTA to stop. To do a cease and desist. Stop right now."

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

**JAMES DAVENPORT, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Stop going for his bull which he's about --"

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

**PROPHET CURTIS HAIRSTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Amen, everybody. Praise the Lord, Jesus Christ. I'm going to talk about homelessness, and if we would allow people to live underneath your bridges and die underneath your bridges, people are living underneath your bridges not too far from this place and dying out there in the wintertime and summertime due to homelessness. Now if you would allow that, what else won't you allow? Okay? A man just died in your Fulton County Jails and y'all come down here and celebrate police officers. You believe the police officer force is 85 percent black folk. But if y'all walked past that jail cell and you allowed a man to die in your jail cell, you walked past him. Now, according to my Bible, the Bible says that you reap what you sow, whether that be good or bad. Now, like I said before, as a prophet of God, if God don't judge you and if God don't send some judgment toward you, then I am not a man of God. You need to write that down. Now like I said before, if y'all are going to continue to do unjustified things in those seats, we got to find somebody else to put in these seats, and we're going to have to find the same type of caliber people to put in these seats, because this is becoming a -- what's the right word, a -- those big words y'all use to try to confuse people? You know, but it's becoming a problem. Just a simple word, problem, it's becoming real bad now. See these type of things got to stop. See, but if we come down here and get ants in the pants or what y'all, y'all say well, we all ants in the pants because y'all are doing stuff that's unjustifiable, according to those seats. You see, y'all ain't supposed to do things like you want to cut people's time short,

you can't tell people to speak on the same issue, that's against the law. We pay your salary --"

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

**PROPHET CURTIS HAIRSTON, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- things have got to change. If I bring 500 homeless people down here and put them in these seats, then y'all look at them funny and say why they're sneaking in and why they're doing it, because y'all are doing it. This city -- this city -- money is funded for the city."

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

**EMMA JEAN DAVIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Let take my hat off so you'll know who I am. I'm wearing a shirt that says take your souls to the polls. I'm here in opposition of the act of trying to put something together without input from the people. I don't have anything against anybody that you put forward. I have a problem with the process. Holy Spirit told me to ask you to please read Psalms 52, if you got a Bible; Psalms 52. But today, I'm concerned because I don't see you working in the best interests of the people. When you ran, you said I want to serve -- serve you. Not serve me, serve you. Everything that you do affects us. We need you -- and, Commissioner Robb Pitts, I'm so sick of you seeing you walk out that door when these proclamations are made. I'm sick of you watching your watch to see how much time. You told me in last year in December when you were handing out food, that you needed one more term. We gave that to you. But guess what? I might just want to do a movement to recall you. You need to stop being insensitive to what's going on with the people that you say you want to s-e-r-v-e. I need you to take notice of that. I didn't know until I read something else the other day that my council person who was also supported not being able to vote. That's the Democratic process. Let us know what's going on so we can come down here and let you know what we need --"

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

**EMMA JEAN DAVIS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- 15 minutes -- 15 seconds. Thank you. I am so sick of your attitude, letting me know that you don't care anything about the people that you say you want to represent. And I need the Lord to speak to you to let you know you need help."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold on one second. Is the mic --"

**KRISTIAN NABORS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you so much, Chairman, and thank you to the Commission for giving us time -- some extra time to speak. My name is Kristen Nabors; I'm the State Director for All Voting Is Local Action. We are a nonpartisan organization that advocates for policies that improves voter access and

aids counties in running smooth elections. I am here to speak about the nomination of Lee Morris, and I want to thank him for considering the impact he would have had as Chair of the Board. So instead I want to use my time to add to the concerns raised earlier about the two upcoming nominees, particularly Jason Fraizer who has brought 12 different voter challenges to the Fulton BRE since the beginning of 2022. He has wasted countless hours of staff and board time. Jake Evans is the other nominee that is upcoming for the BRE. He was arguing that Trump won the election in the Supreme Court. I recognize that the Board -- the BRE should absolutely be bipartisan. But this should not be a bipartisan issue that election deniers do not belong on the BRE. In particular in Fulton County where we know that Fulton is a frequent target for conspiracy theorists, everything this Board does will be under heavy scrutiny through the 2024 election. We also know that Fulton voters are 56 percent voters of color who have long faced increased barriers to voting. I'm sure most folks in this room would agree that it's really important that our Board of Elections be made up of members who will promote increased voter access, especially through this critical election. I think Ms. Perkins-Hooker reflects the values of the voters of Fulton County. I think she's an excellent choice for BRE chair, but I would encourage you to really consider all candidates carefully and give the public lots of time to consider all of the candidates on our five person BRE. Thank you so much."

**MARGIE MCLEOD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good afternoon. Robb Pitts, I'm glad you changed your mind or they made you change your mind. But I didn't come down -- I come down here. I was a foster parent 15 years ago, and you know I talked to you, Natalie Hall I talked to you about it. We do need a task force because the children, the forgotten children now, is 25 and 32 years old now. And one of the childs that was taken out of my house was seven years old, and he came and visited me two weeks ago. I was going to talk about this topic last week before last, these foster children -- the forgotten children, and we forgot about them. They did not get the support. They did not get the help that they needed, and then when you don't do your job, you put the money in to it -- the caseworkers, they're overwhelmed. They were overwhelmed 15 years ago. They're not getting paid enough money. You need more staff, and you need to monitor these children. That's why you need a task force. You've got a lot of runaways. You don't even know who ran away because we've not checking. We need to check the group homes. They do not report. And this is dear to my heart. And you know that, Robb Pitts, because I talked to you, but you never respond back to me. These children, the forgotten children -- if we don't help them, their identity has been stolen, they can't get no light bill, they can't buy a house. But guess what? Who stole their identity? And they were in foster care at seven years old, and then somebody took their identity. So that's What we got to fight and help me --

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

**MARGIE MCLEOD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- to get hundreds of foster children identity been stolen. So how are we correct this? And that's why they can come and shoot you

in your head and look at you, and don't feel nothing because you didn't take care of them."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Next speaker. Any others in the Assembly Hall?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further speakers in Assembly Hall. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two speakers on Zoom and six e-mailed in comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, it's 12:17. Let's take them."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good afternoon, Commissioners. The first person to speak is Ben Howard."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings one and all. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate, Public Policy Analyst. Please abide me as I have brought some information to seniors and friends of seniors in our county. At the Bowden senior multipurpose facility last week, application for process for assistance in summer cooling costs, via LIHEAP, the low income heating assistance program. Sequentially succeeding weeks this month, applications will be processed at the other multipurpose facility. For details, contact the Fulton County Star Line at 404-613-6000. Alternatively, one may call the Darnell, the Benson, or the Mills facility; or contact the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority at 404-320-0166, or by way of their website [www.FACAA.org](http://www.FACAA.org). On another note, when they call the Star Line to volunteer to serve on one of those vibrant committees of the Fulton County Commission on Elder Affairs. Thanks."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The last person to speak is Nicola Hines. Nicola Hines."

**NICHOLA HINES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Yes, hello, good afternoon. My name is Nicola Hines. I'm the current president for the League of Women Voters, Atlanta Fulton County. Elderly BAF is one the oldest nonpartisan civic organizations in this country, as we've been almost a hundred and three years old. Our mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. We at Elderly BAF worked hard to educate, empower, and engage voters throughout Fulton County. I would like to say appreciate that Chairman Pitts rescinded the nomination of Lee Morris and for Mr. Morris withdrawing his name. However, it shouldn't have taken the numerous hours and outcry of residents of this county to make this change. As we move into the next election cycle that includes the bulk presidential and state legislative seats, this nomination is crucial to Fulton County and for Georgia as whole. Fulton County needs to be at the forefront of efforts to stop polarization of our government. We need a BRE chair that will put the people before the party. We should be seeking a chair that embraces the spirit of nonpartisanship to represent the interests of Fulton County. Partisan politics has no place among those charged with overseeing our election process. HBC-656 intended the structure of the Board was to ensure that the chair can remain a nonpartisan and partial individual that



can see the pros and cons of all viewpoints expressed from either side of the aisle. So we encourage you to seek the nominee that inspires trust in all residents, exhibit impartiality to either party, and prioritize the constitutional rights of everyone residing in Fulton County. Thank you for your time."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. How many e-mails?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "We have six e-mailed in comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Tell her to summarize -- summarize the e-mails, please."

**REGINA WALLER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "All right, the first commenter is Angela Payne. Fulton County has to have a chairperson that exhibits fairness and integrity in our elections. I support Lee Morris, which is a recommendation of Chairman Pitts, for this position. It is imperative that we can show bipartisan in Fulton County. I support Lee Morris. Others who also agree: Julie Allen and Stephanie Miller. Beverly Miller: Lee Morris should not serve on the Fulton County Board of Elections. We need a board that stands for voting rights. It is a terrible idea to have a majority republican board considering the attempted state takeover of Fulton County elections. Others who agree are Chantel Mullen. This concludes the comments."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, next item."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Are we going to the Board appointment now?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, the one that we moved up without objection; that'll be on page 11, 23-0356."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Board of Registration and Elections: Chairman Pitts has nominated Patrise Perkins-Hooker to serve as Chair replacing Cathy Woolard for a Full Board appointment effective July 1st, 2023 to a term ending June 30th, 2025."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, I'll open the floor for nominations. Any other nominations?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any other nominations?"



**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No other nominations. All right, close the floor. I'll move approval of Patrise Perkins-Hooker."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "We already did. It's on the screen."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Y'all let me preside, please. Madam Clerk. Vice Chair Ellis, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Certainly a lot of statements have been made this morning; and I've been on this Commission for a while. I've been set through a lot of meetings, and I can say that never failed to get surprised at what may await me when I get down here at the start of a meeting versus what's on the Agenda. But I just want to take a few minutes, just point of privilege, Mr. Chair, to talk about Lee Morris. Lee Morris is a good, decent man. He's a man of integrity. He's done nothing to restrict access to the ballot. He's done nothing to underfund budgets. As a matter of fact, our budget for elections was 37.4 million last year. They spent 25.5; they under ran their budget by 11.9. The elections have not been underfunded. Some of the statements that have been made to characterize and defame Lee Morris, they're shameful, they're unfounded, and they're out of bounds. Lee Morris has enjoyed a close relationship with the past two board chairs, and I'd venture to say if you had them before us, they would say he would be a fine board chair as well. He's never been afraid throughout his political career to take tough positions and make tough decisions. Regardless of wherever, you know, his party might be, Lee was focused on doing the right thing and fully upholding the law. He's competent, he's qualified, he's unbiased, he knows the law, and he would have been an excellent chair of the Board of Registration and Elections for all citizens of this county. And personally, I think he was the right person at the right time for our county, our state, and our country. I think this is a missed opportunity and a loss for all Fulton County citizens. I know Commissioner Morris, and I've seen him be defamed in ways that are just, you know, totally uncalled for, and I'm not going to sit up here and let that go by today and have him to be continued to be defamed when it's certainly without -- many of the statements that have been made were completely unfounded without any merit."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'd like to echo Commissioner Ellis' statements. But as a new Commissioner, I'm just really, really concerned about the public being able to comment, being able to voice their concerns. I agree -- I think there was a speaker Saya Abney, they did a great job about -- we need to be even. We need to respect each other's opinions. We don't look -- we're not just a Democrat county. We are Fulton County. We have Independents, Republicans, Democrats, and everybody deserves a voice and the right to chime in. As a citizen, when Cathy Woolard was approved,

Commissioners mentioned how they, who didn't know her, got to go have lunch with her, got to speak to her, got to know her. Me as a Commissioner, I know who Patrice is, but I don't know her. And now I'm told to vote for her on a very, very important position for this county without even having anybody be prepared to come down to speak for her or against her. She looks like she's a great woman and when I've talked to her, she's been very responsive as a lawyer on the BRE, but I don't know her. I don't know where she stands, and I think it's unfair that I'm not able as a Commissioner to be able to vet her, to meet her. And I just want to echo some of the e-mails that I got from Democrats this week, because this was put on the Friday Agenda. Commissioner Pitts did the proper thing, had it on Friday morning that gave the public plenty of time to research, chime in, make plans to come down here; and now nobody can come down here and speak about Patrice Perkins unless they just happen to be here. So I just want to read the letters I got. Dear Fulton County Commissioner Bridget Thorne, I'm a person of faith and a resident of Fulton County, Georgia. As a faith leader in my community I believe that listening to and hearing from our neighbors is one powerful way we love each other. Your decision to rush a vote that would determine our next Fulton County Board Chair is not allowing for feedback and input from our county and community; and selecting someone for a hugely important position that will oversee our 2024 elections in the county. That is why I am demanding you postpone the Wednesday May 17th vote for Fulton County Election Board Chair, and allow more time for the community input. Our voices deserve to be heard, and as residents of the county, we deserve better. With our future elections on the line, this is too important to rush. The people must be heard first. Thank you, Edith Modelin Higgin. I got the same letter from Patrick Carter, Lee Walker, Bernadette Hartfield, Judy Boatright Stewart; June Archbishop sent it twice, Lee Campbell Taylor, and Ellen Logan, Elaine Abney, Allison Matthews, and Melanie Hembree. I got another letter: Hi, my name is and in parentheses (your name). I'm a Fulton County resident. I'm calling you to ask that you postpone this Wednesday's vote for our Board of Elections chair. We need more time for this important decision, for the public to weigh in, and additional nominations who reflect the diversity of Fulton County to be considered. Thank you. And that was from Patty King, Phyllis Spearman, David Weizimmer, Daniel J. Starr, Jessica Godfrey, Karen Katz, and Kabibe [Phonetic.] Springs. And then I got a few variations of the same letter from Deborah Merritt, Timothy Williams, and David Wencke. Well, I guess when the shoe's on the other foot, there's plenty of time to approve the BRE; this isn't a critical decision. We don't need the public to chime in. We don't need preparation. We just kind of do a switcheroo. Which I think is totally unfair, and I just wish we could have some consideration on both sides whether you're a Democrat or a Republican. Because I ran to represent this entire county. I didn't run just to represent Republicans. I want to do the best for everybody. And by this rushing of this nomination, I can't -- my hands are tied. The people in my district do not have representation. And I just hope you all would appreciate it. And I too want to read, Commissioner Morris was unfairly said that he was against SB 202; that he's for voter suppression. Actually, two of the meetings he voted against the Happy Faces contract. I don't know how that's voter suppression with the Happy Faces worker contract, which we kind of quietly haven't used as much. We brought in Dover Staffing; as a Commissioner, still not sure how that happened, but we

just kind of gradually phase people out. Our voter roles are just quietly being cleaned. Pennsylvania -- recently five counties in Pennsylvania, a lawsuit was just won because they failed to clean their voter roles. Their chairs refused to clear the voter roles, so I'm happy that we're doing it, quietly doing it so that nobody gets upset. But I'd like to read what Commissioner Morris said about SB 202. There was a Resolution saying that it was Jim Crow 2.0, that it was voter suppression. He said thank you. This, you know, is tough. It's a really tough issue. You know, I'm old enough -- I'm old enough to remember the days when I participated in the marches and protests about the unfairness in this country toward people of color. And I was glad to be involved in those efforts. I think we've seen an awful lot of progress. This law is not -- if I were voting -- I probably wouldn't have included all of those issues, but in the bill, but there are some things that I think that are improvements in the way we vote. I worry really about the divisiveness on both sides, and understand. There is no way that a white man in America can understand the feelings that people of color are having, about these really important issues; and I hear you. I do. And I, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, I really appreciate your passion on this issue, I do. I do see it being partisan on both sides, and that's sad. I think we could do better as a country and as a state; but I look at it and I have it in front of me, an article from April 6th."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. You have five more minutes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And it says, wait; as a Commissioner?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Ten minutes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- okay. So anyways, he says, I would love to see the day where we don't have to debate about voter suppression and Jim Crow laws and everything else. I'm hopeful that when my grandchildren grow up to be adults that this will be all behind us. Anyway, that's all I really have to say. And then Commissioner Abdur-Rahman responded, I just want to say to my friend, my dear friend from years ago, Commissioner Lee Morris, we've been knowing each other for years. Commissioner Lee Morris has supported my candidacy in the past. He's an old time friend of mine, and I respect his comments and I agree with him on this. I hope one day, Commissioner Morris that we won't have to have these conversations, but unfortunately today is not the day, but I appreciate you. Thank you. So I just want to reach out to trying to build bridges, not be partisan. We have got to stop this. You can't just come down and say oh, all we have to have Democrats. We have to have the best people for the job, and I hope someday we can do that. We can judge people by their character; not by their political party. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, I too, received those e-mails. There may have only been about two dozen, but I also receive these e-mails, and this was strong opposition against a vote for Lee Morris. This -- and this is just at my Fulton

County e-mail address. It doesn't include the DMs in my Instagram inbox on my personal and my county -- the messages in my Facebook Messenger, all my personal and my county; and personal text messages all saying vote, no. So the people were heard. But what's most concerning to me are the backroom dealings that I was told that took place concerning such an important vote; such an important position that should be about the people. I learned about this on Friday, and I want to thank Commissioner Dana Barrett for her strength and her courage to speak out, because that's the only way that I knew what was going on. She is the reason for the call to action to hear from the constituents countywide. She wanted everybody to be able to weigh in, and so thank you for that, Commissioner Barrett. So we received many more than just a few dozen who said, please postpone it. We received a lot of absolutely not, and they weren't just from Democrats, they were from Republicans too, because everybody just wants someone who's going to do the right thing. And I think that would absolutely be Patrise Perkins-Hooker. So I'm thankful that we have this vote coming up, and I know that we will all vote favorably because this is the right person to represent everyone. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, Commissioner Hall. I just want to say that I'm in full support of Patrise Perkins-Hooker. She has an incredible resume. She's an honors graduate of Georgia Tech. She has a law degree from Emory University, she served as the County Attorney in Fulton County, as General Counsel for the Atlanta Beltline; she served the community as the Chair of the Atlanta Board of Zoning Adjustments, and Chair of the Emory Business School Alumni Board. She's a member of the Gate City Bar Association Hall of Fame, winner of many awards, vice chairwoman of -- served as vice chairwoman of the Hosea Feed The Hungry, served as secretary for the Georgia State Bar Association, and served as the first black president of the Georgia State Bar Association. So she is incredibly accomplished and while, you know my colleague did not have time to vet her; we have been talking about her for days and along with a lot of other qualified candidates. So I'm very, very excited to have her as the substitute nominee."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "It's good to know that somebody's been talking about her for days, so to the point, I guess, of backroom dealings. But my question is on as it really relates to her nomination, but Ms. Hooker is currently the Board of Elections Attorney, correct?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "This is to the County Attorney, my question on this, but thank you for confirming on that, but -- so we got certain cases that she is representing us specifically right now on?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "She does provide representation of legal matters and SCB hearings for the Board of Registration and Elections."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. And the question is, does this potentially create a conflict with her being nominated to move that role to this role and/or what's going to take place within the piece of litigation where she was providing the representation, how would that be backfilled, et cetera?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Well, my office was not aware that she was under consideration for this until this morning; I would imagine that if she were to become the chair of the BRE, separate counsel would be retained to take over the matters in which she was legal representative for the BRE."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "In your opinion, does it create any -- does that create any conflict at all?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "At first flash, I do not believe so because her role as their legal counsel is to preserve their interests and lookout for the interests, and that would be the same if she were the BRE chair."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, the motion on the floor is approve. Let's vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Back on page 6, Presentations to the Board, **23-0337**, MARTA quarterly update."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Mr. Greenwood."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "All right, good afternoon, Chair Pitts, Commissioners, staff, I want to also recognize the MARTA Board members. In attendance is board member, Stacey Blakely and also observing online is Freda Hardage and Al Pond. I wanted to thank you for your time today in allowing us to present our quarterly briefing. The Q2 briefing is primarily so that I could tell you more

about the proposed MARTA FY24 budget and highlights as they pertain to Fulton County. Noting, of course, that there are two public hearings on the matter; one was last night at Decatur Public Library and the other one is tomorrow online at 6:00 p.m. You get more information about that at ITSMARTA.com. Next slide, please. As you might expect, our strategic priorities provided the guiding principles in this budget exercise as we execute on a mission to advocate for and provide a safe multimodal transportation service that advances prosperity, connectivity, and equity for a more livable region. So you'll find evidence of this throughout the series of slides -- next slide, please. And I'll start by focusing on Fulton-specific highlights in our capital program, specifically the state of good repair and expansion budgets, before going into the systemwide operating budget and systemwide capital program. So on this slide you'll find that -- well, I'll talk about the first three more detail in the subsequent slides, but for now I just want to talk about safe routes to transit the last one there. We've received strong support from our congressional delegation in this area where we will add pedestrian infrastructure such as sidewalks, ADA ramps, and crosswalks where it is lacking. Of course, we are going to prioritize this at high ridership bus stops, and especially where we have recently added the bus shelters and amenities. Next slide, please. So we'll start with College Park station as one of the items listed on the slide prior when we talked about station rehabilitation, so College Park is the one that we identified. So we've got \$4 million involved in the FY24 budget on a \$31 million overall project for College Park. But this is just an example of what we're doing at College Park in the interim. So we had a nice event just a few weeks back there to celebrate the plaza renovation completion. It's important for us to acknowledge the milestones along the way. So pavers, landscaping, painting, paving, clearer sight lines, repair/replace damaged poles and fences; these things in and of themselves might not sound like something to acknowledge, but the people gathered to celebrate at College Park that morning would tell you otherwise. This approach will continue with \$4 million slated for spend in FY24 and you can look for pavers being replaced along the subway platform and throughout the station as well as parking lot pavement. Next slide, please. East Point Smart restrooms: So the Smart restroom at East Point is open along with H.E. Holmes, GWC in Doraville. It's electronically monitored for movement, supplies, and access on a full-time basis. It increases access and safety in these facilities, and we use modern finishes which are easier to clean. I invite questions on this topic at the end of the sessions, if any of the Commissioners here would like to ask questions, and I can make comment at that point. More importantly we're ensuring that no matter which station you're going to, wherever you board, you start your trip, whichever station you go to, it will also have a smart restrooms. We're installing at 37 stations, and Airport will already have washroom access. Next slide, please. So when it comes to bus shelters and amenities, we'll have critical mass of the FY23 requirement by this fall. As always, sometimes, you know, we do run in to delays when it comes to the design. It takes a month to design these, three months to permit them at sometimes, and construction will take up to a month. But we are continuing to focus on this and making sure that we're in good position to deliver on another 50 in FY24. Next slide, please. And to turn that into a picture, this is what those efforts look like. I'd like to draw -- bring one of these slides at the conclusion of every one of our smart or shelter amenities slides, because it



really has the effect of kind of turning, translating numbers on a page into the tangible improvements for our people. So if you are waiting for -- this particular installment was done in January -- January 23rd to be exact -- so if I was waiting for a bus at Westpark and Boulder prior to January, I would have been out there exposed to the elements, possibly in rain-soaked, sundrenched standing in a puddle. Because of these efforts after January, I would be well protected from the elements, a place to sit, you know, put a refuge or a garbage, system map, and solar-powered lighting. So it makes a big difference, it also protects me from the traffic zooming past. So we will have \$4 million in FY24 budget to continue this program on a \$25 million budget overall. Next slide, please. So when it comes to the capital project expansion, these one, two, three, four main items, the main buckets we will be spending money on in FY24, and I will get into each of them in detail on the next slide. So next slide, please. When it comes to South Fulton Parkway and Roosevelt Highway, just a quick update on some of those with South Fulton, of course, I was identified in the Fulton County Transit Master Plan and the in 15th Amendment for high-capacity transit. The scope of this planning work involves identifying the most favorable alignment and the most suitable mode for the corridor. We'll conduct key stakeholder engagement in the summer of 2023; we'll prepare implementation plans for the selected alignment and mode and bring that to 30 percent design. We will also develop high-level cost estimates and identify global funding opportunities including the capital investment grant or the CIG. We also plan to hold public meetings with public and elected officials on this file and evaluating foremost heavy rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, and articulated rapid transit to come to some conclusions. We will also expand the scope west of the Douglas County line. This is a corridor length that's approximately 25 miles. We also have the Roosevelt Highway on the right-hand side and, again, this is a part of the Fulton County Master Plan, Transit Plan, and that recommended investment along Roosevelt Highway between College Park Station and the City of Palmetto. So this approximate 19-mile corridor is undergoing early planning work and MARTA is doing that. We're again trying to determine the ART stop locations and evaluate the needs for enhancements. We're conducting key stakeholder outreach in the late summer of this year, and we'll complete feasibility studies and determine the best ART alignment options on the file. Again, that is -- so that's what we're doing on those two files. Next slide, please. The automated transit network feasibility study: This is something we're conducting a financial feasibility assessment of the automated transit network. For system implementation, we're going to be supporting the Airport CID and the issuance of request for proposals for ATN demonstration pilot project in conjunction with the City of College Park between the Skytrain area and the Georgia International Convention Center; a million dollars identified to contribute towards the study this year, so we can have information to share with you and develop proposals for feasibility of a product like this in Fulton County. Next slide, please. I also want to update you on the Georgia 400 Express Lane transit and the I-285: So the BRT, the Georgia 400 was the concept there, of course, with the BRT within the GDOT State Route 400 express lanes project, and that would take you from North Springs to the Windward Parkway park-and-ride facility. This project is ongoing. It's progressing as GDOT is continuing to advance the process to select a designer and the builder for the express lanes. We've partnered with the North Fulton



CID and the state area planning, looking at existing conditions and pedestrian connectivity, and we're wrapping up the market study in early June. Our legal team is also coordinating with GDOT on a revised IGA to address station area access during construction. And MARTA is also seeking to determine grant opportunities like the FTA CIG small starts grant to help further fund this project. And on the right you'll see the I-285 project. Again this is a BRT concept within the GDOT I-285 express lanes from H. E. Homes to the Indian Creek station. And the role here for MARTA is to participate with the project working group, envisioning, scoping, planning, and conceptional engineering of the design. We'll also, of course, be heavily involved with public engagement, stakeholder communications, and environmental assessments. But we recently -- the good news here is that we've recently selected the CDM Smith team to do the planning work on the top end BRT study, and the ATL is scheduled to take the contract to their June 1st board meeting for adoption. The policy working group met in April of 2023 and will continue to meet quarterly. Next slide, please. So on a more general level, MARTA has engaged in its annual budget cycle process, and I wanted to share highlights of the operating and capital proposals. So the next slide. We've been going to jurisdictions and speaking about what's happening in our budget and I always like to start with -- we're talking to you about how we're setting the table financially for FY24, so it behooves us to talk a little bit about we're able to achieve in FY23 -- a lot of success to talk about here. I won't go into the details, but from a hiring perspective, it's no secret that across the country, transit and other industries were hard fought -- hard-pressed, sorry, to find employees. But MARTA did step up on a, you know, at one point on a 1300 operator base, we were 250 operator short. We have now eliminated that gap, but it wasn't without this kind of effort, a hundred and ten percent increase in the amount of bus hires going on. Our ridership is a success story with nearly six million more revenue miles in FY23 year to date over FY22. In comparison to pre-COVID numbers, I mean, the quick comparative there is that our mobility ridership is now back to 88 percent of what it was pre-COVID. Our bus ridership is back to 62 percent, and our rail ridership is back to 50 percent, and even in the case of rail ridership, we've demonstrated the capacity to do more as evidenced when Janet Jackson and Taylor Swift ended up being scheduled on the same night, and MARTA was able to move crowds reminiscent of the crowds we supported during the Super Bowl. So the capacity is there. We're spending in a manner that will support that capacity and I actually believe that you do need to spend your way out of a ridership slump. So we are making sure that we address and accommodate those increased loads as they come. Financially, we had a very strong year. We we're more dynamic and comprehensive in our project cost modeling due to our HDR tool, which we just brought on a month or so ago. We got top marks from the International Financial Standards barriers. We're always seeking efficiencies, and that's perhaps one of the reasons we got top marks, but there you will see we saved \$15 million in the past year from innovative refinancing initiatives, and we're also proven competitive in securing federal funds. Next slide, please. More successes: Safer and more secure. We heard the concerns throughout the year, throughout the years, and we share them, so we continue working towards the goal of being one of the safest transit agencies in the country regardless of whether the hazard is intended or unintended, that is whether it's a security or a safety risk, MARTA

is focused on eliminating those. So the bottom dash under safer and more secure parts of the pure safety issue, which is the unintended hazards. So GDOT has given us a really good clean bill of health in terms of their triannual safety audit. We've closed all of the corrective action plans from the previous audits and we're moving forward. And when it comes to the security aspect, you can see there 17 percent reduction in serious crimes and a 42 percent reduction in operator assaults. And then, of course, stronger connections into the community: We're just improving the MARTA brand for stronger connections, whether it's soccer in the stations, more managers in the station, art bound installments on the system, helping with voter registration or food in the MARTA markets, these are all designated and designed to help strengthen ties in the community as we move people forward. Next slide, please. So here are the numbers for the FY24 plan service levels. In a nutshell, what I'm trying to illustrate here is that if you look at FY19, which is pre-pandemic and if you look at FY24, you can see we're putting our money where our mouth is and we are funding the ability to schedule the same level of service that we had pre-pandemic. And it's important as I said because you lead ridership with service, and revenue ridership remains a significant part of our revenue stream. In fact, passenger revenues are in fact the second-largest contributing factor to our overall fund pictures. So if you'll go to the next slide, we can get in to that pie chart and it shows you passenger revenues there at 13 percent is actually, you know the second-largest revenue stream that we enjoy. Of course, more than half of our revenue comes from operating sales tax revenues, so we are forever grateful for the financial position that the state is in and the policies that allow funds to continue flowing our way. The second-largest as I said is passenger revenues at 82.7 million and the third largest is federal funding, which is composed of mainly Section 5307 preventative funds for state of good repair, our maintenance funding, and that's \$81.5 million which accounts for 13 percent of our revenue. Next slide, please. Of course, we have expenses. And you'll see here the labor and benefits on over time comprised almost two-thirds of our operating expenses, which is consistent with the industry. You might expect that in such a resource-dependent operation. The next highest category at 17 percent is our contractual services category, which includes mobility services, IT licensing fees, fare collection, equipment maintenance, passenger facilities maintenance, and external litigation. Next slide, please. Oh, yeah, so this is the capital sources and uses chart. So this allows us to really look at the planned capital sources and uses for FY24. In a nutshell, it tells you that the capital plan and the total capital program of \$855 million in expenses. So we're going to be spending \$855 million in FY24 on those categories. This includes \$456 million from state of good repair, \$218 million for more MARTA City of Atlanta, \$29 million for more MARTA of Clayton County, and the budget also includes a \$152 million in debt services pavements, specifically for the state of good repair program. Total sources of funds budgeted in FY24 are slightly under \$1.2 billion with a \$541 million in FY23 carryover funds from all sources, and \$617 million in FY24 generated funds. So that includes \$125 million of issuance of debt to support the state of good repair. So MARTA, therefore, expects to carry forward \$304 million of funds at the end of FY24. Next slide, please. Taking a more detailed look at your FY24 state of good repair portion of the capital budget, we'll start with the sources of revenue which total about \$626 million. So the largest source of funding is capital sales tax which we

spoke about, and that accounts for 42 percent of total funding. We also plan to use a \$150 from the unified reserve to carry forward. And so, the prior year of carryforward of \$541 million, a hundred and fifty of that will be used in FY24. We'll also count on \$84 million in federal grants, which includes formula, competitive, and CRISA funding; with CRISA being the Corona Virus Response and Relief Supplementary Appropriations Act. Next slide, please. The FY24 state of good repair uses category or expenditures, includes debt service and is budgeted at \$608 million. So the expenditures are separated by the five FTA categories, asset categories, as well as debt service, and the largest category for investment in FY24 is for systems at \$112 million. So a few examples of that are elevator and escalator rehab for 20 million and automatic fare control -- I'm sorry, fare collection at \$10 million. That's AFC 2.0 plan. The next highest category is non-asset at \$110 million, and that includes design for the Five Points transformation project, environmental health and safety professional services that we enjoy, things like making sure that MARTA knows what it's doing when it comes the confined space entry, water management, and water waste management, and other hazardous material, assessments, and abatements. We want to make sure that we continue to spend that money to keep the system running safe. And facilities and stations represent our third highest category at 105.5 million; the largest project there is station rehab. So I mean I'd like to say that we are, you know we are an expensive system to maintain. We are one of the larger systems in North America, and we're replete with all kinds of, you know, what I call the expensive underbelly of running an operation, 48 bridges, 23 tunnels, 104 miles of track complete with, you know, associated systems like power systems, electrical systems, communication systems that keep the trains spaced properly. We have 266 portable circulation units. That's elevators and escalators. All of these things, as we speak, require maintenance, and so that's why the budget, when it comes to maintenance, is so rich. Next slide, please. I wanted to give you just a quick snapshot of our state of good repair, the top ten projects. Those top 10 will combine for 50 percent of our overall -- of our overall FY24 budget, and they're listed there. And again, you know, you'll see that these are projects that affect the system. These are projects that by in large are helpful for everyone that uses our system. And then on the next slide, I just want to give you a good sense of what happens next year. We had a board briefing and we received feedback from our board at a retreat on May the 9th. We're engaging in public hearings as I said, yesterday and tomorrow. We got proposed budgets being provided to each jurisdiction, much like we're doing today; and then the board committee presentation will be on May 25th which will give the Board time to review and hopefully vote to adopt on June 8th. And with the next slide, Chairman Pitts, I want to thank you and return the floor to you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, questions? Vice Chair Ellis?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair. Before I get into all my remarks, you know, thanks to MARTA for -- I'm sure Taylor Swift's thankful for you helping her make her three-day Eras Tour a success here in Atlanta. But the -- a couple things I want to get at. Number one, I mean, the -- if I did my math right, I think that the funding

coming to MARTA, estimated to come to MARTA next year is about \$630 million in sales tax and about 165 million between capital and operating from federal grants and so forth. So technically, ridership is not the second highest, it's the third highest in terms of your revenue sources overall contributed to capital and operating, correct?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "No, I -- well, let me double check that. I am -- I'm certain that ridership --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "For operating but in combined --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "-- for operating --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- but in a combined basis, it's -- terms -- it's the third, right?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Correct, correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So, this -- just to be clear on that, in terms of just, you know, the total bucket. One suggestion, I mean, and certainly this is one of the few opportunities when we do have some folks that have come in and made public comment relative to MARTA, you know, in this session. We have them in other -- in sometimes in other sessions as well. So this is one of the few times MARTA, you know, has an opportunity to appear before, you know, bodies like us. It would be helpful -- and I think we got this presentation yesterday, maybe. So, every time you do a quarterly update, our agenda is released on a Friday, it would be helpful to have your operating update within that Friday packet versus you appearing before us and us just seeing it right here. I'm not sure of the utility of it, just sort of seeing it, sort of cold, this part -- you know, in, you know, first time really, you know, the night before and the morning, is particularly really productive for spending, you know, however much amount of time that we just spent on that. And within it, I think it would be useful if you could include to us an executive summary of the key points in which you were trying to convey to us to allow us more an opportunity for dialoguing these sessions as opposed to just sort of a presentation dump. So, I don't mean that to be critical, but I just think for -- I think that's a missed opportunity for us and for all of our citizens to have that. So and within the report itself and, you know, I'm a little bit frustrated by this because in prior iterations of this, I've asked for it, sometimes we have some stuff in there, sometimes we don't have stuff there. So it, you know, I think -- I understand we want to try to pinpoint things that are -- may be successes, but I also think we also need to be realistic and show people realities, right? And one of the things that's not been a sort of consistent way to view it every each and every report, we should have it, is ridership, by mode, going back to 2019 to where we are today. And that's not -- never been consistent with any of these reports. So, I would like to see that starting with the next report, continuing in the following report, continuing in the report, on and on and on and on. And I've made that ask before, and it's just not consistently been in here. There's a note in here about

some ridership being up in a particular category, but that's just a bullet point, you know, kind of frame of reference. So, I would like to see that going forward, you know, within the scope of the report."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "So with respect, Commissioner Ellis --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "This will be the first quarterly briefing that I've done that doesn't have the ridership, by mode since 2019 on it. So, we -- we typically do give you that number, it's --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Well, it's not in here now, right?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "No, it's not --"

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

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "-- in here now, sir, because this is largely a budget review."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Right."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "So this is -- so, in the absence -- I mean, I'm happy to talk about those in detail. But the comment that we haven't done it, is unfair --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "-- because this is the first time that you're not seeing that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Well, that's -- you know, to me, these things look different every time I get them. So, maybe --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "It's consistent --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- maybe that's --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "-- it's the same chart."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Maybe that's unfair, but I'd like to see it in every report that you provide us. You know, we only get these quarterly, I think we should look at them quarterly, see what the trends are. That's my point. My other question for you is relative to the crime stats and so forth. It'd be useful to have a little bit more information about trending on that sort of stuff as well other than just seeing sort of a reduction and any insight into, you know where those are occurring within the system."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "So, yeah, we -- again, in the interest of trying to be concise on a budget briefing, we didn't spell that out. But we can -- I take your point, and I'd be happy to boast about --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "-- our crime program and we'll bring that forward in the next quarterly briefing."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay, all right. Thank you. That's all my remarks."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Vice Chair. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you, Chairman. I've received some emails, and maybe there's another time that we talk about it. But the treatment of the homeless on MARTA, I didn't know if there is any attempts to look at the issues, look at solutions, the most humane solutions to protect the riders as well the -- the homeless. I don't know if you can speak on that today, happy to have a conversation later."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. It -- I mean it's a very important subject for us; MARTA has been teaming up with Hope Atlanta for a number of years now. We recognize that homelessness is not a crime, and we don't intend to treat homeless people as if it were. We also recognize though that, you know, a home is not a bus, and a home is not a train. So, we are working with Hope Atlanta. We've had some good successes in the past year in terms of reunifications with families, reunifications with services, helping people to -- I think -- I think it was at a different briefing, I was able to share, you know, kind of a specific story from one of the folks that were homeless, and they kind of walked through what MARTA did for them with the Hope Atlanta team. It's just anecdotal, of course, but it's we're aspiring to. It takes a very long time to move that needle. And it's not something that, as you know, that's specific to MARTA. It's a city, it's a country effort. But to answer the question, our view is that it's not a crime. We're taking it seriously, we're partnering with the community agencies that are there to help us. And what we really need is a place for people. So, what we really need is a housing solution and a program solution to assist people so that they don't feel that the bus is the best place for them."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Thank you. And one other thing, you mentioned on your slide that you're going to be doing voter registrations. Are you going to be working with our Election office, DeKalb's Election offices, or how do you plan -- what's the process --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Right. That reference was part of our 20 -- FY23 successes. So it's just talking about how we've worked in the past. It's not a commentary on the future. But we always stand ready to assist with that type of thing,



in terms of engaging the community making sure that MARTA's a part of a solution if we want to make sure that registration is occurring."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And you mentioned you're doing it at stations, are those MARTA stations, bus stations, train stations?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Yeah, we have -- we have done it, and I mean, I don't have the details with me. But we have done it, you know, in stations. We've done it with -- adjacent to stations at larger venues. So, again, we can come back to you with an update on what types of assistance we've been able to provide in that regard."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah. I would -- and I'd like to know if -- if you're doing the actual voter registrations or you --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Oh, no."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- having someone --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Transportation."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Transportation is doing --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "No, no, we're providing transportation to the sites --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "-- where registrations happen."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay. Because I don't have any train stations up in my district."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So, I was just wanting to know if we could have somehow, it equally distributed across --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Sure."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "-- the county."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much for this presentation. And since we did have one of our residents bring us these pictures. And this is, from what I -- I'm not completely sure, but I think this is one of the MARTA station restrooms. Did you see these pictures?"



**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "I haven't seen them. So, I -- would you mind if I take a quick look?"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "No, absolutely. Can you --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- please provide this to Mr. Greenwood. Thank you. So, you know, we want to address those issues that are brought to us by our residents, and that is one of them. And I noticed that in your presentation, you do have on page 6, a page that says -- it shows an East Point Smart Restroom."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And so that we don't have these types of issues, like the picture that was presented by one of our residents, is there some kind of check or balance for the restrooms to ensure that they are remaining clean for the residents?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Sure. So, thank you. And in looking at that photograph, there's, you know, the folks in this room didn't really get a chance to see it. One was a backed-up toilet, one was something on the floor next to the drain, and another one was six or seven pieces of paper littered on the floor. So, just for -- in a way of explaining what I just saw on the --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "-- in the image for those online and those in the room. All of that to say, I will never ever stand here and try to downplay the experience of anyone that's walked into a restroom that they don't feel is suitable for them. I will always support that person's perspective. I will also say that every one of those scenes can be cleaned on one day, and then can be messed up again on the next day. That's the -- that's the nature of this dynamic use. It's -- anyway -- so, these pictures that I'm showing you are the Smart Restrooms. The photos that we just saw are restrooms that are not the Smart Restrooms."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "So, what a lot of transit agencies do and did, especially during the pandemic when we didn't have the staff to continue to maintain and keep those clean, is they closed them. And many transit agencies will rely on restrooms only at the nexus station, in our case, Five Points, or the end terminals. And then all the stations in between, there are no restrooms. So, MARTA doesn't take that approach. MARTA would like to have a restroom in every station, but we can't afford to have staff there all the time to continually clean up. So, the resulting response to that is these Smart Restrooms. So these Smart Restrooms is the answer that you're asking me about, Commissioner Hall. These will allow us to keep this -- the restroom

monitored, in terms of movement. If someone's in there, we'll know, they'll -- will allow us to give access to the individual. It allows us to keep camera monitors outside of the restrooms, so we know if someone's going in or coming out. It'll also allow us to electronically monitor the levels of paper and soap and products that need to be replenished. So, all of this allows us to open all the stations, so we'll have a restroom in every station, at the same time, not expose it to the, you know, being susceptible to being messed up the way that one is."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. And so with the older restrooms, what is in place to ensure that -- is it just regular maintenance to ensure that they stay clean?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "It's regular maintenance."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "It is regular maintenance?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Yeah, that's -- that is what we do. And I, again, with a washroom, it really depends on user habits as much as cleaning habits. So it is a -- it is a -- it is a partnership to keep these spaces suitable -- thank you, sir. To keep these spaces suitable and yeah, I mean, in one case, what I'm seeing here is a toilet that needs to be flushed."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "And so, if we're to wait for the station's services cleaner to return on their shift to do that, then that'll be the condition, or we could just flush it."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right, thank you. And I was glad to hear you speak about the need for housing solutions for those who are displaced and homeless, so that they are not utilizing or feeling the need to utilize the MARTA Transit System as their covering. And is there any movement on what direction you're taking to, maybe, collaborate and -- because the county has a homelessness division, the city has one. We have many nonprofits that we fund that are partners of ours that address those issues. Is there any type of collaboration or connectivity point where we can work together to ensure that we are addressing those needs?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Yes, yes, there are. So, MARTA does work with a number of agencies that are involved with homelessness. As I said, Hope Atlanta is the chief among them. We're also looking at affordable housing task forces, such as the Mayor's Affordable Housing Strike Force. And I think it -- it's going to take the collective will of all those agencies, ourselves included, to solve this. But to answer your question, MARTA is very much invested in that conversation."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Great. Thank you. And lastly, there was a report that I've been waiting for to see and that was supposed to be provided to the city of Atlanta. I think there was some request for some -- maybe like, I think it might have been like a

budget report or some kind. And is there -- could you tell me when that would be provided, or is it going to be provided?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Sure. So, two things that you may be referring to, one is the HDR modeling tool, so that was for the city Atlanta More MARTA program. It was our ability to work with HDR, which is an international firm. That work has been done now. We've walked the Mayor and his staff through it. And it allows us to very quickly assess the feasibility of the program throughout the, you know, through the -- through the next ten, 20, 30 years, however long we want to project it. So that is one exercise that's been completed. And we've sat with the Mayor's CFO and staff to make sure that they fully understand and accept that. The other product that you may be referring to is a financial audit that some city of Atlanta Commissioners have asked for on the More MARTA program. So that is, the terms of that audit are being worked out. We've sat -- or MARTA has sat with some of the Mayor's staff, again, to talk about the parameters and the timelines and all of that. So, you know, we don't yet know when that will be concluded. But the initial conversations have started."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay, that's great. Thank you very much for this. It looks great, and I just want to commend you on the responsiveness of you and your team. Whenever any of the residents in my district have raised concerns, they've always been addressed in a very swift and efficient manner. So, thank you."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, sir. How are you?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Good morning, sir, fine, thanks."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I want to ask about what are the plans for bus service and County Line and Niskey Lake Road."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Because I live at County Line and Niskey Lake Road. And right now, the option is, you got to walk over 2 miles to get there to the closest bus stop. Right now, I have a cast on."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "I saw you, yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, if I had to, I couldn't have caught the bus here this morning."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Because I would have had to walk 2 miles with this knee scooter."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "So, what are the plans for providing service to the residents at County Line and Niskey Lake Road?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Thank you for the question, Commissioner Arrington. Let me back up and then get very quickly to the answer. So for those that don't know, there's a 2-mile loop on Niskey Lake Road that we received several complaints that it was unsafe because the width of the bus was such that oncoming traffic felt that they were being forced off the road. No sidewalks and whatnot in some locations, and just -- just very difficult for them. We had enough of those complaints; we looked at the statistics and found that we had a couple of collisions and near collisions in the last year. And so, we sent our Safety and Ops teams out there to formally assess it. They came back with the recommendation that we should not be operating 40 or even 30-foot buses on that road because it is unsafe. There's just not enough room. And we're designing in a head-on collision, which is not something we wanted to do. So, MARTA went ahead and pulled the buses off of that road. But consistent with that, we engaged MARTA Connect, which is a program -- we put door hangers on every door along Niskey Lake Road. So anyway, what it means is that someone who now lives on Niskey Lake Road and wants connection with the system, they just use Uber or Lyft and MARTA will pay for it, two trips a day. And that's been in place since the buses came off. Long-term solution, we've asked the Mayor's staff, Commissioner of DOT, DOT Commissioner, to come up with physical improvements on Niskey Lake, so that we can pull the buses back on there. So, I fully appreciate that that kind of civil work takes time, and we trust that they're moving that forward. But in the meantime, MARTA Connects continues to be of service to you."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, what about MARTA vans or the Paratransit buses, can those be used? I mean, how long have these routes been running? We've been paying into MARTA for 40, 50, 60 years now, right?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Yeah, yeah, yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "And how long have these routes been running for them to now be a determination for after 30, 40 years --"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "You asked --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- that the routes are unsafe?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "You're asking the very question I asked. When I heard about this, I said, you're kidding me, how long has this been route that we're just figuring this out now? But two things that came to my mind, one is, when the

route was initially established, the sidewalks in the areas that they're in, weren't there. So there has been some civil construction, wasn't vetted MARTA. We -- so, our drivers just continued to do the best they can in a tough situation. Not fair to put the drivers in that boat. The second thing that came to mind is, it's never a good question to say, well -- or position to say, well, we've always done it this way, so we're just going to continue doing it. When someone puts in front of me in my desk, a legitimate safety concern and one that's vetted through the Safety Department, I would love the luxury of being able to say, well we've always been doing it and going to keep doing it. But I just couldn't, I couldn't do that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So how many -- how many accidents with MARTA buses have there been on route?"

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "We're aware of, in the past year, there were two that were reported. But I'm not just concerned about an accident, I'm concerned about the near miss or the evasive action that POV drivers take to avoid the accident."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. Well, I would hope that you all would look at reestablishing the service and using smaller vehicles. I don't believe that -- I heard you say, y'all did it all along Niskey Lake, but I'm on County Line. So, I guess I didn't get one. But, you know, I don't think that -- I don't think that that is a good replacement or a viable option. I think it would be much better to provide a smaller-unit bus like the Paratransit buses that you have, and continue those routes. So I would request, humbly, that you all look into doing that."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Thank you, Commissioner."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Other comments or questions for Mr. -- none? All right, thank you."

**COLLIE GREENWOOD, CEO, MARTA:** "Thank you, all."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Mr. Manager, let's -- well, it's 1:23. Let's do the operational report before we recess."

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**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. We'll speed through this. And I think it's really one subject, which is ORCA and courts. One thing I want to bring to your attention, the BRE did report that the Special Election went off well. Everything opened on time, no issues to report. What you'll see in our operations overview this morning is, ORCA cases within 400 now of having dismissed or disposed of 100,000 cases, so a milestone coming up. We are seeing some slight improvement in pace. And Mr. Adams will highlight that, as well as some new charts that detail jail population unindicted cases

and average length of stay. Average -- the emergency purchase orders approved by you, requested by the Sheriff, are moving forward, so that, that's good news. You'll also see in today's agenda, the CSP program will be presented, 6.8 million in support for community organizations and of course, the community directly, as well as a million for veterans' organizations, 500,000 for summer youth, as well as the 500,000 for Wellspring. So, again, a great day in terms of all of those initiatives approved by this Board. We will review the ARPA numbers today, but there are really no changes. The changes that we propose, we're going to present at the May 22nd Retreat. Because we've looked through all of the ARPA numbers, things that we think we will underrun that could be reallocated, as well as the two reserves for facilities and healthcare that you put in place in the budget. So we'll propose, again, uses of those for the near term, and then seek your guidance. Speaking of the Retreat, we've worked hard to finish that agenda, you should have it now. It's been published for the public as well. And the materials also, you should have available. So, most of that meeting will be spent on the long-term financials, the major cost drivers, and the alternative revenue sources. But we do plan to cover in that meeting, employee compensation and public relations is two crosscutting issues. So, much to be teed up, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, over the next week or so, and we thank you for your consideration. And we'll move through this report, turning to Mr. Adams and seeing if there are any questions on any of the other items in this report."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Mr. Adams, you have the floor, sir."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Thank you, Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Ellis, Commissioners, per the County Manager's comments, I will take you through this at a high level. And obviously, always open to questions as we move forward. Next slide, please. To date, we have disposed of 99,690 cases. That compares to the 148,000 cases that we started with. That leaves us 48,518 cases remaining that are remaining to be disposed of between now and October of 2024. The next slide gives you a sense of the pace of the disposition over the last couple of months. We did pick up a bit in the last month or so. And I will go into the -- to a little detail on where that came from. But overall, we're tracking about -- disposing at about 3,000 cases a month, which at this particular pace, will allow us to dispose of the majority of the cases that we targeted by next year. I do want to point out, however that as these cases move from our prosecutors to state and Superior Court, particularly in Superior Court as they moved to trials, we are, in fact, going to see a bit of a slowdown, given the nature of the cases and how long it takes to get through those trials. But overall, we continue to make great progress in the overall caseload. Next slide talks specifically to some of the data that we look at on a monthly basis and project to date. What you will see is that, we had a -- in terms of the variance versus the target for the month of April, good performance versus the target. A large percentage of that, in fact, the bulk of that, was in the Solicitor General's office. The Solicitor General focused specifically on a range of diversion



programs that allow them to, in fact, settle a number of cases. And that's something that they had been working on for quite some time. And we saw that really come to a -- really peak in the month of April, so big impact there. Overall, I think overall, if you look at the other agencies, they kind of balanced out to where -- what we were targeting. If you look in the right-hand side, what you see is that we continue to exceed the target that we had -- that we had outlined. So we have a bit of a buffer, which we're likely going to need as we move into the next year and a half or so. On the next slide, or the next two slides just give you a sense of some of the information we look at. The gray line basically gives you a sense for the target for the various agencies. The orange line talks in resources that are, in fact, deployed. We need to make sure that we, in fact, are providing the resources needed to move the caseload. And the blue line just gives you a sense for the dispositions. We look at this over -- in this particular case, over the last year or so. No real, you know, commentary here, just to give you a sense for the type of information we're tracking. And quite frankly, type of information that we give to our various agencies, so they have a sense as to how well they are tracking versus the target. Page 77 just gives you a sense for the various courts as well. I think the one comment I'll make is that our prosecutors have really picked up the pace in terms of the dispositions. Those cases were, in fact, then moved. A large number of those cases were then, in fact, moved to State Court and to Superior Court. The next slide is an update on our -- next slide, please. This slide gives you an update on our hiring. For the most part, I'd say that, you know, we continue to add at a relatively -- you know, kind of small clip, but it is positive in terms of the additions. And in some cases, we continue to have some gaps in terms of fulfilling the roles that kind of reflects, is really a microcosm of what we're seeing across the county in non-ORCA positions. But you -- what we're showing you here is, where we've made some incremental progress since the last report. Next slide. In terms of things that we continue to attract, we also are looking at -- next slide, please -- and overall court capacity and performance including non-ORCA cases. So, this particular slide gives you a sense for -- let me step back and explain it. We looked at the pace of each one of these various agencies in the months preceding the -- preceding COVID. So basically, if you look at February, that's an average number -- we looked at the average number February -- for February 2018 and February 2019. And therefore that set a benchmark for what we are comparing our current throughput to for these various agencies. So therefore, take away on that, if you look at Superior Court, for example, what we're finding is that we are tracking fairly well to the pace that we were tracking pre-COVID in civil cases. We are still ramping up in criminal cases, as you would expect, because jury trials and the like, are still ramping up. We also have the same issue -- or same numbers in State Court continue to ramp in criminal cases, doing very well in the civil cases. And as I mentioned, what we're finding is that the DA, the District Attorney and the Solicitors, in part, due to the additional resources that have been injected into those particular areas, have in fact, been able to get back to the pace that they were at overall pre-COVID over the last



three months or so. Next slide. In terms of the jail population, what we're seeing is that we continue to be at or about, you know, 3600 give or take, which is -- which means we're not making progress in terms of getting people out faster than we're bringing them in, and hence, why the big focus is on a number of things that we can do in the system to try to reverse that particular trend. This just gives you a breakdown of how individuals are dispersed across the various facilities. So as you can see, we have individuals in -- you know, 50 individuals in Alpharetta. Our number for loan-outs is primarily the Cobb jail. And then we have a breakdown of individuals that we have at our main jail and Rice Street. Next slide, please. One of the things that we've had discussions about and there've been questions about is what's the profile of individuals that are in the current -- in the system today. And there's been a lot of discussion about indicted versus unindicted. This just gives you a quick breakdown, and it's something, here again, that we look at on a regular basis of individuals who are unindicted in the jail. And we try to break it down between individuals who are there, both who may have other charges and individuals who are unindicted with a hold. And so you, in talking Madam DA last week, she's comfortable with these numbers, she understands them. And she did indicate that she would like to have, which we delivered, a list of all the individuals, those 1277, and she committed to working those cases. And she believes that we can, in fact, she -- her office can indict those individuals with the next -- within the next four to six months. So, a lot of focus on priority on those individuals could that in some ways begins the process. The next slide just gives you a sense of the makeup of individuals in the jail. And one of the things that our jail infrastructure is challenged with as well as the court system is the change in the demographics of the individuals who are in the Fulton County jail. In 2018, 42 percent of the individuals in the jail were charged with serious violent, felony charges. And the definitions are down at the bottom of the page. That number is 58 percent. And so you say, well, why is -- why do we care, why is that relevant? Well, it's relevant for a couple reasons. One, those trials tend to take longer, tend to be a bit more complex. And as a result, has implication for ability to move them through the system. Secondly, the makeup of the population also has implications for classification at the jail. And it also has implications for the safety of individuals at the jail, both the inmate population as well as our Deputies at a time where we are severely understaffed. So it is something that -- that is important, and it's something that we track. And it is something that has, I think, significant implications for a number of the issues that we're trying to address as we move cases through the system. To that end, the next slide gives you a sense for the average length of stay of individuals in the Fulton County jail. 2018, the average length of stay was 33 days. Today, the average length of stay -- and I shouldn't say today, but in 2022 that number had grown to almost 60 days. Here again, the implications are that that is one of the feeds, an important feed into the overpopulation in the system. It's one of the things that as we think about a leading indicator of what, in fact, will allow us to reduce the jail population that average length of stay, and be able to move that number, and in fact, is

one of the things that allows us to, in fact, get people out of the system -- system faster. The next slide gives you a sense for some of the things that we are working on in conjunction with State Court, Superior Court, the Public Defender, the District Attorney, the Sheriff, and the DA to find ways to, in fact, focus on moving individuals through the system and getting people out of the Fulton County jail. I will not go into details on all of these, they're a couple I'd like to point out though. One is, we've increased the number of Senior Judges for Superior Court. That will, in fact, allow us to hear more criminal cases and will allow us to, in fact, see if we can move more criminal cases through the system. The other one I would like to call out, and it's actually -- was something that was mentioned in the AJC last week, is that State Court has agreed to take on civil cases from the Superior Court calendar. That will allow the Superior Court Judges to then focus on criminal cases, and in fact, ideally, move some of those criminal cases through the system. I want to thank State Court, quite frankly, for agreeing to do it. Their Judges agreed to do it. And Superior Court, most of their Judges are going to be - - it's not going to be all of the civil cases, but it's going to be the ones that could potentially be handed over in the short term. We think that that's probably one of the biggest levers we have in terms of increases the throughput through the Superior Court system. And then finally, there's been a lot of press about what we -- the C3 Conflict Attorneys, and the ability to basically handle multi-defendant cases. We have the Superior Court led by David Summerlin and his team and Judge McBurney, had put together a C3 program. They have, in fact, engaged 20 different attorneys. They're dealing with 80 different cases. We think that this is going to help us as we deal with some of these multi-defendant cases, which create a particularly high level of stress on the system across the board. Next slide, please. And so I'd like to close, really, by saying that we are focused on -- and laser focused on three things: One, eliminating the backlog, continuing to focus on the backlog. Two, getting the system back to where we were pre-COVID, because that is really important. And then finally, working on numerous ways to reduce the jail population because of the implications across the board that we have talked about. The next slide, just as a point of information for individuals who are interested in finding more data. This just gives you a list of the information that is provided on the Fulton County website. It has a lot of data, and really feeds into the level of transparency, we think is really, really important, certainly Fulton County. We have looked at other counties around the country because we like to benchmark. We haven't found one yet that has a level of detail with the cadence that the Fulton County system has when it comes to tracking and reporting on our system. Someone does find one, let us know because we always like to emulate best practices. But at this point in time, we consider ourselves to be one of the most transparent systems when it comes to tracking the performance at the county justice system. Thanks for your time. Happy to take any questions."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'll try to pace through this real quick. Thanks, Mr. Adams, for the, you know, for all the slides. And I do continue to think we need -- you know, we have a lot of data points. I think we need sort of like, four or five headline that we can kind of really look at up front. Because sometimes, sort of too much -- too much data kind of gets you the point of, you know, you don't necessarily know what you're looking at. But on a few comments and just questions on 6 and 7, where you go through the dispositions. One category that sort of slowed considerably is in this Magistrate bucket. Are these mostly civil case -- these are civil cases, right?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "You mean, the backlog in the Magistrate cases?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "I would say, primarily, yeah, but not totally."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "What's that?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "I said, it's probably a combination of both in terms of the backlog in Magistrate, that's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "But mostly civil?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "That's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Any idea why that just fell to basically, you know, no activity in April? I mean, the resources are the same."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "You know, I think -- I think Magistrate Court continues to try to -- how would I describe it -- get its footing, in terms of how it uses the ORCA resources. They have been a bit understaffed. Some of those resources are new. And I think in terms of adopting e-filing, probably not as aggressive as we should be. I do know that a number of the Judges are using the virtual system. But for the most part, I think it's probably maybe more about execution and priority at this point in time."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Page 12, just so I'm clear on page 12, this has sort of got these slides -- I mean, I think I got what you said. It's a little bit hard to follow. But these are post-COVID cases disposition, is this what we're trying to look and compare it to the rate of dispositions in pre-COVID?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "That is correct. So, if you looked at the February number, for example, for Superior Court, and you said, well, what's the target? That target would be an average of what February dispositions were in 2018 and 2019. So, just --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So, we're disposing of -- at a rate of 68 -- like -- all right. So in April, this is the top line, we're disposing of 72 percent of the cases comparatively to what we would have been disposing of in 2018 and 2019; is that what that's saying?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "That's correct. The average of 2018 and 2019. So we're about -- we're at 72 percent of the pace that we were operating at for the -- for April of 2018 and 2019, at average."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. I mean, I guess, one thing -- understand the notion that criminal cases may take longer. But when you look at this, it gives the impression that there's not -- there's more focus being applied to civil cases because maybe they might be easier to address. And we're not leaning in enough to the criminal cases and falls for an even further backlog. I mean, if we're already at exceeding the numbers in the civil cases, but we're still, you know, 30, 30-35 percent below on the criminal."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Yeah. And I think part of it is well, Vice Chair --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'm just making -- I'm just making a statement. I'm not asking you for --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- actually explain it. I'm just making statement. And have we had -- have we heard anything from our Superior Court that they do not have enough space for courtrooms to handle criminal cases? Is that an issue?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "They -- there are -- they would like to have more space, that's correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "How many -- how much more space?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Well, they've identified a couple of courtrooms that they -- that they use one or two days a week that they'd like to be able to have access for five days."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Five days."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "And quite frankly, you know, at the beginning of ORCA we had anticipated that we might be able to have our criminal cases outside of the courthouse. But for security reasons and other reasons, we haven't been able to do that. So, we've got a couple of courtrooms outside that we use primarily for civil cases outside of the courthouse. But courtroom space is at a premium. We've refurbished a couple of them. But if we had our druthers, we'd probably reorient a couple of others away from, kind of, criminal activities towards the -- towards criminal, criminal cases. So --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So, they want --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "-- and we're working on that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "They need some more space for criminal cases?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "That is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And we potentially have some that we can move --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Well, we're trying to work that issue right now. There are a couple that have been identified that we think might be --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Trying to work? I mean, what's necessary to make it work? I mean, what's the -- do we need to -- do we need to say -- I mean, do we need to say, hey, make this a priority, right? You know, I mean, it's -- if it's there, it's obviously an issue, it's impacting everybody. I mean, what do we need to do get it over --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "It is a priority. We do have elected officials that require us to negotiate it a bit. And so, but yes, it is -- it is a priority, and so --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Do they own the courtrooms?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "They do not."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. All right, enough said. Page 14. And I hope we can get some attention to that. And if, you know, if this Board needs to provide some direction to give somebody a, hey, open up and use the facilities for what's a priority, then, you know, I mean --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Make sense."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I think we should give you that direction. I mean, it's -- page 14, this is good. I do think graphically, it's sort of hard to get your head around sometimes. And it's hard to see these smaller spaces. It might be useful just to show number versus cap -- and the capacity for each facility instead of putting it in a bar graph, just put it in a numerical chart."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Because it's -- you can't really -- I don't -- ACDC, some of -- some of these, the coloring and all that sort of stuff, you can kind of -- sometimes you're not sure, necessarily, what you're looking at. But like, ACDC for example, we have access to 750 beds?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "That is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "And we're using 413; is that --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "I think --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Or are we using 338? Which one is that?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "My understanding is, we're up to 400 --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "-- at ACDC -- 413."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "So that 14 -- all right, so anyway, this -- maybe it was just a different way to present that. And then we don't show the Union City facility, which we own has, what, 300 and something beds, 400 beds, 500 beds?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "We don't show it because it's still closed. We're in the process of -- the Sheriff is in the process of evaluating when and how to reopen it. But once we move individuals there that will show up in this chart as well."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Page 15 just, you said -- I was pleased to hear your remarks on that. You said that the notion is to try to get these unindicted cases cleared out within the next four months?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "That is correct. When I met with DA Willis last week, she asked specifically to get a list to her of these 12 -- this 1,277, which was done, I believe, on Friday the Clerk provided that information. And she indicated that she thought it would take four months -- that she would spend the next four months indicting those particular cases."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Thank you."

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

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to go back to page 12."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Page 12?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. I'm a little confused as well, as far as disposed and percentage capacity. Can you just put the 2018 numbers on there, so we can see ourselves and --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "I will do that, Commissioner. We'll add that to the -- to the next slide, we'll do that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yeah. I mean like, I -- you know, I don't understand all that. But I can look at the 2018 numbers and compare them to the 2023 numbers myself."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Without some type of percentage capacity and -  
-"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "We can certainly do that."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- cases, number of cases disposed. I mean, I -  
- you know, just let me see the numbers. I can just make the determination from there."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's a good point."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Because I think that definitely is confusing. But it sounds like we're moving in the right direction, you know. And certainly, whatever we can do to speed it up. Now, as far as these additional courts, additional space that Commissioner Ellis was inquiring about, are there additional Judges to put in those additional spaces?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Yeah, with the -- with the -- we have, with the hiring of the four additional Senior Judges, we -- they would be able to utilize the space to move some of the criminal cases, that's correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, wait. With the hiring of the --"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "The senior -- the Senior Judges that we added."

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

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Yeah. The part -- you know, they -- yeah."

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

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "That completes my report unless there are any additional questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else for Mr. Adams? Mr. Manager?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, sir. We did not intend to go through anything else because again, the ARPA information we'll share at the Retreat. And the financials that have been provided for you through April are, I think, pretty self-explanatory and represent no issues in terms of this year's financials. So unless there are any questions, we're concluding in our report."

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

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, no questions. Colleagues, it's 1:50. I'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch, real estate, litigation, and -- what's the other one, I always forget it -- the other one."



**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Personnel."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes, personnel. All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Let's vote, please."

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

(Recess for Executive Session at 1:51 p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam Clerk, please proceed."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, Mr. Chairman. Do we have items from Executive Session? She's not here."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. She's not here. She's signing some documents, let's go to the next."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 6, **23-0339**, Finance review and approval of May 17th Budget Sounding."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything, Madam CFO, anything to add?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "No, sir. Most of the items on here were additions to the AML listing. No budgetary impact, just additional spending authority."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A motion to approve by Vice Chair 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:** "Page 7, **23-0341**, Human Resources Management request approval of updates to the Equal Employment Opportunity and Prejudicial Acts Policy."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion 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:** "23-0342: Real Estate and Asset Management request approval to provide a letter of support for inclusion with the City of Atlanta's Federal Highway Administration Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Application."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "A motion to approve by Vice Chair Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Is there anybody who can speak on this, or not here?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I don't see Joe, who would probably be most readily available to answer any questions."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is he here?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "He's coming."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Where is he, where? Oh, come on sir, let's go."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "Good morning, Commissioners, good afternoon, rather, I'm sorry."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. An explanation of 0342, the letter of support for the City of Atlanta's Federal Highway Administration."

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "The city of Atlanta reached out to us a little while ago. They were in the process of applying for a grant that would allow for the installation of EV charging stations. The primary goal of the grant was to allow you to partner with another entity that would provide up to 20 percent of the funding. City of Atlanta was able to reach out to BP Pulse, a subsidiary of British Petroleum that does not currently do business in America. But they're going to finance part of that. They wanted to know would Fulton County be willing to offer a letter of support to go in with their grant application to have a better chance of getting it with the promise of, if we receive the funds, we want to install EV charging stations at Fulton County Libraries that are within the city limits of Atlanta."

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

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So, these EV charging stations, once they're installed is - what's the maintenance or the costs to running them? Will we be charging for use of these stations, that type thing?"

**JOE DAVIS, DIRECTOR, DREAM:** "So on our end, this is going to be a program very similar to one that we're also trying to establish simultaneously, in which the charging company will enter into a use or right of access agreement. They will be responsible financially for all the infrastructure that needs to be installed in order to facilitate the

implementation of the program. But they are going to be accessible by public. But it is going to be at a fee to the public, just like you would at any other charging farm that you may find at a Kroger or Publix or whatever the case may be. It's just that now, you're giving citizens access in the areas in which they live, near the -- yeah, at the libraries."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, great. That's all I have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0343**: Request approval to corporate purchasing contract in the amount not to exceed \$1,392,282.89 to provide demolition and removal of eight existing rooftop units."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair 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:** "**23-0344**: Request approval to increase spending authority for furniture and installation services for the Fulton County Central Warehouse in the total amount of \$351,522.81."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, 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:** "Under Arts and Culture, **23-0345**: Request approval -- Request for the rescission of the approval of a public art contract with David Moore and Adam Deck."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, **23-0346**: Request approval of a public art contract to commission Allen Peterson to create three site-specific original works of art."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **23-0347**, Public Works: Request approval of the dedication of a permanent construction easement to Johns Creek for the purpose of constructing the Old Alabama Road Trail."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, 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:** "**23-0348**: Request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed 117,105 to provide a Laboratory Information Management System."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0349**: Request approval of the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$550,000 to provide sewer system cleaning and manhole camera inspection services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne, 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:** "**23-0350**, Community Development: Request approval of the 2023 Community Service Program Evaluation Committee's recommendations in the amount of \$6,863,958."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Hall, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Is anyone here who can answer? Well, Dr. Roshell?"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. I was just looking at the ineligibility list. And just looking at what disqualified people, or should I say, disqualified nonprofit organizations. And wanted to know, are we providing technical services to those nonprofit organizations that may be small and new or, you know, need that technical service? I recall that this was a big issue raised back when I was Chief of Staff to Joan Garner and Mike Rowicki was one of the employees that worked on the grant project. And we set up the whole technical services piece to address those needs. Can you respond to that?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes, ma'am. Commissioner Hall, we do have the opportunity for technical assistance at the top of every funding application opportunity. With the advent of more constituents being comfortable with Zoom, we provide that through a virtual platform."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's great."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "And so, there are multiple opportunities before the application is due to receive that technical assistance. And during that technical assistance, applicants can ask a host of questions."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So is that separate from the workshops that are offered before the application process or is that --"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "That's a part of the application process."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. Well, there are a lot of nonprofits who have complained to me that they missed the workshops because they don't even find out about the grant opportunity until the workshops have been long gone. So is there a way to offer technical assistance or, I don't know, figure out where the disconnect is in connecting with the community of nonprofit organizations, especially those that are new to finding out about this opportunity?"

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you for that feedback, Commissioner Hall. What I will ask the department to do is to host a series of workshops, for example, so you want to do business with Fulton County --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That's it."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "-- and have contract information. Perhaps invite our Purchasing Department to be a part of that. I understand your concern now that you want constituents or organizations to have an opportunity to understand how we do business and how they can prepare for that well ahead of the funding opportunity."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yes, that's awesome."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "So we'll make that happen."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "That is an awesome idea. I know Felicia Strong-Whitaker and her team have always done that on the business side. But that is very good to offer it on the nonprofit side as well because it does go out as an RFP, right?"

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "And that has been difficult to explain to the nonprofit organizations, why it goes out as an RFP. And they said, well, we're -- this is a grant. We're not bidding, and so, just that explanation alone helps. Thank you."

**DR. PAMELA ROSHELL, COO, FC HHS/PUBLIC WORKS:** "We'll make that happen."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you, both."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 9, **23-0351**: Request approval of the 2023 Veterans Services Program Evaluation Committee's recommendation in the amount of \$1 million."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne and 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:** "**23-0352**: Request approval of the 2023 Summer Youth Job Training Program Evaluation Committee recommendations in the amount of \$500,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Cast your vote, please."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**23-0353**, Request approval of a contract between Fulton County and Wellsprings Living in the amount of \$500,000, funds for construction purposes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioner Ellis, let me ask you. When we --



didn't say that -- we specified that the money had to be used for construction; is that right? And we had some discussion about it, and that's what this does. We're -- not for general purposes? Okay. Motion to approve, please vote."

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Justice and Safety, **23-0354**, Solicitor General: Request approval of a Resolution to retain any program fees collected in administration of the Solicitor's Pretrial Intervention and Diversion Program."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Have a motion on the floor to approve by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Hall. Vice Chair, you have the floor."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah, I'm in support of this. But I just wanted to make sure before we pass it that -- that what we were doing there fit with, you know, accounting standards and it wasn't something we needed - confirm before we put it in place."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Vice Chair Ellis, we do have a question about whether or not it would comply with the Gatsby Standards regarding transfer of general fund revenue into a special revenue fund. So we have actually asked the external auditors to take a look at that. We have not heard back from them yet. But there is a concern about if approved, whether or not whether we can effectuate this from accounting standards perspective."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "How long do you think we'd -- before we'd hear back?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I hope to hear back within the next week."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Could we approve it subject to that condition?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I think that would be fine."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. With that condition attached to it, but I do have another question. How many other departments -- I know there's several others, where we allow them to -- they raise funds and we've agreed in the past that they -- the money goes to their department and not to the general fund? Do you recall how many there are and which ones?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "The two that come most readily to mind were new fees that the Clerk of Court initiated that are going into a court technology fund. I have to go back and double check, but in that case, I don't recall that those fees were statutorily required to go to the general fund. And in this case, the

language in the statute does indicate that they should be paid over to the general fund, which is what has caused this issue to need to be looked at."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah. I mean, I understand the concept here. But I think we need to be consistent."

**HAKEEM OSHIKOYA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE:** "I think, Superior Court."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's don't guess, now. I need to know, what is it? I want us to be consistent if we're going to do this from department to department, where applicable."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Chairman Pitts, to be honest with you, I would need to go back and take a look at all of the special revenue funds. Off the top of my head, the technology funds are the ones that came to mind. There are other special revenue funds, but I believe that most, if not all of those, are guided by the statute as to how the revenues are to be held. But I would need to go back. I would feel more comfortable going back and taking a look at it. The Law Library is another one that comes to mind, where fees may be going into a fund that is specific to the Law Library -- Law Library, a portion of which may have been done by statute, and a portion of which may have been done by the Board of Commissioners. So I would need to take a look at that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I would think, Colleagues that it would be important for us to have -- to look for consistency if we're going to do this, that's number one. Number two, the second part of this, I don't recall having seen this, where the statement here is that the Solicitor's budget, or it could be with anybody's name in there, is not reduced by any program fees collected pursuant to said program. I haven't seen that before."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That would simply mean that we would --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I know what it means. But I said, I haven't seen it before."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Again, I would have to go back and look at the -- the Resolutions that have been approved and the language within those Resolutions to see if they had similar language. The Law Library is one that comes to mind that may have some similar language to that effect."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Well, I'd like for us to, you know, to -- if you could do that quickly at our next meeting to answer those two questions. I'm -- the concept is fine, but consistency and not reducing the department's budget by that, it may be necessary to reduce the department's budget. And here, I'm not sure what we're talking about, whether it's 15,000 or 100,000. Anyway, I'm going to make a substitute motion to hold. I'm sorry. Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yes, Chairman. I'll support it to hold it. But I just want to be on record saying, you know, I understand your concern. And I had the opportunity to speak with Solicitor Gammage because that was my concern at -- the same. But I do not want to preemptively not support any of us, and that includes the Solicitor when we're talking about a small amount. And so, I just want to put that I will actually support it until we get the information back. But I think if we have conversations and find out that we're talking about 20, 30, 40, \$50,000, then are we really trying to be impactful, or are we trying to keep you from doing what they need to do. So, I just wanted to be on record saying that I will support the hold. But I do say that we be fair across the board. But we also look at a dollar amount as well, please, Chairman. All right. Substitute motion on the floor -- substitute motion on the floor is to hold. If you can have that at our next meeting, I'd appreciate it. Let's vote on the motion to hold, substitute motion to hold."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the motion to hold."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** Why are we holding it?

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To answer those two questions: Number one, the consistency with other programs that we funded like this. And then the second part is, why the language here, not reducing the budget -- be any department, by any fees collected."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, do we -- I asked the -- can you come up for a second? Because I just have to ask this question, because -- consistent with the fees that other departments are doing, what are the fees?"

**KEITH GAMMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "It's a sliding scale between zero for our indigent participants. And we've topped our program out at \$250."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "From zero to 250, so it's a sliding scale based on what?"

**KEITH GAMMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "Based on the factors related to whether or not the defendant is indigent and then their ability to pay. And then the other important circumstances surrounding the evidence, the need for the type of program that that individual would need to be diverted to, and what the administrative burden, quite frankly, is associated with it. We did also -- and thank you, Madam Commissioner and Commissioners and Mr. Chair, we did -- you know, I am a lawyer, prosecutors are lawyers. And we did, like any lawyer would, examine those issues. And we believe, as does Steve Rosenberg, a lawyer who came over to my office from the County Attorney's office, we believe that we're on all fours with all laws, as every lawyer in particular and all servant leaders know, oftentimes, laws are constructed in a way or written in a fashion, where there might be a space -- I want say for conflict, but for sensible people to interpret them. So, when the State Legislature created the opportunity, the important need for diversion, they created a methodology to fund it through the prosecutor. And by doing so, they knew that the prosecutor shouldn't and cannot collect fees. So that

statue requires us to partner with the Clerk, which we've already done, for the Clerk to take those fees. Because there are fees coming into the county, the other component of it is that they have to go into the general fund. But Section F under the Resolution that our erudite County Attorney's office examined and approved provides that it should be utilized for the administrative costs of program."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**KEITH GAMMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "So, you know, laws are made one day, other laws are made another day, years, decades later. And so, it's up to enlighten sensible people to interpret them in a way that makes sense. We've done that, we think, with a lot of lawyers looking at it and examining it. And we appreciate your attention to it. And I think it's clear that we've been very dutiful in moving diversion forward, not just in Fulton County, honestly, but in our state. And I'd love to have you all support. I understand the motion and respect it. But I'd love to be able to put a -- push the gas, if you will, down on expanding and providing more opportunity for our citizens that need it. And every single day -- I met with the Sheriff earlier, I know he was here. Every single day, there are people lingering in jail, and if I can start even earlier than we do now, we'll catch them before they even go to that jail. And so, I'd like for you -- I'd like your support. Like any other questions and I'd like to do it today if possible, respecting the motion."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, let me say, I would love to catch them before they go to jail. We have enough issues with the overcrowding of the jail as it is. So to put something in place to relieve that is absolutely what I want to support. So, thank you. Is this time sensitive?"

**KEITH GAMMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "The truth is, we've been making incremental changes and improvements with the help of this Board, the County Manager, Mr. Adams, and everyone here, and so, you know the sooner the better. But if those questions need to be answered, then certainly, we understand the need to do so. But every single day, there are people who have sons and daughters who are affected by decisions my office makes. And it's their liberty, and although we're doing a good job, I can tell you, you know, many of you may have gotten emails from me on 3:00, 4:00, 5:00 in the morning; I know the County Manager and Mr. Adams have. But it's because these things bother and plague my mind. And I'll rest easier if we're able to resolve these critical issues earlier."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Well, thank you for your restorative-justice hard work."

**KEITH GAMMAGE, SOLICITOR GENERAL:** "Thank you, thanks so much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else? The motion on the floor is to hold until the next meeting. Let's vote, please."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open on the motion to hold. Motion to hold fails; two yeas, one nay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Back to the main motion, is to approve. Please vote."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "This is subject to the accounting affirmation?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, subject to Gatsby and you having that by the -- and if we don't get that --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes. We'll let the Board know as soon as we hear back from the external auditors."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And I'd still like my questions answered, even though the motion to hold --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. We'll still provide the information."

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

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10, **23-0320**: Request approval of a Resolution adopting desired aspiration standards for criminal cases handled within the Fulton County Justice System; urging all elected and appointed officials serving in a Fulton justice capacity to focus their efforts towards meeting these standards and for other purposes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. A favorable motion by Commissioner Hall, it's seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I'm sorry. I'm going to have to withdraw that because I have a -- some questions. I have some letters, and so I need to do that first. I'm sorry."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, Commissioner Abdur-Rahman, will you withdraw your second, so she can withdraw her motion?"

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "You can flip that, and then I just -- I have questions. I didn't realize I --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Clear the machine."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Ready?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right. So, I realized that Judge Glanville sent us a letter dated March -- no, sorry, dated May 16th. And this letter, I'm looking at it, and there are some things in here that he's saying. And the very first line just caught my eye. It says, I'm writing to you, respectfully, to voice objections regarding the proposed Resolution to adopt measures and standards for criminal cases handled within the Fulton County Justice System. And the letter goes on to explain why he says he's objecting. He says first, the purpose Resolution is not necessary, as there are already checks and balances in place to ensure that criminal cases are timely processed, and it goes on to explain why he said that. And secondly, he says, the proposed Resolution seems to draw significant attention to the cost and outlay of funds from the county to the justice system. And he says, it is worth noting, however that specifically, Superior Court and court administration only received less than 10 percent of the total amount budgeted to Fulton County. And the letter goes on to thirdly say, the purpose -- the proposed Resolution does not adequately capture the efficiency efforts put into effect and the continued challenges facing the justice system. And he goes on to explain that, so this is a lot of objections and explanations as to why State Court -- Judge Glanville's court objects. But then there's still more emails from other elected and law enforcement and the courts, not going -- not completely on board with this. So, I think that when you are legislating and it is impacting the way that people do their work, and it's not -- and they're saying to you, you're going to put me in a situation that's not adequate, I think we need to stop and listen. They are the experts, and that is one thing that I'm very big on, allow the experts to have the input, and allow them to do their jobs. So that's -- that's it. Thank you."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'll be real brief, Mr. Chair. So at the last meeting, I outlined, you know, kind of why I was bringing this forward. So I'm not going to belabor that. These were just measurements; they don't force the court to do anything operationally. They -- separation of duties, they do their own thing, we do their own thing. But certainly, you know, we are responsible for it being stewards of taxpayer money. We also represent all citizens, which have an interest in this and are impacted by our judicial system and should be interested in terms of how it's reforming. So these are just talk-line measures that we adopt as a scorecard. At the last meeting, there was a request that I go sit down and meet with the justice officials who did desire that. I made that offer, I met with the Public Defender, the Sheriff, and the Chief Judge, and the Superior Court Administrator on Tuesday of last week with Mr. Adams, as well as my Chief of Staff. The Public Defender voiced his support for it, the Sheriff had no



objections at that particular point in time. Judge Glanville, the only concerns that he expressed was that he would like for the Resolution to note that these were more aspirational standards, those modifications were made. And that there be more context added to the Resolution to point out why we were where we were, i.e., the pandemic, some of the stuff with Conflict Attorneys, et cetera. That stuff was added to the Resolution. And I do think it was, you know, responsive to their ask. I didn't receive this -- any response back from Judge Glanville, you know, to my revised Resolution, which I -- draft, which I sent to him last Wednesday until last night. So, I think we had a good dialogue. I don't think this is necessarily does anything to harm the construct of what they do on a day-to-day basis. These are just measurements that we would look at and sort of follow. And I think they would be good for all parties who we're going to be able to see the progress, hopefully, that was outlined with a number of the initiatives that are in place by the courts right now. So, I think it's perfect time for us to start to look at it so we can begin to see the impact and the measurement of that. And I think it would be in the best interest of everybody."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anyone else? So, Vice Chair, I happen to agree with you. I don't know why anyone would be opposed to meeting standards. Now, as I understand it from you that there are national standards, aren't there? If there are national standards, I'd certainly want to be measured by -- by standards to see -- judging my own performance, so that's point number one. Point number two, when the information, assuming it's passed, and information is compiled, who's going to get the information? If we get it, it means nothing. Who -- so, what's going to be the --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I believe this --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- distribution?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "This would be distributed to the justice partners, so they would also see it. And the folks in the justice agencies as well as, I think it called for all of the -- our Mayors in our cities, they have expressed an interest in this, you know, and them seeing it as well. And I think certainly, we should publish it on our website and share through our External Affairs channels as well so that we're, you know, transparent and public about it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, Ms. Corbitt, can you come up for minute, because this is consistent with what I've asked before when we were tracking the performance of the Judges, meaning, what Judges are working and what Judges are not working. We get those reports, but if we get them, it means nothing. So -- and I've been asking for probably more than six months now about a plan to distribute that -- disseminate that information. So I think that's consistent with this. And I'll repeat again, I don't plan to go before the Judges, so I'm not worried about being locked up for anything like that. I just think that citizens need -- if we're going to do this, and I think we should, I'm not sure how -- and I get in trouble when I say this, let's say, the million, it's 500,000 Fulton

County residents who watch FGTV. If we can be assured that they're going to get this information so they can see it, I'm fine with it. But short of that, what would be the plan to disseminate this information, which would include which Judges are working and which ones are not?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our -- currently, there is a website that includes a wealth of information about Project ORCA. So in addition to the information that Mr. Adams shares with this Board at these meetings, there is a dashboard that shows information by each of the justice agencies, as well as the rates by Judge of case disposition, specifically for Project ORCA. I would like to reread the -- Vice Chair's Resolution to understand that this goes beyond that -- beyond that, so that we can make sure we have all the dashboards. But we have a wealth of information out there today. I think that there's more we can do to make it more accessible or make it -- increase the profile, Mr. Chairman. And so, our plan is to use our channels to amplify that information, make sure people are aware of it. We have done a lot to raise the profile of Project ORCA, as you know; it just was recognized by ACCG as a Georgia County of Excellence Program. It will be featured in Georgia Trend in June. So we've done a lot to amplify that. But your specific question about judicial caseloads, I think we can do more to amplify that with our channels."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But, what? Because this what I've been asking for for six months. I even suggested, if it means us taking out a full-page ad monthly or weekly to publicize it so the average citizen can see it; means nothing if we look at it and the justice partners look at it because they're going to throw it in the trashcan, just as I would."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "All right. I hear you, Mr. Chairman, again, we have newsletters, we have -- and if you -- we're not a resource to be able to purchase ads in the paper every week, nor do I think that would be the best use of resources to get the eyeballs on this. But I think that we can use our social media channels and other owned channels to do that. And we have a piece that is actually ready to go out now that amplifies the -- the Project ORCA caseloads. I need to reread the Vice Chair's Resolution to make sure I also -- it encompasses everything he's asking for."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. I'd like to see a specific plan and --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- see what, I guess, the same thing I've been asking for. But I'll support today, but I'm telling you, it's just inside baseball. We'll look at it, oh, great, and we feel good about, but who's seeing it? Vice Chair. I'm sorry, Vice Chair, and then Commissioner Hall."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Thank you. So, does the Project ORCA dashboard include cost?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Yes, Commissioner, the Project ORCA dashboard includes all of the financial resources, human resources, and other information supporting that initiative, yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The cost for all that. And where --"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "And I looked at Mr. Adams because I know he's more familiar with that than I am. But, yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "The Project ORCA dashboard includes all the costs?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "We have a budget. I'm not sure if it's on the official website, and I don't think it is."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So she said, yes, and you just said, no. What's the answer?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Well, I'm telling you what I know. My -- to my understanding, it's not on there."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Oh, no."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Commissioner, let me clarify my comment, Commissioner Hall. The information we have has -- includes the budget portion that is allocated. I don't know if it shows the level of costs detail that you're looking for or that this Resolution calls for."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "But there is certainly budget information about Project ORCA that is on the public dashboard. That, I can say --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "I think maybe, you guys need to get together and decide on what's out there. Take another look together and then get a better answer, because you're conflicting right now on television. And I don't want to continue that conflict. So -  
-"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Me, neither. Thank you."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "-- if you guys can come and, you know, check it out and let us know. But that's a major piece. And also, you know where is the funding going to come from to fund this Resolution? Madam CFO, I guess, or Hakeem?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "There's no funding request for this."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "There's no funding needed for this?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Okay. So, no funding, no -- okay, that's great. And who's asking about Judges that are working? Who's asking the Judges about this?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That was a report that we, several months ago, we did a -- what do you call it? A study, I suppose, a pretty exhaustive study --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Where is that study?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It's -- isn't it published monthly?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "What we have on our website --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "-- the number of dispositions by Judge."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "Superior Court, State Court Judges, as well as their existing caseload."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Has that been sent to all of us on the Board of Commission?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "It's on our website. It's not one of the things that we present --"

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "So the answer is, no, it hasn't been sent to us, it's just on the website?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "The answer is, it is available on the website if you decide to go look there, yes."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "All right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "See that's my point."

**COMMISSIONER HALL:** "Yeah. That is your point, actually, yes. The accessibility of the information, okay. Well, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Vice Chair Ellis. Okay. Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I just have a question for clarification, and I know I could probably do a grid and figure this out myself. But you may know this already, Vice Chair Ellis, without me having to do that. So, I'm looking at this list of -- from today's presentation that Alton Adams did with all the pieces of data that are already available and already being reported on. What are the differences? What are the additional pieces that you've added here?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Whether I know there are additional pieces or not, I don't think that he had clear information around percentage of felony cases disposed within particular time frames. That standard as well as the clearance rate, I think those are the three measures which were not clear within this report. But, you know, this more specifically, is to put five topline measures in there that we see and follow, here's where we are, here's where we are as of this point in time. Maybe we have some sort of historical look back at it, and here's where we're going, you know, and we report on that over time and what they look at. But those three, if you look in the data, clearance rate for criminal cases, the felony cases disposed within 180 days, and the felony cases disposed within 365 days. That specific information was not contained within today's report. Am I correct on that, Mr. Adams, that specific level of detail?"

**ALTON ADAMS, COO, FC, PSS:** "That is correct."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I guess, I sort of, you know, gave my thoughts about this at the last meeting as well, which is that, you know, I think we have a lot of data available. And I don't -- you know, I feel compelled to stand with our justice partners in allowing them to do their jobs without this level of interference. So, I'm not going to support this."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Any other comments? All right. The motion on the floor, motion to approve by Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ellis, it is seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

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

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item. Ms. Corbitt, we need that information, your plan."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Continuing on page 10, Commissioners' Full Board Appointments, **23-0355**, Hospital Authority of Fulton County. Vice Chair Ellis nominates the following slate to be submitted for appointment to one individual to the Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Fulton County to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Thomas Gable: Dr. Kenneth Kupke, Dr. Marc Soneshine, and Dr. Jennifer Amerson."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Ellis, it's seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Any comments? So, I requested certain information, and each of you had -- I think, or should have received a list of the questions and information that I requested. Vice Chair Ellis was kind enough to offer his assistance, because we had gotten absolutely nothing from them until his involvement. We did get, I want to say, responses, not answers. And I make a distinction between a responses and an answer. And what I asked for, we received. But I still do not know what this organization does, after reading the documents. The bylaws, if you read it,

they meet quarterly. They meet, someone makes a motion to go into Executive Session, they come out of Executive Session, no old business, no new business, and they adjourn. If they do take any action after Executive Session, it's to approve the slate of officers, number one, or number two, to sign a new lease, that's it. So, I still do not know what they do. I asked for a -- do you have a bank account? Yes, we do, but there's nothing -- zero money in the bank account. So, I'm still at a loss as to what they do. But if y'all want to approve it, go -- I won't stand in the way of it. But I -- in fact, I guess the only thing to do is to invite them down here like every other authority we invite down and we can ask them. And then the other point that I'd like to make, Fulton -- and even though our name is on it, our only involvement, responsibility to this entity is to submit them a name. And now, what happened today with Commissioner Ellis submitting names to them that is -- I understand, I know what he did, and that's tricky, but it's consistent with the law, where we are submitting the names, rather than them submitting names to us and we just approve them, with a little sleight of hand. But it still complies with what the -- what the law says, so I'm okay with that. But I still do not know what they do. All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. You still -- you want to be heard, Vice? All right. The motion on the floor is to approve. And at some point, I want to ask them to appear before here. What -- the other point I do want to make, it's an authority, therefore approved by the state. The -- our only involvement is to provide names to them periodically to fill seats on that board. If we have no other involvement, then I'm prepared to ask the state to remove us from it. The entity is there in case they need some financing. By removing us from the nominating process doesn't affect that, so I got to explore that. That's my thinking, now. So, Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "I'll just amplify that last point. It's really why you see there's little activity, is there's little to be done. I mean, they renew the lease and they stand to exist, and so that they can, you know, an issuer of --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "-- of financing, but they don't have anything outstanding. So, I don't think there's any mystery to it. I just don't think that there is anything to do, and it's just an entity that they keep established because they want that flexibility. And you're correct, if we wanted to change, it would need to be -- we couldn't change it, there would need to be a change in the state law. And if that were to be affective, I'm sure they wouldn't have any objection to it, so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And the other thing, if you look at it, each of you should have received the answers that he sent to me and Ceasar Mitchell, our good friend, he's at every meeting. So I'm saying, is he the attorney for them?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "He's the counsel for the authority."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "For the authority?"



**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But they have no money in the bank account. I don't understand what's going on. I mean, he's not doing this pro -- I mean, could be doing it pro bono. But they specifically said, when I asked, you know, bank account, yes. Then they -- I didn't ask how much, they volunteered, nothing in the bank account. Well, how is Mitchell being paid? Anyway, motion on the floor is to approve. Let's vote."

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

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

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Bottom of page 11, Commissioners' Presentation and Discussion Items, **23-0357**, Chief Tax Appraisal Update regarding 2023 assessments, sponsored by Vice Chair Ellis."

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Mr. Chair, I'd asked Mr. Conley, our Chief Assessor to join us this afternoon, really just to provide us with an update. You know, we're hitting that point in time where the tax season is upon us. So, I know a lot of times we, you know, we -- very frequently, the assessments go out around Memorial Day, because I know that my holiday has been disturbed on many occasions around Memorial Day when people have been receipt of their assessments. In some years, a little bit more than others. So, I was curious about an update. I thought an update was in order for all of us, where we're at in terms of the release of the assessments, when they would be sent out. And we had some, you know, new exemptions this year, so be interested to ask for a status in progress on the processing of those. What sort of information can be provided for us in terms of the changes and trends in assessments? And then sort of the preparation for communication in customer service measures for -- to help the citizens understand their assessments and rights of appeal, which inevitably, all of us are going to get those questions. And then, thoughts around anticipated appeal volume and, you know, kind of how we're planning to work the process for generating the digest, which we know is all, not just the Tax Assessors' role, but it's a joint role between the Tax Assessor and the Tax Commissioner. So I appreciate Mr. Conley being willing to come down and give us an update on those issues."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "Good afternoon, Chairman, Vice Chair, commissioners. My name is Roderick Conley, I'm the Chief Appraiser for the Fulton County Board of Assessors."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Roderick? Rodrick?"

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "Roderick, Roderick."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "How do you spell it?"

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "R-o-d-e-r-i-c-k."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Roderick, all right."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "I was invited to provide an update on the 2023 assessment process. To date, staff has completed the work of land packets, which include combinations and splits. And they processed a little over a thousand land packets this year. Staff has entered a little over 44,000 transfers. They've processed a little -- about 22,000 homestead applications. They worked about 23,000 permits, of those permits, about 4,000 were new construction. The Personal Property Division processed about 14,000 personal property returns, which be an account new and closed businesses. Currently, staff is in a process of auditing the quality control portion to ensure accuracy of our values. This process did not come without challenges. Our two main challenges was that of the mapping and the deed processing and that of the application of homestead process. Mainly, because the process is manual. However, we have been in discussions with county leadership in order to identify some solutions. So we're looking forward to a better outcome moving forward. Procedurally, the Board of -- after the Board of Assessors approve the value, those values are provided to the Tax Commissioner's office for the purposes of auditing and balancing. They're also responsible for the distributions to the other taxing authority to include the county. The distribution to the county would be by way of the County Manager. Sales and reported increased rates of lease of square footage indicate an appreciation in the market. Residentially, concentration of new construction has been found in the north and the south ends of the county, while the additions and remodel concentration was found in the city of Atlanta. Commercially, market data indicated the following categories suggest an adjustment: Offices, industrial, hospitality, apartments, and retail. I welcome an opportunity to come back to you guys at a future date to offer you more specifics as it relates to the digest. Historically, appeals have fluctuated over the last three years as high as 25,000 in 2001, and as low is a little less than 18,000 last year. As it relates to the notices, we do plan on advertising on our website when we -- when that is finalized. But we want to add some modifications, something new that would help taxpayers understand a little better about our processes and how we go about valuing property. So we're going to include an appraisal methodology tab, and it gives them an explanation of how we go about valuing our properties. As it relates to the appeals, once identified, we going to display that deadline of the appeals process on our website. But more importantly, what we we're probably -- what I'm most excited about is an enhancement to our website. We're going to offer a comp-search tool. And what it does is put the taxpayers and the Board of Assessors on the same platform, as it relates to being able to provide comps as they work through the appeals process. It is our intentions to put a test site on our website in the next week or so. But I want to make sure you know that that test site would only have the 2022 data. Once the notices

go out, it will become live with the new data for 2023. Legislatively, we have until July 1st to mail the notices. But we are targeting a date of June 23rd to send notices in the mail. Last but not least, we are -- started communication with the Tax Commissioner's office and other stakeholders as it relates to the submission of the digest and preparation of."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Now, I appreciate the update. So June 23rd is the target, is your current target? And I'm just sort of curious, has that been shared with the management team? We're kind of working out our own schedule with what that potentially might look like in terms of working back through that whole, when the digest might potentially be ready and discussion around millage rates, et cetera kind of thing? Have we really gotten to that level yet, just yet? Or was that the first time you'd sort of gotten a firm date on the -- or target date on the notices?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "That's the first that I've heard."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I'm not sure if it was shared in our tax team meeting, which --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- which I missed. But we'll take that information and work -- work towards having an understanding of when we might be coming back to the Board --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- with a proposed millage rate based on that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Fair enough. And then -- but in terms of percentages around any of the trends with increases in assessments on the residential front for existing properties and that sort stuff, do you have any rough data right now that --"

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "I don't. Again, it may just be little too premature. Again, the most important process for me is going to be that auditing the quality control, so --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "-- I'm a little hesitant to offer that."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. And the commercial categories, you noted now -- I think you almost noted almost all of them. But you were highlighting those as being

areas that might be more outliers in terms of need of jumps in assessment? Is that why you were highlighting that?"

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "Well, I'll probably just say most notable. But those --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "-- are ones that indicated --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay, all right. Okay, fair enough. Any other questions? All right. Thanks, Mr. Conley, appreciate it."

**RODERICK CONLEY, CHIEF APPRAISER:** "Thank you."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Madam Clerk, do we have any other items?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "I think we have some for --"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Items from Executive Session?"

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**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Yes, Vice Chair. There are two items from Executive Session for action by the Board. The first is, is there a motion to approve the request for representation in the matter set forth in item number 1 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Got a motion and a second. Let's vote."

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

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "And second, is there a motion regarding item 3 of the Executive Session agenda to approve the request for authorization for the Chairman to execute a termination of an IGA lease agreement with the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Authority, after same is approved as to form by the County Attorney, with the notation that this IGA previously terminated by operation of law? But a formal termination is being provided at this time for the purpose of clearing title record."

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Okay. Favorable motion and a second. Let's vote."

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

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "Any other items?"

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN ELLIS:** "All right. Hearing none, the meeting is adjourned."

(There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.)